

The Official publication of the Alaska Outdoor Council "Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and access to public lands since 1955"

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Fall 2020

Alaska Outdoor Council 2020 Election Endorsements



By Rod Arno

If you do not believe politicians have a lot to say about how you can participate in Alaska's great outdoors, you have not been paying attention. New laws and regulations governing off road vehicle use, trapping, hunting, fishing, camping, boating, snow machining, aircraft landings and use are made year around. (That's why Alaska Outdoor Council staff participate in the rulemaking process year around, often one of only a few advocating for individual Alaskans who actually use public lands/waters) That's on both federal public lands as well as State of Alaska owned lands and waters. The U.S. Congress not only writes the laws governing federal lands/waters, but they also control their budgets. When federal land managers policies are inconsistent with laws created by Congress it is Alaska's Congressional Delegation of three who are in Washington D.C. to try and do something about it.



Teresa Burnett's first Moose (board member)

Alaska Congressional delegation - 2020 Election

Over 60% of Alaska is under federal land/water managers authority.

Upcoming Events

AOC Annual Anchorage Banquet & Fund-raiser Sheraton Hotel Anchorage, Alaska Saturday - February 6, 2021

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.

contact: president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com Management, and the U.S. Military all close millions of acres of lands/waters. No one can hunt or fish (only rural residents), no one can ATV on a public trail (only rural residents and federal agency staff), no airboats allowed, no aircraft landings, no access for anyone (even if on foot), to even what shed antlers you can pick up. Those are examples of a few of their rules to regulate public use of public federal lands/waters.

The National Park Service, National Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land

Alaskan outdoor folks are dependent on its Congressional delegates to defend the state's authority to manage fish and game on all lands/waters. Plus, it is Alaska's Congressional delegation who can pressure the federal land management agencies to follow access provisions to public land/waters in Alaska guaranteed by federal law.

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Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, AOC President

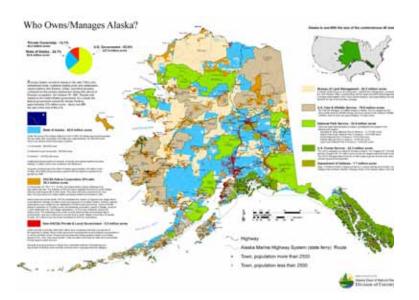
Please be sure to check your membership expiration date on the back of the newsletter at the address block and renew your membership today!

If you can, please send a donation to the Alaska Outdoor Council or Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund. Maybe the amount you might have spent at one of our banquets.

Most of our sources of income, used to protect your rights to hunt, fish, trap and access public lands, were cancelled because of Covid-19.

So... no sport shows, no banquets and no Palmer state fair this year. It was sad, for me, not to have the social interactions I am used to.

We still have our Anchorage Banquet scheduled for Feb. 6, 2021 at the Sheraton and we hope you will all attend.





4wheeler rollover 2020 - Bill Iverson **BE CAREFUL OUT THERE**

Donations and volunteers

Anyone who would like to help with any of our banquets or sports shows please contact me. We still need donation of items for each of our banquets, so if you have that item sitting around your home, that you could part with, we could re-purpose it to a new user and help support AOC.

AOC Supporters

I would like to stress the importance of you supporting the Sustaining Business Members in this newsletter. They have committed their time and reputation by aligning the names with AOC and deserve acknowledgement of their commitment to Alaskan's. By you frequenting their business it shows them you care.

ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Executive Director Report

By Rod Arno, AOC executive

Federal actions:

Even with a supportive state administration and President in



Washington DC the struggle over who is going to manage and allocate game in Alaska intensifies. The Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) (that allocates harvest to rural Alaskan residents only, on 60% of Alaska Federal lands.) took the opportunity of the COVID19 pandemic this spring to play the "reasons of public safety" card found in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Title VIII, Section 816(a) to provide an

emergency allocation of moose and deer to the Alaska Native village of Kake. The FSB also took the extraordinary action, for reasons of public safety, to close all federal lands in GMU13A and B to all non-rural Alaskans hunting for moose and/or caribou for two years.

Having two regulatory boards, managing, and allocating fish & game that migrate across a large checkerboard landscape of state, private Alaska Native Corporation/Village lands, and federal lands is not in Alaska's best interest. The Alaska Boards of Fisheries & Game can't be setting seasons, bag limits on runs of salmon or herds of caribou statewide only to have the federal lands managers board (FSB) create their own seasons, bag limits when fish and game crosses on to federal lands/waters whenever they perceive a threat to public safety for rural Alaskan residents. That Surely could not have been anyone's intent in Congress when they passed the Alaska Statehood Act or the largest lands bill ever, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

"Dueling" State of Alaska verses Feds fish and game management authority is a complicated mess that needs to be fixed. Currently Governor Mike Dunleavy is trying to do something about it by filing litigation in the US District Court for the District of Alaska (Case No. 3:20-cv-00195-SLG) against the FSB's use of existing rules. The U.S. Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture need to revisit the FSB created by their predecessors. If the Secretaries find that the FSB is functioning as intended then our only recourse is back to Alaska's Congressional Delegation. They need to fix it.

The FSB is too costly in time and money to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Outdoor Council to participate in, with so little to gain by doing so. As time marches on since a rural resident priory to fish and hunt became federal law, 40 years ago the goal of all Alaskan wildfood gatherers to unite under the banner of "common use" is certainly fading. Alaskans choosing to live in urban areas of Alaska but still gather a wildfood harvest under state subsistence regulations have the same hunting opportunities on state lands but are more and more often loosing subsistence harvest opportunities on federal lands.

We are still waiting to see just how much we really won with John Sturgeon's victory March 26, 2019 in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Park Service took public comments up to June 29, 2020 on **NPS Jurisdiction in Alaska**. Hopefully, the decades old question of who has authority to manage navigable waters in Alaska is set

straight and the process of the state taking title to those waters can advance rapidly. Thanks again to John for staying the course for all of Alaska's outdoor folks.

With much fanfare and congratulations, the NPS released it's "final rule restoring consistency with federal and state law." Meaning NPS repealed/amended some parts of the **Obama Era NPS Alaska: Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves** rulemaking. That is not enough. The whole rulemaking process needs to be repealed. Federal land managers cannot just decide to create regulations that they think align with federal mandates when those regulations are inconsistent with the law. And if Congress did not want the state to manage its natural resources, fish/game, somebody should tell us now.

In the Alaska State Legislature:

As far as the Alaska State Legislature goes, we can only hope for better days when the 32nd Alaska State Legislature gavels into session in 2021.

The 31st Alaska Legislature was a waste of valuable time for outdoor folks and many others.

Fortunately for us not much was achieved with the early recess due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Joint Committee hearing with the House Fisheries and House Resources Committee last month on four AK Board of Fisheries members (that Gov. Dunleavy appointment but as of yet the legislature has not met to confirm) was a good example of how unaware many state representatives are of the statutes in Title 16 Fish and Game governing the duties of the Board of Fisheries. Appointee John Wood tried to educate them as to what responsibilities were that of the legislators and was not transferred to the board's authority by statute. Most of the state representative on the committees who called in opposed to Abe Williams's appointment were not supportive of Abe because he worked for Pebble Mine and now lived in Anchorage. Abe's long history on the Fish & Game Advisory Community for the Bristol Bay area carried no weight as far as Abe's knowledge of the Board of Fisheries process. When asked about subsistence appointee McKenzie Mitchell stated she supported a "rural priority". That's an understandable mistake if she looked up the Alaska Statute in Title 16.05.258(b)(4)(B)(II) Subsistence use and allocation of fish and game. The Alaska Legislature has been negligent in repealing that section of the statute for over 30 years. In 1989 the Alaska Supreme Court made "proximity of the domicile" of a subsistence user to the fish or game, an unconstitutional limitation to subsistence users. The AK Boards of Fisheries and Game cannot give a rural resident a priority to hunt and fish based on where the live. Yet there it is, still in the latest Title 16 Fish and Game Alaska statute book. There is no rural subsistence priority that the members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries need adhere too. At this writing it's still uncertain whether or not confirmation hearings will occur in the legislature on these AK Board of Fisheries appointees before the 31st Legislative session runs out.

Public access:

So far, the State of Alaska has title to approximately

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Fortymile Caribou Herd Management News

Division of Wildlife Conservation Alaska Department of Fish and Game October 2020

By Eddie Grasser, Director of Wildlife Conservation

The Fortymile caribou herd is a highly valued international wildlife resource. Dedicated Canadian and Alaskan hunters and other citizens have contributed, compromised, and sacrificed to allow this herd to grow while still allowing some level of harvest. Since 1995, the herd grew from approximately 20,000 caribou to a minimum of 73,009 caribou in 2017.

The herd started to show signs of declining nutrition as it approached and exceeded 50,000 caribou in the early 2000s, and now, based on current nutritional indices and population models, Alaska Department of Fish



and Game (ADF&G) has concluded that the Fortymile caribou herd is potentially at the beginning of a precipitous decline due to overgrazing of its range.

The herd has been managed for growth since 1995. However, recent data in a multi-year vital rate data set (especially October calf weights and the calving rate by 3-year-old females) collected by ADF&G, in cooperation with the Yukon Department of Environment, shows a striking resemblance to data from herds in other parts of the state that have experienced precipitous declines. These data clearly indicate the Fortymile Herd is at great risk of a precipitous decline to much lower numbers and that managing for slow growth or a stable population could further exacerbate the level of decline.

These multi-year data collected by ADF&G are the signal for recognizing when nutrition is compromised enough to require reducing the population by increasing harvest. The best management strategy to mitigate the potential for long-term impacts to the herd's forage from continued overgrazing is to use harvest to reduce the herd size to allow the nutritional condition of the herd to improve enough to help slow or arrest the decline.

Regulatory Year 2020 Harvest and Herd Monitoring Strategy

Our goal for Regulatory Year 2020 is to reduce the herd size by approximately 10,000 animals through harvest and to continue to monitor key nutritional indices. In subsequent years, we hope to be able to slow harvest once these nutritional indices begin to rebound to levels that indicate the available forage can support the caribou herd. Improving the Fortymile herd's nutritional status would increase productivity of this important caribou herd. Given recent studies, maximum sustained yield (in absolute numbers of caribou harvested) may well be attained at a herd size smaller than when

nutritional stress occurs.

For the fall 2020 hunt (RC860), we held an either sex fall hunt (August 10–September 30), with a bag limit of 2 caribou and a harvest objective of 5,000 caribou to begin reduction of the herd. Total reported harvest was 5,385 caribou. This number was within the $\pm 15\%$ range (4,250–5,750 for RC860) that the department uses to assess whether harvest objectives are met for the Fortymile caribou herd.

Before the RC867 winter hunt begins in late October, we will monitor survival of adults and calves; conduct a composition survey; capture, collar and weigh 20 female calves; and collect and necropsy an additional 20 female calves to assess fall calf weights, body condition and disease prevalence to better inform our understanding of the Fortymile herd's nutritional status. The winter hunt (RC867) harvest objective will be based on results of these assessments.

RC867 Winter Hunt Strategy

Pending analyses of herd monitoring efforts occurring as of the time of this writing, the general structure of RC867 Fortymile caribou winter hunt is as follows:

<u>Season Dates:</u> The winter season is scheduled to occur October 27–March 31. The bag limit will be 1 or 2 caribou and the harvest objective will be up to 5,000 caribou.

<u>Hunt Quota</u>: Our current <u>estimate</u> of the RC867 winter harvest quota is as follows:

- Harvest in Zones 2 & 4 will be applied to the overall winter quota and may remain open until the end of the season.
 - Zone 4 may be closed at the same time as or soon after Zone 1, if the Zone 1 quota is reached and harvest in Zone 4 is also progressing rapidly. When caribou are easily accessible in Zone 1 they are often also easily accessible in Zone 4. Closing Zone 4 under these circumstances will preserve hunting opportunity for Zone 2 and 3 hunters.
 - Zone 2 is likely to remain open until the end of the season because access is difficult.
- Sixty percent of the winter quota will be allocated to the road accessible Zones 1 or 3 (wherever the majority of the herd is located immediately prior to the opening of the winter season).
- The remaining 40% of the quota will be assigned to the remaining road accessible zone.
- If the quota will not be met in one zone, 75% of remaining quota may be reassigned to the other zone.

Based on these assumptions, the preseason Zone 1 quota could be up to 3,000 and the Zone 3 quota could be up to 2,000. However, up to 1,500 of the quota from Zone 3 may be shifted to Zone 1 to allow for additional harvest if harvest in Zone 1 reaches and exceeds the Zone 1 quota. This strategy will still allow unused quota for Zone 3 for the remainder of the season. The main driver of the Zone quotas will be the location of caribou at the opening of the winter season on October 27.

Herd monitoring, data collection, and analyses will be completed by 16 October, and final determinations for harvest objective, bag limit, and Zone quotas will be in place by 23 October.

Endorsements - Continued from Page 1

Congressman Don Young - Deserves the endorsement of the Alaska Outdoor Council.

Congressman Don Young's successful use of the Congressional Review Act in 2016 to repeal the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (FWS) rulemaking on "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska" returned 80 million acres of prime wildlife habitat back to the State of Alaska.

Outdoors folks could not ask for more than that from Alaska's sole Representative in Congress. Gathering 225 out of 400+ votes to repeal the FWS rulemaking was no small task, it clearly demonstrated how much clout Don Young has in Washington D.C.

Senator Dan Sullivan - Also deserves your vote. The Alaska Outdoor Council endorses Senator Dan Sullivan and strongly supports his re-election.

Senator Sullivan is quite familiar with losses of opportunities for outdoor folks to access and enjoy federal public lands/waters in Alaska. Had it not been for Senator Sullivan's strong relationship with the U.S. Secretary Of the Interior the agency would have most likely fought harder to defeat the repeal of the FWS rulemaking, H.J. Res. 69, in the House, before Senator Sullivan gained the support to get the resolution passed by the Senate. The Alaska Outdoor Council has worked with Dan Sullivan, as the state's Attorney General Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and as one of only two Alaska Senators in Washington D.C. numerous times on behalf of Alaska's outdoor folks who want to continue accessing federal public lands/waters.

Local concerns from many Alaskans prompted Senator Dan Sullivan to successfully shepherd legislation through the U.S. Senate (The Save our Seas 2.0 Act) to help fund the cleaning up of plastic and marine debris from Alaska's coastline. Senator Dan Sullivan is a conservationist in the true sense of the word, working to make



Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Collison

Alaska's habitats healthy and allowing for sustainable harvest of the public's fish and game resources for the good of all Alaskans.

Alaska State Legislature - 2020 Election

The 31st Alaska State Legislature has not functioned in the best interest of Alaska's outdoor folks. There are few candidates left after the 2020 primary who warrant support from the Alaska Outdoor Council for re-election. These legislators, who the Alaska Outdoor Council has worked with successfully on our behalf, and two candidates looking to replace legislators unsupportive of our goals, are listed below. They deserve your vote.

The Alaska Outdoor Council supports elected officials who honor the Common Use clause enshrined in Alaska's State Constitution.

"Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and water are reserved to the people for common use." Alaska State Constitution, Article 8, Natural Resources, Sec. 3. Common Use

Alaska Senate 2020 election, candidates endorsed by the Alaska Outdoor Council

David Wilson (Mat/Su, District D)

Shelley Hughes (Mat/Su, District F)

Josh Revak (Anchorage, District M)

Alaska State House of Representatives 2020 election, candidates endorsed by the Alaska Outdoor Council

Mike Prax (North Pole, District 3)

Keith Kurber (Fairbanks, District 4)

George Rauscher (Sutton, District 9)

David Eastman (Wasilla, District 10)

Delena Johnson (Palmer, District 11)

Cathy Tilton (Wasilla, District 12)

David R Nelson (Anchorage, District 15)

Mel Gillis (Anchorage, District 25)

Ben Carpenter (Nikiski, District 29)

Sarah Vance (Homer, District 31)

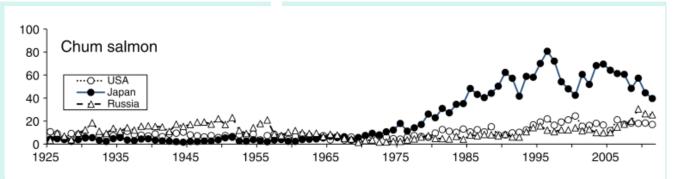
Vote 🗸

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Hatchery troubles

BY CRAIG MEDRED ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

Decades into what was once the world's productive most ocean ranching operation, Japanese researchers have concluded that nation's hatcheries managed to breed some of the resilience out of their salmon and undermine the homing instincts of the fish.



Japan's fading chum salmon production in the new millenium/NPAFC graphic

As a result, the scientists are predicting continuing declines in Japanese salmon production in a warming North Pacific Ocean that has proven beneficial to wild Russian and Alaska salmon stocks to the north of Japan.

Hatchery-driven changes at the genetic level have resulted in the opposite for Japanese chum salmon, report researchers from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology and Tokyo University.

Japan still runs the biggest hatchery chum program in the world, but its overall hatchery production has been surpassed by that of an Alaska-led U.S. The U.S. now dumps about 2 billion, young, hatchery salmon into the ocean every year.

Alaska annually contributes 80 to 90 percent of those and annually sees returns of 50 million or more adults. State-funded hatcheries in Prince William Sound later turned over to a commercial fishermen's cooperative that now runs them as private, non-profit businesses have been a godsend for the state's Southcentral region.

They produced a harvest of about 38 million salmon there last year, according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports. About 32 million of those fish were small, low-value pink salmon, but 4.8 million were larger, higher-value chums.

Statewide, Alaska's 30 hatcheries produced about 13 million chums in 2019, or about 75 percent the number of chums now produced by the Japanese ocean-ranching program that served as something of a model for the state in the 1970s.

Troubling data

While Alaska hatchery salmon production has been going up, Japan hatchery production has been going down.

In Japan, hatchery-driven adaptations appear to be causing genetic replacement in thermally adapted genes resulting "in lower metabolic efficiencies in skeletal muscle and mitochondria at higher temperatures," researchers write in a paper now posted at BioRxiv. "Field experiments have demonstrated that Japanese hatchery fish have lower athletic ability and our observations of YouTube videos consistently indicated the slow movement of Japanese chum salmon. "Such physiological changes may reduce survival rates of hatchery-born juveniles on Japanese coasts in the face of warming sea surface temperatures (SST) and also in the Sea of Okhotsk, where competition for food is expected to be high because of substantially

increased Russian chum salmon abundance."

North Pacific-wide, chums are at a historic peak in numbers, but Japanese chum catches have fallen from 81 million of the fish in 1996 to only 17 million last year. This despite the operation of the largest chum-salmon hatchery operation in the Pacific.

"At present, 262 salmon hatcheries operate in Japan," paper authors Shuichi Kitada and Hirohisa Kishino wrote. "Releases of chum salmon juveniles from Japan have increased remarkably since the 1970s to approximately 1.5 billion in 2018."

Japan largely eliminated its wild runs of salmon in favor of producing fish more efficiently with hatcheries. The transition met with early success.

"Supported by natural shifts in marine productivity, the number of chum salmon returning to Japan sharply increased after the 1970s. Nevertheless, the mean body weight of chum salmon returning to Japan during this time significantly decreased," the researchers write. The decrease in size – something which is also being seen among salmon almost everywhere in the North Pacific – is largely attributed to intra- and inter-species competition for food on the ocean pasture though that connection has not been definitively proven.

Food competition would be a likely reason for the decline in the survival of Japanese hatchery fish, too, and such a decline would only be accelerated by hatcheries breeding increasingly less resilient young fish.

Facebook of science

Kitada and Kishino did a deepdive into the genetics of the chums both present and past to buttress their hypothesis to explain the crash in Japanese chum production, but their highly technical paper has not been peer reviewed.

Scientists who have historically supported hatcheries as a more efficient means of producing "wild" fish will no doubt find data points with which to take issue. The Rxiv sites have become the Facebook of science in terms of inviting everyone into scientific ponderings.

"bioRxiv (pronounced bio-archive) is a free online archive and distribution service for unpublished preprints in the life sciences," the webiste notes. "It is operated by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, a not-for-profit research and educational institution. By posting preprints on bioRxiv, authors are able to make their findings immediately available to the scientific community and receive

feedback on draft manuscripts before they are submitted to journals." The Rxiv services for life sciences and medicine (COVID-19 studies are exploding on MedRxiv) have been hotly debated by professionals. "...The problem is that such servers blur the line between peerreviewed articles and fake news," Bernhard Hommel from Leiden University in the Netherlands observed at Research Gate, a search site for science.

"Many authors and readers treat pre-publications just like peerreviewed papers accepted by a journal, and so we read twitter messages about "evidence for xyz" with a link to unreviewed papers with sometimes questionable methodology and conclusions, and laypeople (and I'm afraid some researchers as well) take that as scientific evidence already. That has the potential to undermine the credibility of our science."

Despite this potential problem, many respected scientists are now posting on the Rxiv sites that appear to be taking over the world of science. Kitada is an established researcher who has been warning about genetic problems in Japanese hatchery salmon for years.

A 2014 article he wrote suggesting "new research is needed to minimize the genetic risks associated with hatchery programs" was "selected by the Editorial Board of the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science for the purpose of distributing thoroughly useful research works in aquatic biological sciences," the organization wrote on its website.

Kitada's latest work in cooperation with Kishino adds meat to the bone of his earlier worry. The two scientists now point to specific gene losses they think are weakening Japanese chum stocks.

"Almost all chum salmon returning to Japan are hatchery-released fish or possibly wild-born hatchery descendants that have distinct genetic characteristics as demonstrated in this study," the conclude. "Japanese chum salmon populations may thus continue to decline, with variations under current hatchery practices, as reduction in survival rates of hatchery-reared fish is cohort-specific and constant over time within a cohort.

"Our results, which were obtained from the world's largest marine stock enhancement program, should inform our understanding of long-term impacts of animal artificial propagation, including that of salmonids and marine and freshwater species, for fisheries and conservation objectives."

The state of Alaska is at the moment deep into its own study of hatchery genetics. Hatcheries have long been considered purely a "good" thing. No significant studies of the environmental consequences of dumping hundreds of millions of hungry, young fish into ocean bays and estuaries have ever been required of them. When the U.S. Forest Service completed an environmental impact statement for the expansion of the Main Bay hatchery in the Chugach National Forest in 1993 it wholly ignored the issue of inter-species or intra-species interactions in the marine environment and focused on the "need" to expand the hatchery to ensure the "equitable distribution of a hatchery salmon among various user groups.

"As such, the major goals of the expansion are to increase sustained production of sockeye salmon and to increase revenue to the gillnet fisheries in Prince William Sound. The Main Bay Hatchery is key in this plan because equity cannot be obtained for the gillnet fisheries under the required allocation policy until the expansion is complete." The work of Kitada and Kishino would appear to raise some possible questions about the sustainability of that equity over the long term.

ED Report - Continued from Page 3

6% of the waters below navigable rivers where state boating rules are applicable. That means the Feds may choose to implement their regulations, like they did with John Sturgeon, on 94% of waters where the state has regulatory authority. That is a bunch of access for boaters under state authority that may not be allowed under federal land managers authority. The Alaska Outdoor Council encourages the state and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to continue the effort to assure state title and management of state waters.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to restrict Generally Allowed Uses of motorized vehicles on state lands that are not Legislatively Designated Areas. It's the legislature that designates special use of state land not DNR. Making it a condition of use of a public trail, the Rex Trail, that you do not access public lands next to the trail under Generally Allowed Uses should not be a DNR decision. That determination should be left with the state legislature. As federal land managers place more restrictions on motorized trail use, regulated trail use becomes even that much more important on state lands to provide for public access for Alaska's outdoor folks.

Funding concerns for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G):

Future funding of the ADF&G, to benefit hunters and anglers, may be jeopardized by the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions resulting in a decline in the number of non-resident hunting license/tags and sport fish license sales. Non-resident license/tag sales make up most of the money deposited each year in the Fish and Game Fund. These funds are the state's 1/3 match for millions of dollars of Federal Restoration Funds. The combination of Alaska hunting/trapping/fishing license/tag sales and matching federal tax on firearms/ammunition are used primarily to assess wildlife populations and determine harvestable surplus which then allows ADF&G to set seasons/bag limits on game. Without good data on game population the Board of Game and ADF&G must manage for a smaller harvest to assure that a sustainable population remains after hunting season.

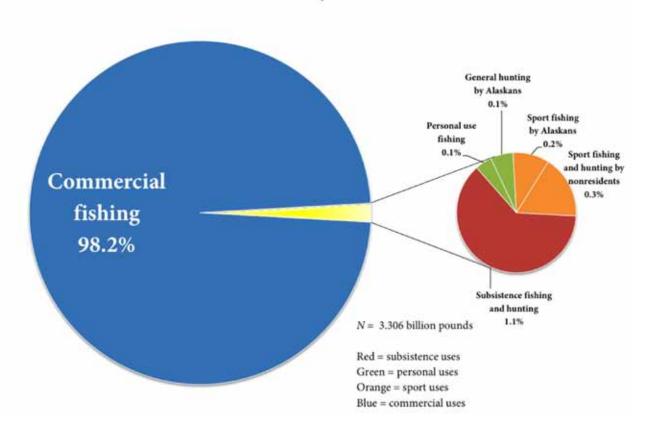
On the sportfish side license sales are used to provide around \$3 million annually for improving angler and boat access across the state. Plus, to help provide data necessary to manage and enhance sport fisheries. The Alaska Outdoor Council and outdoor folks will need to be more diligent in assuring that during times of no state General Funds that these dedicated funds are used appropriately. While the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted the Alaska Outdoor

Council's ability to gather income necessary to represent Alaska's outdoor folks before: the Alaska state administration, federal land managers, before both state and federal courts, during the Alaska State Legislative sessions, and before the US Congress the need for representation remains strong. Access and use of public resources (fish and game) on both state and federal lands in Alaska remains a highly contentious issue in the regulatory process. It goes on whether or not Alaskan individuals have representation advocating for their use or not.

Please donate to the Alaska Outdoor Council to keep them in the seat at many a table of regulatory bodies determining who can participate in outdoor activities.

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Who Harvests fish and game? Resource harvests by use in Alaska



From the ADF&G 2017 harvest estimates;

11.4 million lbs. of fish and game were harvested by urban Alaskans under state regulations. The report does not clarify if that harvest is under state subsistence and/or general harvest regulations too.

34 million lbs of fish, game, marine mammals, birds, and shellfish were harvested by rural Alaskans under both state and federal regulations.

(53% of this harvest by weight is fish so overall harvest by poundage is down since 2010)

I've had no success at getting poundage of harvest data from the Feds under their subsistence regulations.

The Commercial fisheries industry accounts for 98.9%, 3,782,000,000 million lbs. of the annual harvest of all fish and game. (Keeping in mind that they harvest no game)

Personal use and subsistence harvest by Alaskan residents under state regulations makes up 1%, 38.39 million lbs. of the total harvest.

Which begs the question how much subsistence harvest is taken under federal regulations?

General hunting and sport fishing by residents, nonresidents, and aliens accounts for .4 %.

(Shouldn't/couldn't harvest by Alaskans under general and sport regulations be figured as subsistence harvest also? Or would that harvest fall under "recreational meat hunters" as they were called in ADF&G management plans back in the 70s. If so that would leave 0.2% of the annual total harvest going to nonresidents and aliens.)

Resume Requests

Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC), a statewide federation of 48 outdoor clubs representing 10,000 Alaskans who hunt, trap, fish, and recreate in Alaska is seeking an Executive Director. We are looking for a champion of our values as well as someone who is experienced with running a non-profit organization.

Primary duties include:

- Managing financial performance
- Managing operations
- Planning and implementing fundraising

The successful candidate will work closely with the AOC board to promote our values. Make a difference in Alaskan's abilities to keep their freezers full. Job Responsibilities:

- Report to and work closely with the Board of Directors to seek their involvement in policy decisions, fundraising and to increase the overall visibility of the organization
- Supervise, collaborate with organization staff.
- Strategic planning and implementation.
- Planning and operation of annual budget.
- Oversee organization Board and Committee meetings.
- Oversee fundraising and developing other revenues.
- Coordinating and planning large-scale banquets/fund raisers.
- Other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

Professional Qualifications:

- Transparent and high integrity leadership.
- The ability to Lead, Manage and hold employees Accountable
- Ability to effectively communicate the organization's mission to donors, volunteers, and the overall community.
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Trawling in Alaska

By Caleb Martin and David Bayes

When fishing in Alaska, every fishery an individual would encounter has limits. These limits exist not only to ensure that recreational users can all share the resources, but also to protect the resource from overfishing. This seems like a smart plan that would keep the resources renewable and healthy. This is why it is so commonly used in Alaska in all state fisheries. It is only when one takes a look at the federal fisheries that it seems they run on some sort of other plan where abundance of fish species it is not necessarily the top priority, specifically in the trawl fisheries. So what is trawl fishing and why and what limits are they pushing?

Trawl fishing in Alaska exists for several species and are primarily ran and fished by nonresident boats and crews that travel from Seattle every year. They use large nets that drag across the bottom and different heights in the midwater column targeting Sole, Flounder, and other species. As you can assume, these nets have a tendency to also gather other species not targeted, but often die (90 percent of the time in some areas) during the course of this process. Some of these non-targeted species are often much more valuable than the targeted catch such as Halibut and Sable fish. This dead accidental caught fish is referred to as bycatch. Federal law prohibits Trawlers from keeping bycatch to avoid incentivizing targeting those species, so it is discarded right back into the ocean. You read that right! Halibut, Sable fish and other valuable species are caught, killed and

dumped right back into the ocean while trying to catch fish that are far less valuable. How often does this happen? In 2020 alone, Halibut Trawl Bycatch mortality statewide was 4,658,368 pounds! That means an average of 1 pound of halibut was wasted every 5.64 seconds as of Oct 10, 2020. One should keep in mind that is not the total halibut bycatch or the exact number of dead bycatch, but only an estimate based on self-reporting by the Trawler captains or federal observers who are not required to be onboard 100 percent of the time. It doesn't end just with Halibut, but the following

species as well: Statewide King Salmon Trawl Bycatch Mortality: 33,710 individual King Salmon; an average of one King Salmon wasted every 11.69 minutes during 2020.

Statewide "other" salmon(sockeye, coho, pink, chum): 276,095 individual salmon; an average of 1 "other" salmon wasted every 1.42 minutes during 2020.

BSAI Sablefish(blackcod): 8,146,081 lbs; an average of 1 pound of sablefish wasted every 2.90 seconds during 2020.

Statewide Crab(bairdi, golden king, opilio red king): 774,929 individual crab; an average of 1 crab wasted every 30.52 seconds during 2020.

Please note that all figures are MORTALITY numbers(dead fish). Many more fish were caught and released, often in marginal condition, but are not considered "dead" by NOAA Fisheries.

The NOAA Fisheries Catch and Landing Reports in Alaska are compiled based upon reporting by onboard fisheries observers, as well as self-reporting by trawl captains. In the Gulf of Alaska, trawl captains are allowed to "self-report" their bycatch for 80% of their trips. Many believe that self-reported bycatch numbers should be doubled or tripled.

The approximate dockside value of the trawl bycatch waste listed above is \$57,259,858. The approximate market value of the trawl bycatch waste listed above is \$125,162,584 dollars.

This article ONLY lists discard rates of highly commercial valuable species (which would normally be targeted in the conventional catch-and-keep fisheries). When all affected species are added up, total trawl bycatch for the State of Alaska is around 1 BILLION pounds of bycatch every 4 years.

If you are thinking, "Well don't they have limits and caps on this that would shut down the fishery?" We would think so too! Looking at just the prized sable fish catch in October, trawlers had

> already gone over quota by a whopping 455%! That means at one point in September, trawlers wasted sable fish at a rate of 2 pounds per second! It makes you wonder how a species can sustain that type of harvest, let alone how this negatively impacts the livelihood of Alaskan fisherman who target these species to provide for their families.

Very few trawl fisheries (none..?) in the United States have proven themselves to be sustainable at historic rates for 100 years; with many lasting less than 50 years. Alaska is currently the "Last

Frontier" of the United States trawl industry.

It is this unsustainable style of fishing and management that has driven the Alaska Outdoor Council to oppose this Trawler fishing in Alaska and encourages AOC members to get involved in this process! It all starts with your comments to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and attending meetings! You can make a comment to the NPFMC today at npfmc.org. Encourage them to go to an abundance based management system, require 100 percent observers and take action on Bycatch!.

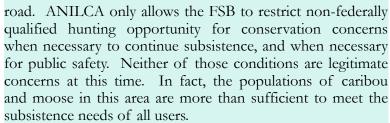


Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) actions

By Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) took several actions this spring that violated provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) which has intruded into state authority to manage fish and wildlife.

First, the FSB closed federal lands occupied by the Nelchina caribou herd to non-federally qualified users for both moose and caribou hunting. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is the principle manager of these populations and strongly opposed this action. There was simply no biological justification to close these hunts to non-federally qualified hunters. The stated reason for the closure was to reduce hunter competition and reduce traffic when the caribou herd crosses the



Second, the FSB delegated the authority to open hunts on federal lands throughout Alaska during closed seasons to address "food security" concerns caused by COVID-19. In June, a hunt was authorized for tribal members in Kake and the FSB delegated the administration of this hunt to a third party. This occurred despite an official response from the State of Alaska's Mass Care Group and State testimony that there was not a food shortage and from ADF&G that opening a hunt could result in conservation concerns. The State also objected to the delegation of hunt administration outside of a federal agency. Nothing in ANILCA allows the FSB to open a hunt during a closed season nor to delegate hunt administration to any entity outside of the federal government.

These actions forced the State to file litigation to protect its statutory responsibilities to manage fish and game for and the rights of all Alaskans, subsistence, and others, who depend on Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. Alaska fought to retain the right to manage its resources at statehood and later during the passage of ANILCA, and we will continue to fight to protect these hard-won rights. We cannot allow federal overreach to threaten our management.

While the State is challenging these illegal intrusions into our management authorities, it is important to understand that it is not opposed to subsistence or native rights. The State has a subsistence priority, a priority we take seriously. During the



Doug Vincent-Lang

COVID pandemic the State mobilized under the Mass Care Group to ensure Alaskan communities had necessary food resources. Food is delivered to communities if food shortages are identified. We take our obligation to manage Alaska's fish and wildlife for their sustained yield seriously. We have a constitutional requirement to do so and statutory requirement to manage for human use. In fact, the only reason the caribou, moose, and deer populations are thriving in Alaska and available for human use is because they are managed by the State, which took over management of fish and game at Statehood to correct years of federal mismanagement of fish and game resources. The State is able to provide for human use in that game is managed under Alaska's intensive management statute

and not under "natural diversity" mandates that drive federal management.

In sum, we will fight to protect our hard earned right to manage for all Alaskans.

Moose-strone recipe

By Paula Caywood - My version of an Italian classic.

2-3 Moose Soup Bones

2-3 Bay Leaves

1 large onion – diced

5-6 stocks celery – diced

2-3 cloves garlic

2 tlbs. Butter

1 tlbs. parsley

1 tsp. basil

1 tsp. oregano

2 cans diced or stewed tomatoes

2 cups sliced carrots

1 cup fresh green beans - or 1 can green beans

1 cup sautéed mushrooms – or 1 small can

8 oz. small pasta – acini di pepe or any small pasta – I have used stars, alphabet

Salt & Pepper to taste

2 or 3 moose (or other game) soup bones with meat left on them. (I usually use neck bones), place in large pot with 8 to 10 cups water, bay leaves, boil until tender. Cool enough to pick meat off of bones. Cut meat into bite sized pieces and return to broth. Feed bones to dogs.

In a large frying pan, sauté the onion, celery and garlic, add to broth with spices, carrots and green beans, simmer until vegetables are tender, add mushrooms and pasta, cook until pasta is tender. If you are using can green beans add with mushrooms and pasta. Serve with grated parmesan cheese and garlic bread.

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Annual Awards Banquet 2020 in Anchorage, Alaska

By Bill Iverson, President - Alaska Outdoor Council

Awards Recipients

Member Club of the Year Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska Outstanding Board Member of the Year Teresa Burnett



Gena Potts



Teresa Burnett

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By Mary Bishop, Secretary, Alaska Trust Fund

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called the Alaska Trust Fund to build an account large enough so the interest would cover the operating costs of the parent Fund. the goal of the Alaska Trust Fund is to reach the endowment level of \$1 million. Every dollar invested in the Trust is_protected - only the interest it generates can be spent. Every dollar



donated to the Trust stays right here at home protecting the outdoor heritage you and I have grown to love and enjoy.

Trust Fund trustees Warren, Byron, Kenton, Ron, Dick and I ask you to consider an annual gift to the Trust Fund. Become a Trustee by donating \$250. Make it permanent by adding \$750 over 3 more years. Other donation options are available.

Please use the form below to donate – or inquire by calling me at 907-455-6151 or Warren Olson @ 1-907-346-4440.

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Obituaries:

Tom Payton Professional Alaskan

Filmmaker, Boatbuilder, Screenwriter, Political Advisor, Alaska Fish and Game Advisor, Midwife, River Pilot/Guide, Dog Team Driver, Organic Gardner, Expert Marksmen, Alternative Energy Proponent, Subsistence Expert, Conservationist, American Patriot, Log Builder, Farmer, Heavy Equipment Operator, Paralegal, Book Collector.

At first you may chuckle but then realize he was all these things plus many more.

Most recipients of a subsistence hunting permit issued by the State of Alaska are indebted to Tom Payton.

Tom Payton battled the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) for a decade before the Alaska Supreme Court ruled in his favor that he too could participate in a subsistence fishery on the upper Yentna River in front of his home. The BOF fought Tom of four times, refusing to adopt a subsistence fishery on the Yentna because Tom had no "familial relationship between current and past generations of users of the upper Yentna River area salmon."

The Alaska Supreme Court said no, you don't have to be a multiple generational user of salmon to make gathering a wildfood harvest

for your family and friends part of your subsistence pattern of use. What that means to over 75% of Alaska state residents is should you choose to make gathering a wildfood harvest part of your patten of subsistence use of fish and game you can. Even if you are part of the 75% of Alaskans residents living in urban areas. Had not Tom Payton fought his battle to participate in a pattern of harvesting and eating fish and game many other Alaskans would not be sharing in that opportunity today.

Tom Payton passed away this summer. He is worth remembering during times of eating wild fish and game. Tom's Legacy is assured, it's worth checking the link below and other references to his publications.

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2017-2018/tsiu/rcs/rc009_ADFG_2011_Overview_Tyonek_Subsistence_Salmon_Fisheries.pdf



New Board Member

Caleb Martin

New AOC/AFWCF Board Member

Caleb is born and raised Alaskan from the Kenai Peninsula. He was raised in the outdoors hunting and fishing. His grandfather and brothers would fill their freezers with moose and salmon from the Kenai River and surrounding areas. This has given him a sense of responsibility his entire life not just for the land we cherish, but the many natural resources that feed our families.

This mindset of conservation has driven him to start a side project called Xplore Alaska. This has allowed him to help Alaskans to get outdoors safely and ethically while generating thousands of dollars for local wildlife conservation. By instilling this message of ethical and safe recreation, he believes we can help build a better and more accessible Alaska for the next generation.



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