



# Outdoor Alaska



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

Volume 24, Issue 1

[www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org](http://www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org)

Summer 2016

## Alaska: Land of Bountiful Wildlife Habitat During Times of Change

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director

Current changes in weather, land ownership, human demographics, means of terrestrial travel, economics, and political regimes in Alaska will have a great influence on what hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities we leave future generations of Alaskans.

As outdoor folk dependent on access to publicly owned lands, waters, and wildlife resources, we need to be active during these times of change to make sure those public assets remain a high priority to state and federal rule makers.

Federal laws passed by the U.S. Congress starting in the late 60's with the passage of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and followed closely by the Federal Land Policy and Management

Act (FLPMA) of 1976 made it clear that "non-use by humans" was going to be the new federal mantra for lands over which they had jurisdiction. In Alaska that federal control accounts for 62% (around 220 million acres) of Alaska. Alaska's congressional delegation assured us that federal law passed in 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) would save us from the new federal "non-use" policies and regulations, but it hasn't.

Just last fall the National Park Service (NPS) adopted a final rule, 36 CFR 13, for Alaska specifically, making it clear that managing for abundant wildlife would no longer take place on National Preserve lands (19 million acres). Preservation of wildlife, wilderness values, natural undisturbed and unaltered ecosystems is now the management scheme for all +50 million acres of NPS lands in Alaska.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) is now proposing to manage the 78 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lands in Alaska under the new



Airboat Moose hunt 2015

### Upcoming Events

#### Palmer State Fair

August 25th - September 5th

#### AOC Annual Wasilla Banquet & Fund-raiser

Evangelos Restaurant  
Saturday - October 15, 2016

#### AOC Annual Fairbanks

Banquet & Fundraiser  
Westmark Hotel  
Saturday - November 19th, 2016

#### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.

Please contact:  
[president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

Continued on Page 5 - Times of Change

### In This Issue

Alaska: Land of Bountiful Wildlife Habitat During Times of Change . . . . .	1
Presidents' Message . . . . .	2
Executive Directors' Report . . . . .	3
The 2nd Session of the Alaska 29th Legislature . . . . .	4
Op-Ed: Improving Opportunities for Alaska's Sportsmen and Women . . . . .	6
HB 137 License increase bill. . . . .	7
Federal Subsistence Board bans non-local caribou hunters on all federal lands in GMU 23 for this coming hunting season. . . . .	7
Who Owns/Manages Alaska? . . . . .	8

Alaska's shrinking salmon. . . . .	10
ALASKA FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND . . . . .	12
Alaska Trust Fund - A Gift to Alaska . . . . .	12
Harry Keller Obituary . . . . .	12
Maud Road Shooting Range Committee . . . . .	13
AOC Sustaining Business Members . . . . .	14
John Sturgeon . . . . .	15
AOC Member Clubs (to get contact info go to our website). . . . .	15

## Presidents' Message

*By Bill Iverson, AOC President*

I would like to welcome our 2 new board members to the AOC board. Teresa Burnett and John Sturgeon.

I would also like to thank our retiring board members Mel Grove and Gary Stevens for their very generous service.

AOC board members, past and present, voluntarily expand the voice of outdoor folks in numerous venues regarding hunting, trapping, fishing, and access to public lands and waters. Each year at the statewide AOC annual meeting delegates for the AOC member clubs and elected delegates at large for the 3 regions of the state vote to elect new AOC board members. Their foremost responsibility as AOC board members is to make sure the AOC executive director is fulfilling the purpose of AOC, which is clearly spelled out in AOC's bylaws. (Post on the AOC website for your review.)

But they don't stop there, AOC board members bring their areas of experience and expertise into every board discussion. Whether it's fish and game management, forestry, land management, commercial fisheries, trapping, big game guiding, sport fish chartering, shooting range operations, active users of various methods of water or land travel, all around outdoor recreational users, or personal use wildfood gathers (just to name a few of the interest of past and current board members) they all bring their knowledge to the table for discussion. That's a lot of accumulated knowledge. The result of which leads to a balanced decision making process when AOC is representing your outdoor interests.

Past AOC board members like; Al Barrette, Dick Bishop, Tom Lamal, Bruce Knowles, Mel Grove, and Gary Stevens (just to name a few) continually show up at the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game meetings submitting proposals of their own or giving public testimony on current proposals. Past board members as well as current routinely testify on current legislation in Juneau, give their comments at federal land manager public meetings, and attend rallies of politicians running for public office.

As for current AOC board members just in the last year; Karen Gordon and Gary Stevens represented AOC during the ADF&G/ Board of Game Dall sheep workgroup, Mel Grove flew to Washington DC at his own expense to support John Sturgeon at the U.S. Supreme Court oral hearing, Warren Olson and Mel Grove both got legislation introduced in the Alaska legislature to assure the state still allowed and supported public access to state lands and waters, both Ron Somerville and Warren Olson are commissioners on the legislatively created Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) again just to name a few of the regulatory processes AOC board members participate in year after year.

No one is keeping track of the number of days AOC board members Rob Mathews, Karen Gordon, Todd Clark (and family), Mel Grove, Gary Stevens, Ron Somerville, newly elected AOC board members Teresa Burnett and John Sturgeon have spent at AOC banquets, Alaska State Fair and sport shows volunteering.

Those AOC board members who assume the responsibility of



Bill with this years King Salmon from the Kasilof River

coming up with an annual budget for AOC and the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund every year, be sure to thank them the next time you run into them.

Consider volunteering to help out whenever you can and you will gain a better understanding of just what AOC board members give of themselves on behalf of the AOC membership and all outdoor folks in Alaska,

Thank you for being AOC members and donors, your financial contributions keep AOC at the table when conservation and allocation of public resources comes up in the regulatory process, year after year.

I would like to stress the importance of supporting the Sustaining Business Members in this newsletter. They put their name and reputation on the line by openly supporting AOC, because they believe in our vision.

### ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Bill Iverson,  
Soldotna, Alaska  
[president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

1st Vice-President,  
Southcentral: John Sturgeon  
Chugiak, Alaska  
[vp1@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:vp1@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

2nd Vice-President,  
Interior: Karen Gordon  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
[vp2@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:vp2@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

3rd Vice-President,  
Juneau, Ron Somerville  
[vp3@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:vp3@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

Treasurer: Todd Clark  
Anchorage, Alaska  
[treasurer@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:treasurer@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

Secretary: Teresa Burnett  
Big Lake, Alaska  
[secretary@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:secretary@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

At Large: Rob Mathews  
Delta Junction, Alaska  
[atlarge@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:atlarge@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

### Staff:

Executive Director: Rod Arno  
AOC/AFWCF  
[aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)  
Cell: 841-6849

Administrative Director:  
Pam Iverson  
[pam@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:pam@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

Certified Public Accountant:  
Warwick & Schikora, CPA  
Rick J. Schikora  
1416 Gillam Way  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: 907-456-1566  
Fax: 907-456-1569  
[schikora@wscpa-ak.com](mailto:schikora@wscpa-ak.com)



# Executive Directors' Report

By Rod Arno, AOC executive Director



## A break in the lines of federal takeover of Alaska's right to manage its own lands and waters

Finally, after 30 years of repression under Alaska U.S. District Court Judge H. Russel Holland, there appears to be some light at the end of the tunnel for the State of Alaska to retain its right to manage its own lands and waters.

Thanks to John Sturgeon's 5 year struggle in federal court to operate his hovercraft on state waters within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, the U.S. Supreme Court has unanimously rejected Judge Holland's interpretation of Section 103(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which was affirmed by the 9th Circuit Court.

On March 22, 2016 the U.S. Supreme Court remanded the case back to the 9th Circuit Court. Rejecting the argument that ANILCA gives federal land managers authority over both federal "public" lands and state/private lands within the boundaries of National Park Service lands created by ANILCA. Chief Justice Roberts wrote in the opinion for a unanimous Court;

*"The parties' arguments in this respect touch on vital issues of state sovereignty, on the one hand, and federal authority, on the other. We find that in this case those issues should be addressed by the lower courts in the first instance."*

So at great expense to an individual, John Sturgeon, the battle over whether or not the Submerged Lands Act of 1953 gives the State of Alaska management authority over the beds of navigable waterways will continue to be litigated in federal courts. Let's hope that the "break in the lines" of federal overreach provided by the U.S. Supreme Court decision can ultimately end in victory for the State of Alaska and its citizenry.

Less than two months after the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Sturgeon case, recently appointed (2012) U.S. District Judge Sharon L. Gleason ordered the U.S. Government to pay the State of Alaska attorney fees for acting in "bad faith" regarding the state's quiet title action to gain title of the Mosquito Fork of the

Fortymile River.

Under the Submerged Lands Act of 1953 Congress vested in the states the title to, and ownership of, the lands beneath navigable waters at the time Alaska entered the Union. In instances where the federal government refuses to voluntarily disclaim ownership it's up to the federal court to rule on whether or not a waterway is navigable.

The State filed a quiet title action in 2012 seeking title to submerged lands on a portion of the Mosquito Fork. On June 1, 2015 the State moved for summary judgment. One day before the scheduled oral argument on that motion attorneys representing our federal government threw up their hands and essentially said "never mind" and disclaimed federal interest in the Mosquito Fork. These federal attorneys cost the state hundreds of thousands of dollars gathering data to make their case when they knew all along that they couldn't win the case and that the waterway was navigable, consistent with the 9th Circuit court ruling back in 1982 in the Gulkana case.

On May 3, 2016 U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason ruled that the U.S. Department of Justice advanced frivolous legal arguments in litigation over the ownership of lands beneath the Mosquito Fork. Finally, a U.S. District Court Judge in Alaska that is willing to read and interpret the clear letter of the law that grants the state the legal right to manage its own lands and waters.

The Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River is only one of tens of thousands of rivers in Alaska that to date have not gone through the Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) process necessary to terminate any disputed ownership with the feds. The Gulkana case mentioned above should have put a stop to this version of federal overreach (the feds trying to control rivers Alaska rightly owns) 27 years ago.

AOC has been trying to convince the state to stand up for its rights on these submerged lands issues for years, and will continue to do so. We hope these recent victories in federal court

will advance the frontline to retain state management of public resources in Alaska so you can continue to hunt, fish, trap, boat and sled on public land, like you were promised you could.



**Senator Dan Sullivan & AOC ED Rod Arno on steps of the White house for the John Sturgeon case.**

**Picture from VOA, Mark Snowiss, reporter**

Continued on Page 4 - ED Report

ED Report - Continued from Page 3

# The 2nd Session of the Alaska 29th Legislature

You may not have seen much about it in the media, but outdoors folks did get some good news out of Juneau this year.

## State management of navigable waterways:

HB 216 sponsored by Representative David Talerico passed both the House and Senate. The bill says you can't interfere or obstruct a person's free passage on navigable water. The law used to say you could obstruct if you had a permit from the feds, but AOC member Dick Bishop said "take that out", so they did. And made it a better bill.

Though not legislation per se, Representative Mark Neuman of Big Lake and Senator Click Bishop of Fairbanks gave outdoors folks some good news with their work to extend CACFA, the Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas. Among other things, CACFA identifies and documents federal overreach through testimony from Alaskans and legal research on the authority the feds may or may not have to take certain actions. Our ability to access, use and enjoy public land and resources in Alaska is certainly being diminished. CACFA leads the way in identifying "hot spots" and assisting the state in asserting their rights and sovereignty.



Rod Arno (50 years ago)- Dall sheep hunt in what is now Wrangell-St. Elias NP

with former wildlife trooper Al Cain, of Anchorage, and environmentalist Robert Ruffner, of Kenai. Payton has been a thoughtful member of his local AC and has participated in the board process, something AOC likes to see for new board appointees.

Board of Game confirmations were a bit more disappointing. Although the legislature did not confirm Mr. Guy Trimmingham to the Board of Game, they did re-confirm Nate Turner. Many of Trimmingham's shortcomings were highlighted in the committee hearing process, but Turner cajoled enough votes to be confirmed.

With one key exception, the Mat-Su legislative delegation respected the wishes of their local Mat-Valley AC and voted against Turner. The exception was Rep. Jim Colver, who often votes against his fellow Mat-Su legislators. Rep. Tammie Wilson led the interior delegation – after attending the BOG meeting in Fairbanks and witnessing Turner's behavior first-hand she understood why he should not have been confirmed, let alone reappointed.

## Motorized access to State lands and waters:

## Hunters and Anglers License & Tag Fee Increases:

HB 137, also sponsored by Talerico, cosponsors Representative Cathy Munoz and Wes Keller, gave us a long-needed increase in hunting and fishing license and tag fees. Alaska was way behind the market in charging non-resident hunters and fishers, HB 137 helps. This is good news because it allows the state to receive a bigger share of the federal money generated from taxes on guns and ammo. AOC board member Ron Somerville helped shepherd this bill through. (More on the efforts of the coalition of outdoor organizations who worked to help get this important legislation passed on page 7)

## Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game - Legislative Confirmations:

The legislature also confirmed long-time Mat Valley AC member Israel Payton to the Board of Fisheries, along

Though it didn't make it all the way through the process, AOC is excited about Rep. Cathy Tilton's efforts on legislation to protect motorized users' access to state land. We've been talking about the Rex Trail closure for years. Tilton, in her first year in office, took aim at the legal loophole that allows the commissioner of DNR to keep the public off of a public trail, as well as other public lands. Tilton deserves re-election and AOC looks forward to working with her on this legislation next session.

## Shooting Range development:

Senator Bill Stoltze, always good about honoring the efforts of local citizens, sponsored SB 204 that renamed the new Palmer Maud Road shooting range after outdoor activists Kenny and Patty Barber. The Barbers proved, once again, that ordinary citizens can, and do, make a difference.



## Times of Change - Continued from Page 1

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The mandate, which is managing for “biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health”, states there will be no more wildlife management allowed by the State of Alaska to create abundant wildlife on NWR lands.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has made it clear through their Resource Management Planning process 2.0 that the creation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as mandated by FLPMA will be a growing part of their newly proposed rulemaking, 43 CFR Part 1600. The result of the proposed rule will be greater restrictions on wildlife management and commercial hunting and sport fishing activities. BLM has management authority over at least 83 million acres of Alaska today.

Loss of opportunity for outdoor folks who hunt, trap, and fish on federal lands has been increasing year-by-year since the passage of ANILCA in 1980. Alaska’s Congressional delegation is our only real hope to turn these losses around. Federal land managers continue to pursue their goal not to manage for abundant wildlife resources on 60% of the state they control.

Be sure and ask candidates running to represent you in Washington DC what they plan on doing in Congress to get back to conservation management on federal lands in Alaska. Thirty years of “preservation” policies on federal lands in Alaska has taken its toll on abundant wildlife and can only worsen if nothing is done to halt wildlife populations from declining to the low-level equilibriums common in northern latitudes.

Currently the majority of game harvest in Alaska comes off of state managed lands and waters, around 25% of the state (103 million acres). There is good reason for that. Active state game management and reasonable public access provide opportunities for Alaskan fishers and hunters, that federal lands don’t. Alaska’s administrations and the Alaska Legislature have been strong supporters for making sure the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has been given statutory direction to manage for abundant game resources consistent with Alaska’s constitutionally mandated Sustained yield clause, Article 8, Section 4. Healthy wildlife populations grown on state lands provides a wildfood source for those who choose to hunt and fish, this wise use of a public resources continues to gain political support statewide. Be sure also to ask candidates running for State office this year what they plan to do to make that wildfood source available for all Alaskans.

It will be interesting to see which direction Alaska’s Native leaders choose to go with their 45 million acres of private lands chosen partly for their ability to provide wildfood harvests for their village members. Depending on the outcome of the Akiachak case in federal court, Native Regional and Village Corporations and individual Alaskan natives may have the option of sticking with abundance driven state game management or transferring their lands over to a “trust” agreement with the federal government, should the U.S. Department of the Interior accept their applications. It’s yet to be determined if the Akiachak case will be overturned, and if not, just what the federal government will allow owners of trust lands to do regarding managing game on lands granted to them under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971.

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) will continue working in the state regulatory process at the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and

Game, in the Alaska State Legislature, and with the Governor and state departments to increase public access on state lands and waterways in a manner that does not negatively affect the quality of wildlife habitat while still providing reasonable public access. Individual (regulated) access on state lands and waterways is necessary to distribute harvest as well as to reduce user conflicts because of congestion.

As for the effects of changes in the weather on abundant fish and game, that requires a heightened level of data collecting by ADF&G biologists and a responsive regulatory process. Recent climate non-equilibrium events have already had varying effects on wildlife populations. Moose have followed the brush line north into the Brooks Range expanding their numbers far beyond any historical range. Fluctuations in climate may be responsible for Dall sheep population declines of as much as 70% in the Western Brooks Range. salmon returns, average weights, and timing may also be affected. For conservation’s sake close monitoring of wildlife populations during times of non-equilibrium weather events has become more essential. Recent political and natural forces of change reducing the quantity of wildlife in Alaska available to hunters has resulted in a greater demand of a shrinking supply of harvest. Add that fact to the presents of a politically active minority of anti-hunters and a federal law giving a harvest priority based on your zip code, Title VIII of ANILCA, and the result is increased political conflict over how to manage Alaska’s wildlife resources. Outdoor folks should be concerned.....

AOC will continue to follow its bylaws (posted on the AOC website) of “advocating for conservation and fair allocation of public resources in Alaska” whenever representing its membership in the regulatory process.

You can help by joining AOC and contributing funds for our efforts, and by staying informed of regulatory actions that affect your ability to hunt, trap, fish, and access public lands and waters in Alaska. Please go to our website ([www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org](http://www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org)) and donate today.

Please like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org>



Loading up winters meat supply.

AOC Lobbyist Jeff Logan and past AOC board member Mel Grove with two sons loading the winters wildfood meat supply for family and elders along the Rex Trail

# Op-Ed: Improving Opportunities for Alaska's Sportsmen and Women

By Sen. Lisa Murkowski Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee May 2016

Late last month, the Senate passed my Energy Policy Modernization Act, the first comprehensive bill of its kind in nearly a decade. This significant reform legislation, passed by a bipartisan vote of 85 to 12, both enhances our nation's energy future and provides for Alaska's sportsmen and women.

That's right – contained within the bill are a series of reasonable, common sense provisions to ensure access to our nation's public lands, which are steadily being closed through new restrictions and withdrawals from increasingly aggressive federal agencies. My sportsmen's provisions are a much-needed insurance policy to keep our public lands available for activities such as hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, both now and for generations to come.

The bill provides a declaration of congressional policy clearly stating that hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting are important activities that should not only continue on public lands, but also be expanded and enhanced by all federal agencies consistent with their missions. Next is a mandate that access to fishing, hunting, and

must be notified, and allowed to comment, before lands can be closed.

Beyond these protections is a provision for the construction and expansion of public target ranges. This includes sites on Forest Service and BLM lands, and will allow greater opportunity to practice before we head out on hunting trips. We also support America's anglers by authorizing the National Fish Habitat Partnership Program to promote recreational fishing and provide for the preservation of aquatic habitat. This will help Alaskans and fishermen and women across

the country to go out and keep catching fish every summer.

Other provisions in the bill reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, exempt small film crews from having to pay commercial filming fees on federal lands, and align federal policies for bows and

crossbows in national parks with current policy regarding firearms.



Rod Arno, Craig Compeau, Senator Lisa Murkowski



Senator Lisa Murkowski modeling at the AOC banquet

recreational shooting will remain available unless a closure is proven to be absolutely necessary. Hunters and fishermen will be able to count on federal lands and waters being open and if not, they'll know why. We require a fair and transparent decision-making process when closures are proposed. These 'open unless closed' provisions will prevent agencies from unilaterally closing our lands on their own terms.

We also limit, to 180 days, the duration of time that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management can temporarily close public lands. This will prevent what are supposed to be short-term closures from becoming effectively permanent, a practice that has become alarmingly common as federal agencies use temporary closures as a bureaucratic crutch to compile the paperwork for permanent restrictions. Too often, the public has no idea what is at stake since the closure is allegedly temporary. Additionally, my bill ensures the public

When it comes to public hunting and fishing opportunities, Alaska's are unmatched. And while our state is not yet seeing the arbitrary closure of public areas to the same extent as many Lower 48 states, federal agencies are attempting to erode the protections enshrined in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. My sportsmen's bill will help reinforce the promises made to us in ANILCA and ensure that popular hunting places in our state, such as Prince William Sound in the Chugach National Forest, continue to remain open year after year.

Sportsmen's access is critical and must be maintained. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that all of the sportsmen's provisions in my bipartisan energy bill become law.



# HB 137 License increase bill

By Ron Somerville

*Pre-note: The following communications was sent by Ron Somerville (Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Outdoor Council) to Rod Arno (Alaska Outdoor Council), Ed Grasser (Safari Club International – Alaska Chapter) John Stacey (Alaska Professional Hunters Association), Matt Robus (Territorial Sportsmen) and Doug Larsen (Territorial Sportsmen). This coalition was established to push for legislation increasing Alaska's fish and game license fees which had not increased substantially since 1993. This effort took two years of intense lobbying which resulted in the legislation being passed by both the Senate and House in May of 2016 and sent to the Governor for his signature. The Governor has publicly announced he supported this legislation. It is noteworthy to say that the sportsmen were the only group lobbying in Juneau for a fee increase.*

Since both the House and Senate have passed a slight change in HB 137 and it is apparently on its way to the Governor, we can assume the Governor will sign a bill he told us he supported.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to finally say that we finally did what we set out to do almost two years ago. There have certainly been a lot of twists and turns in this process as our proposal worked its way through endless meetings, phone calls, drafts, and the legislative process. Of course, there have been many contributors to the final product. Certainly, Representative Telarico and staff deserve our gratitude for their untiring efforts to sponsor and push through the initial legislation. I also applaud Representatives Munoz and Keller for cosponsoring the initial legislation to give Representative Telarico some broader cover.

It is also important to recognize the efforts of Senator Geissel and staff for their efforts to break the legislation loose from the Senate Resources Committee with lots of help from many supporters around the state who pitched in to do some personal lobbying.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Department staff for graciously handling our many phone calls and demands for updated data and technical support. Thanks to the Commissioner for his personal involvement in the lobbying effort and the Governor for publicly supporting our efforts.

Having said all that, I lay the greatest praise at the feet of the coalition of renegades who put this whole package together two years ago. We built a saleable package and we stuck with it to the bitter end. We never said it couldn't be improved nor would we oppose reasonable modifications. Interestingly, however, the basic principles outlined in the initial package remained and were included, by and large, in the final product.

On behalf of most Alaskans who truly support conservation in all its forms and the dedication to producing fish and wildlife management programs we can all be proud of, we thank you. Believe me when I say it wouldn't have happened without you.

One last note. This effort does illustrate how things can be accomplished when we work together for a common goal. I realize that we are going to have our differences and, more than likely, significant ones but that doesn't negate all the things we do agree on which can be accomplished through collaboration and cooperation.

If you got this far, thanks for taking the time to read it all.

## Federal Subsistence Board bans non-local caribou hunters on all federal lands in

## GMU 23 for this coming hunting season.

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director

Special Action Request WSA16-01.

### That means:

- If you grew up on the North Slope or Western Alaska and moved south you cannot go home to hunt with your family on federally owned lands in GMU 23. (Approximately 80% of GMU 23.)
- Nor will any Alaskans living outside of GMU 23, GMU 22, 26A, most of GMU 24, and portions of GMU 21D be able to hunt caribou in GMU 23 on federal lands this hunting season.
- Caribou hunting will be closed to all non-residents and alien caribou hunters in the Noatak National Preserve & Wilderness, the Selawik NWR, and BLM lands in the Squirrel River drainage plus all other federally owned lands in GMU23.

Seven million acres of GMU 23 is NOT federally owned, which means hunting of caribou under state regulations will be concentrated on 4.25 million acres of state owned lands as well as the 2.80 million acres of private lands owned by Alaska native corporations and villages. Conflict between caribou hunters will only escalate along riverways claimed by both the State of Alaska and the federal government. Plus, the potential for trespass onto privately owned lands along riverways will most likely increase.

The stated reason for the closure by the FSB to all non-locals is conservation concern for the Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH) which has declined from an estimated herd size of 490,000 in 2003 to approximately 230,000 in 2013. Fluctuations in caribou herds of this magnitude are well documented and not uncommon throughout Western and Interior Alaska.

Neither the state nor the federal wildlife biologists believe that the less than 5% of the total caribou harvests by all non-local Alaskans as well as all nonresident hunters will make any difference to the health of the herd. The herd has not declined to a level that warrants any loss of hunting opportunity at this point in time. There is still ample harvestable surplus of caribou to allow subsistence harvest of 13,000 to 16,000 caribou, plus an average of 600 bulls to be harvested by all non-local hunters combined. The Wildlife Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) for the FSB stated on the record that, **"This request does not meet the closure criteria identified in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, (ANILCA) Title VIII"**. Yet that didn't stop 5 of the 8 FSB members from voting for the closure based on the reported reason that they "felt" it was the right thing to do....

This recent action by the FSB should put to rest any lingering illusions that the federal rural priority to fish and game on federal lands, over 60% of Alaska, has anything to do with "during times of shortage." The rural priority is only limited by how a majority of the FSB members "feel" about sharing an abundant public resource with fellow citizens.

Apparently there is no official reconsideration process whenever the FSB adopts a Special Action Request. That means a volume of emails and/or letters to the Chairman of the FSB will have little to no affect in getting this regulation rescinded. It is up to the State of Alaska to take its rightful position to defend the common use of public resources enshrined in the Alaska State Constitution - Article 8, Section 3.

Email ADF&G Commissioner Sam Cotten and Governor Bill Walker and encourage them to take this fight back to Secretary Sally Jewell, U.S. Department of the Interior, to get the action rescinded prior to the fall caribou hunting season. Be sure to cc Alaska's Congressional Delegation. (Contact information is available on the AOC website)

As adopted this regulation, Special Action Request WSA16-01, will only increase the divisiveness between local residents and caribou hunters on non-federal lands in GMU23, and that is in no one's best interest.

Please direct any questions to the AOC Executive Director, Rod Arno at [aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com](mailto:aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com)

See our website for additional contact info:

# Who Owns/Manages Alaska?

**Private Ownership - 12.1%**  
45.2 million acres

**State of Alaska - 24.1%**  
89.8 million acres



**U.S. Government - 63.8%**  
237.8 million acres

Russian traders arrived in Alaska in the mid-1700's and established small, scattered trading posts and settlements. Alaska Natives (the Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut peoples) continued as the primary landowners during this period of Russian occupation. On October 18, 1867, Russia sold Alaska to the United States government. As a result, the federal government owned the Alaska Territory, approximately 373 million acres - about one-fifth the size of the rest of the U.S.



**State of Alaska - 89.8 million acres**

Under the terms of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959, the federal government granted the new state 28% ownership of its total area. Approximately 103,350,000 acres were to be elected under three types of grants:

- 1) Community - 400,000 acres
- 2) National Forest Community - 400,000 acres
- 3) General - 102,550,000 acres

Additional territorial grants for schools, university and mental health trust lands, totaling 1.2 million acres were confirmed with statehood.

All grants combined gave the State of Alaska approximately 105 million acres. To date, 89.9 million acres has been granted with the balance expected to be granted by 2009.

**ANCSA Native Corporation (Private)**  
39.3 million acres

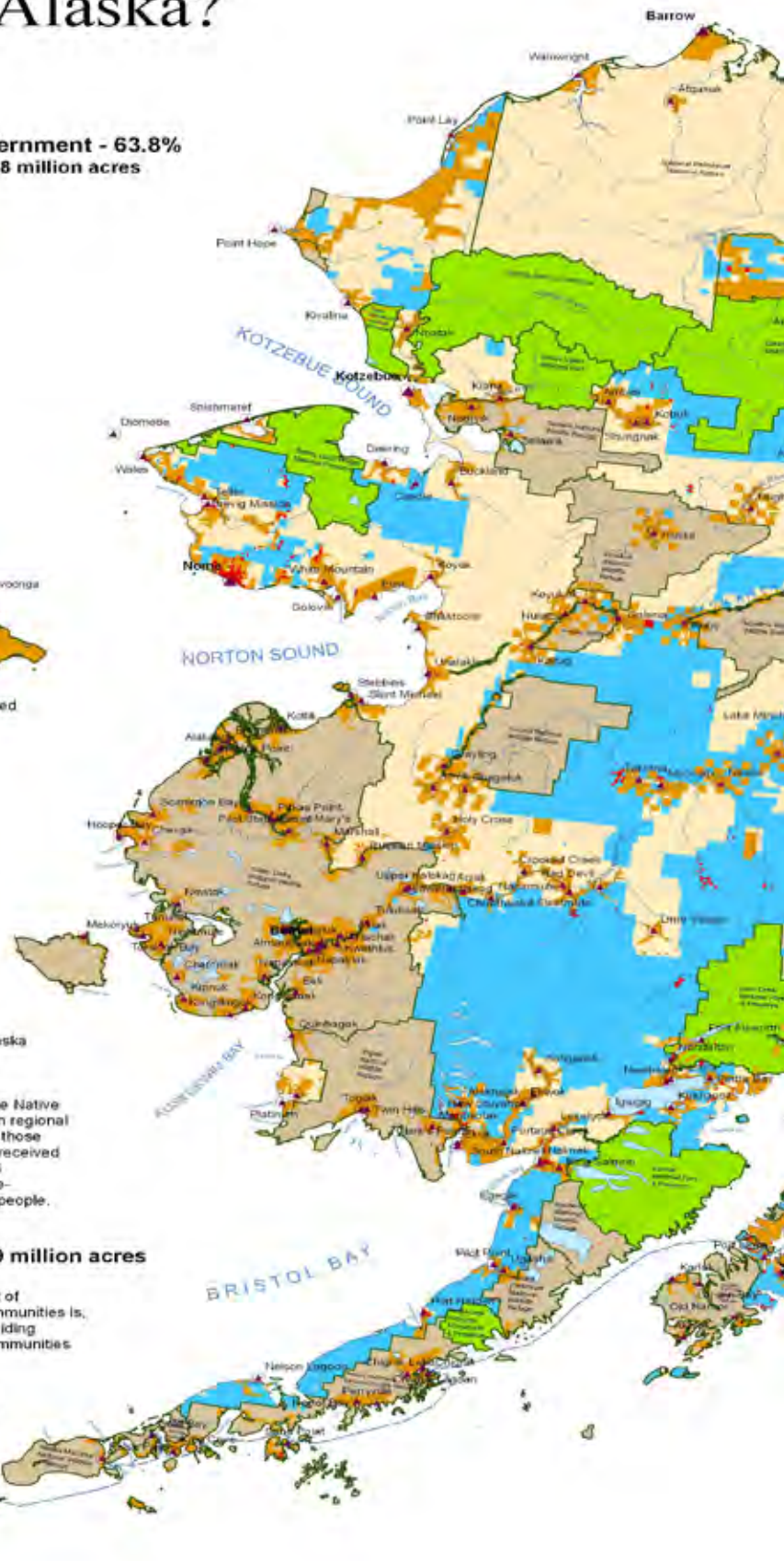
On December 18, 1971, P. L. 92-203, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was signed into law. The purpose of ANCSA was to legislate the terms by which Alaska Natives could acquire title to their lands. This claim had been unresolved for more than 100 years since the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.

Native lands are private lands. ANCSA mandated the creation of regional and village Native corporations to manage 44 million acres and payment of one billion dollars. Thirteen regional corporations were created for the distribution of ANCSA land and money. Twelve of those shared in selection of 16 million acres, the thirteenth corporation, based in Seattle, received a cash settlement only. 224 village corporations, of 25 or more residents, shared 26 million acres. The remaining acres, which include historical sites and existing Native-owned lands, went into a land pool to provide land to small villages of less than 25 people. To date, 39.3 million acres have been transferred to ANCSA corporations.

**Non-ANCSA Private & Local Government - 5.9 million acres**

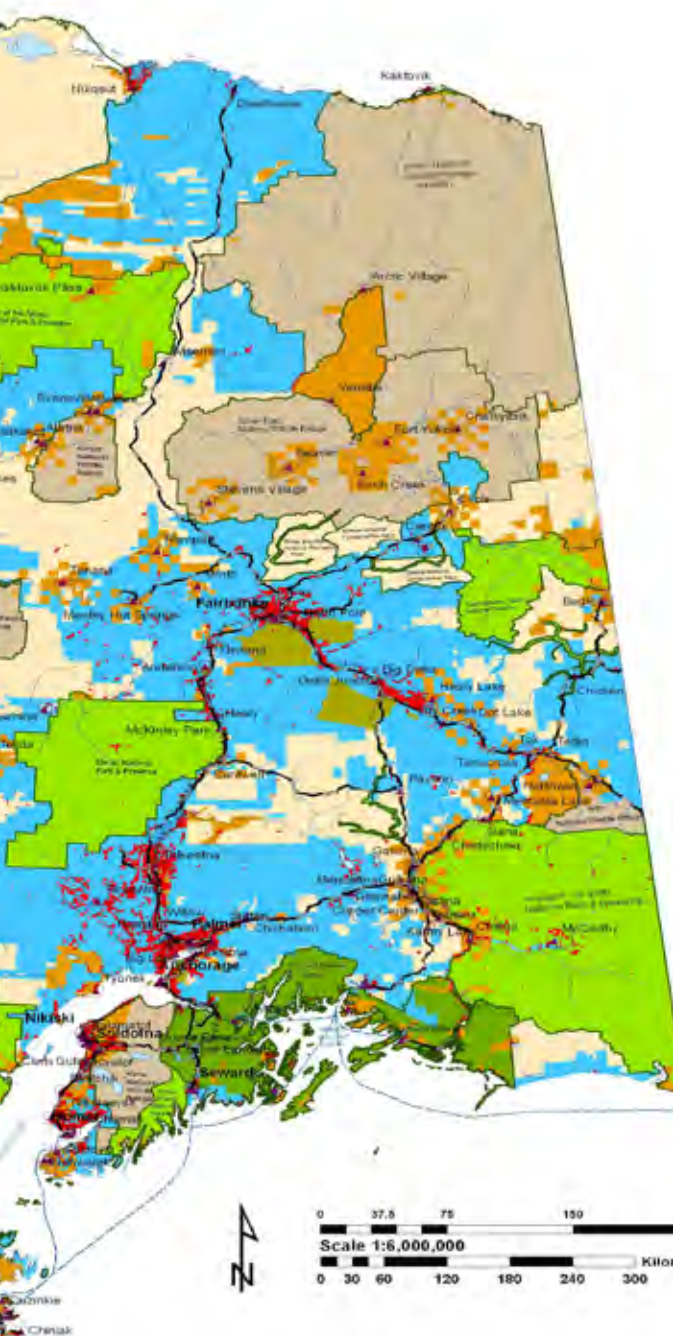
Land in private ownership (other than Native land) comprises less than one percent of the total land in Alaska. Much of the best land for development around Alaska's communities is, or will be, privately owned. Private land development meets people's needs by providing places to live, work, shop and recreate. It also provides a tax base for cities and communities to help support public services.

Because local governments in Alaska have individual methods of transferring land into private ownership, land currently owned by them is grouped into this category.





Alaska is one-fifth the size of the conterminous 48 states.



**Bureau of Land Management - 82.5 million acres**

In Alaska, BLM's focus is conveying land, wildland fire management, overseeing the Joint Pipeline Office (a partnership with the state and other federal agencies with oversight responsibility of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline), and responding to the public demand for use of the land they manage.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - 78.8 million acres**

The USFWS manages 16 wildlife refuges in Alaska. The two largest are the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and much storied Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), both of which are approximately 19 million acres.

**National Park Service - 52.4 million acres**

There are eight national parks in Alaska, including the five largest in the national park system:

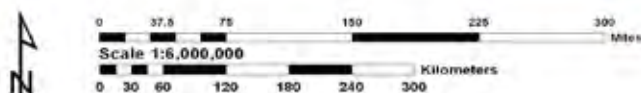
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve - 13,175,901 acres
- Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve - 8,472,506 acres
- Denali National Park & Preserve - 6,075,030 acres
- Katmai National Park & Preserve - 4,093,229 acres
- Lake Clark National Park & Preserve - 4,030,025 acres

**U.S. Forest Service - 22.3 million acres**

The USFS manages two National Forests in Alaska. The Tongass NF, 16.8 million acres, and the Chugach NF, 5.5 million acres are the two largest national forests in the U.S. The USFS manages these lands for a wide range of goods and services while conserving and protecting them.

**Department of Defense - 1.7 million acres**

Dept. of Defense lands in Alaska provide for a unique training environment, most notably at the Northern Warfare Training Center in the Tanana Valley in the Interior.



- Highway
- Alaska Marine Highway System (state ferry) Route
- Town, population more than 2500
- Town, population less than 2500



Maps produced by the  
**Alaska Dept of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry**

# Alaska's shrinking salmon

By Craig Medred (courtesy of <https://craigmedred.news>)

The season of the salmon in the waters surrounding Alaska's urban core has opened with a warning that all might not be well in the North Pacific Ocean.

Once again, as was the case last year, returning fish appear to be shrunk in size. The average weight of a sockeye caught this week in the Copper River commercial fishery 150 miles southeast of Anchorage was 4.4 pounds. That's more than 25 percent smaller than the long-term, 6-pound average for the catch.

No one at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is, at this point, willing to stick his or her neck out to predict this is a harbinger of things to come, but that is clearly the worry.

"It's certainly on our radar when (small size) was so widespread last year," said Jack Erickson, fisheries research coordinator for the state's Division of Commercial Fisheries.

Humpie-size sockeye was all too common in the 49th state in 2015. Bristol Bay salmon averaged "5.12 pounds, smaller than the historical average and the 2014 average of 5.92 pounds," the Alaska Journal of Commerce reported.

Kodiak sockeye came in at a paltry 4.7 pounds. Copper River fish were just over 5 pounds, about a pound underweight but good compared to the start of this year. Southeast sockeye averaged 4.36 pounds, only about a half-pound heavier than the region's pinks, according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game data.

The consensus among scientists at the time appeared to be that warm ocean waters associated with a strong El Nino event and what has been called simply "the blob" reduced the volume of forage fish

in the North Pacific and/or attracted more competition.

"Warm ocean temperatures favor some species but not others," the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration noted on its website in the fall of 2014. "For instance, sardines and albacore tuna often thrive in warmer conditions. Pacific Coast salmon and steelhead rely on cold-water nutrients, which they may have found recently in the narrow margin of cold water along the Northwest coast. But if the warmth continues or expands Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead could suffer in coming years.

"If the warming persists for the whole summer and fall, some of the critters that do well in a colder, more productive ocean could suffer reduced growth, poor reproductive success and population declines," (ecologist Nate) Mantua said. "This has happened to marine mammals, sea birds and Pacific salmon in the past. At the same time, species that do well in warmer conditions may experience increased growth, survival and abundance."

The warming not only persisted through 2015, it continues to persist.

Before this year's fishing began, Steve Moffitt, the state's commercial fisheries biologist in Cordova, a fishing port near the mouth of the Copper River, was warning salmon might once again come back small.

"This wasn't something that was unanticipated," he said Friday. "My hypothesis is that they will be" smaller all year.

Hypothesis is the scientific word for an educated guess made before the data is available to provide an answer. Moffitt isn't alone with this warm-water-drive hypothesis.

"They are small sockeye," Erickson said. "We'll see if this pattern holds."

Graphs from Department of Fish & Game

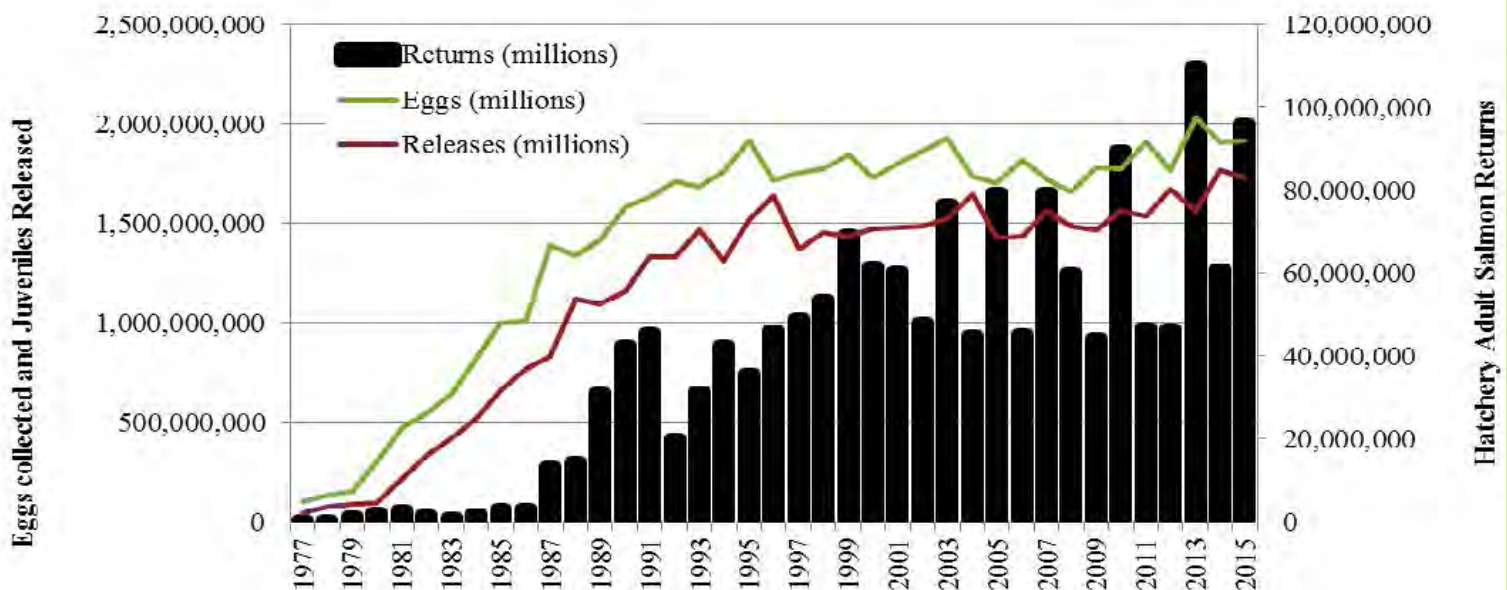


Figure 11.—Total salmon eggs collected, juveniles released and adult returns for Alaska salmon hatchery programs, 1977–2015.

Note: The returns are from previous year's releases, and not the return by brood year. For example, the 2015 returns are from fish released in 2014 and earlier, depending on species



### Less time spent at sea

Something clearly seems to be going on in the ocean, said regional sport fish research supervisor Jim Hasbrouck, because not only are sockeye smaller, Chinook – Alaska’s famous big kings – appear to be “maturing at a younger age.”

The latter change has been glaringly apparent on the fabled Kenai River where the big fish that made the river famous just aren’t there anymore. The reason, scientists agree, is pretty simple: Salmon that used to spend three, four or five years in the ocean are now coming back after a year or two

It’s almost as if the fish can sense that the data says there is no value in staying at sea longer. Three-ocean sockeye studied in Bristol Bay last year showed almost no growth after their second year in the ocean, Erickson said.

The age-structure of the sockeye return did not seem to have shifted as radically as it has for Kenai kings, however. Fish and Game still saw a good mix of age classes, Erickson said, but “the fish were smaller across all of them.

“They were smaller fish in all age classes.”

He is trying to remain optimistic that early returns to the Copper are just an anomaly, that as the season progresses the salmon will start coming back at something closer to normal average size. But – if NOAA’s warm water theory is correct – the odds on that aren’t good. Not much seems to have changed offshore since 2015.

Just days ago the Alaska “Blob” Tracker was reporting “the blob lives.” Another post on the website warned that given the high water temperatures of the moment “we might be in for another year of unusual species sightings in the Gulf of Alaska.” The “unusual species” would be warm-water fish showing up again off the 49th state.

Moffitt is hoping a forecast La Nina for the Pacific in the fall could shift things back toward normal, but worries that not even the upwelling of cooler water from deep in the ocean is no guarantee of change given the spread of warmth across hundreds of miles of the Gulf of Alaska.

And as of the moment, La Nina is more promise than reality.

“As the weeks pass, the layer of warm water at the surface contracts to the central Pacific and becomes very shallow, a sign that the current El Niño is on its way out,” writes Rebecca Lindsey at climate.gov. “By the final frame of the animation (model), the cold pool is just breaching the surface of the eastern Pacific off South America.”

The belief is a lot of that colder water will rise to the surface of the ocean and the North Pacific Gyre will start moving it north to mix with the Alaska Current, which should then start trying to finally kill the blob and return the Gulf of Alaska to something nearer normal. At least in theory.

Craig Medred is a long time outdoor writer on Alaska issues. Craig is an “investigative reporter” in the true sense of the word. He is not a wildlife or fisheries biologist nor a professional land manager. What he does as an investigative reporter is gather information from experts and expose that to the public. Often times in the past AOC has agreed with his analysis of the data he has gathered, other times not. The important think Craig does for all of us in his journalistic writing’s is to make us aware of what is being discussed in Alaska’s outdoors world.

Craig has recently gone out on his own with an electric service to keep providing Alaskans with his perspective on outdoor issues. You can sign up and contribute to his efforts by logging in at:

<https://craigmedred.news>

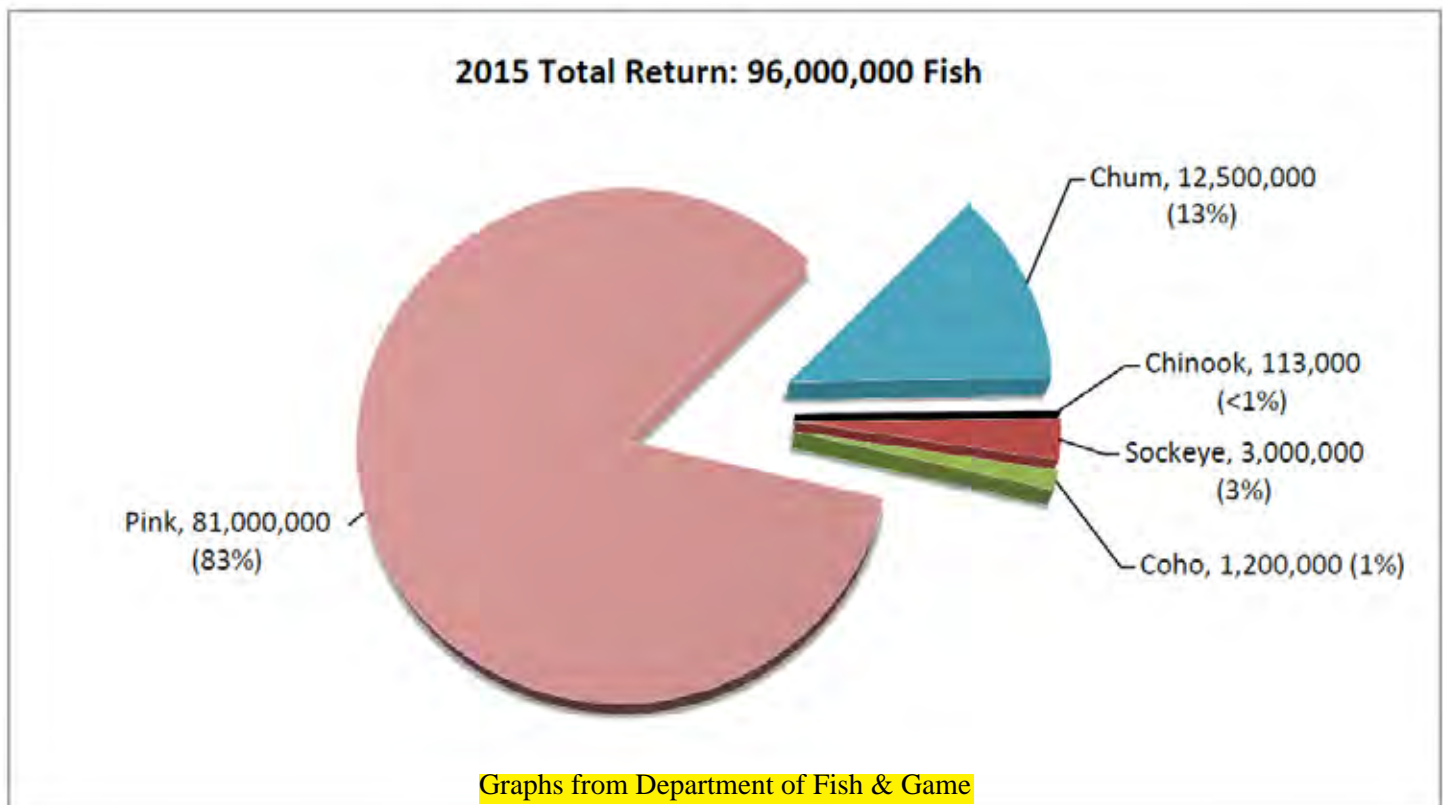


Figure 12.—Species composition of 2015 Alaska hatchery returns, with the number of fish returning by species, and the percent of the total hatchery return of each species in parentheses. The hatchery return includes harvest and broodstock.

# ALASKA FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND

For 31 years AOC's sister corporation, the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund, has sponsored a banquet and auction fund-raiser for the Fund. This year's event is Saturday November 19, 2016, at the Westmark Hotel.

For most of its history the Fairbanks event has been the leading fund-raiser for the Fund. The tremendous support of Interior residents has enabled the Fund to defend in court the privileges of all Alaskans to be equal under the law with regard to fishing, hunting, trapping and public access to public lands and waters.

## Harry Keller Obituary

By: Ron Somerville

On January 4, 2016 the Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Outdoor Council lost one of their staunchest supporters. Harry Keller's passing leaves a big hole for us to fill in our local conservation and fundraising efforts. Although Harry was an avid fisherman and hunter, his greatest passions were challenges using his engineering background and talents, including gunsmithing. Harry has had a long history with our organizations going way back to a period where he chaired the local AOC fundraiser in Juneau and helped in our efforts to put on an annual Golden North Salmon Derby. For the last 16 years, Harry has constructed and donated a custom rifle complete with scope, sling and case to the annual TSI/AOC fundraiser in Juneau. Annually we sold 250 tickets for \$20 apiece. It wasn't any trouble selling tickets because everyone wanted one of Harry's masterpieces. In essence, over that period, Harry donated a total of \$80,000 to our organizations. Harry graduated from Texas A & M with a degree in engineering and spent two years on active duty in the U.S. Army. He spent a good portion of his engineering career with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities until his retirement. He and his wife Barbara chose to remain in Juneau after Harry retired so he could spend time on his boat, enjoy hunting trips in the spring and fall and be close to friends and family.

Harry utilized his engineering and gunsmithing skills to support his good friend Karl Mielke who owned and operated the Alaska Bullet Works. Karl often said that he wouldn't have been able to accomplish what he did in the bullet making business without Harry's continued support and unique problem solving talents. As a last goodbye, we all intend to take a boat trip to Chatham Straits sometime in July so the family can distribute his remains and his many friends can offer their support. To say we are all going to miss him is a gross understatement.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Bill Iverson,  
Soldotna, Alaska  
president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Vice-President,  
Southcentral: John Sturgeon  
Anchorage, Alaska  
vp1@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Treasurer: Todd Clark  
Anchorage, Alaska  
treasurer@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Secretary: Teresa Burnett  
Anchorage, Alaska  
secretary@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

At Large:  
Rob Mathews  
Delta Junction, Alaska  
atlarge@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Karen Gordon  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
vp2@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Ron Somerville  
Juneau, Alaska  
vp3@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Trustee Advisory Board  
(TAB) Chair: Warren Olson  
warrenolsonak@gmail.com  
1-907-346-4440  
Anchorage, Alaska

Remember to think of AOC when estate planning.

## Alaska Trust Fund – A Gift to Alaska

-- investing the resources of today to protect fishing, hunting, trapping & access for the Alaskans of tomorrow.

By Mary Bishop, Secretary, Alaska Trust Fund

How can you and I be assured our younger generations can learn the values associated with harvesting wild foods? How can we defend the opportunity to harvest now and in the future?

The AOC and Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund help. And in 2002 the Fund established an endowment account 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.



*Page Paid for by:*  
**Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund**



# Pick. Click. Give.

**Make a Difference in the New Year**

[www.pickclickgive.org](http://www.pickclickgive.org)

Please choose:  
**Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund**  
 As your non-profit  
 Help hang onto your outdoor future.  
 The fund is the associated conservation arm of AOC

## Maud Road Shooting Range Committee

*By Patti Barber*

The crown jewel of the Knik River Public Use Area (KRP UA) is the KRP UA Shooting Range. In 2013, with the help of then-Representative Bill Stoltze and Senator Charlie Huggins, funding for Phase One of the range was supported by the legislature. Phase Two funding followed in 2014 with support from then- Governor Sean Parnell.

The range site is 2.7 miles from the end of the pavement on Maud Road, it was chosen because it is within the KRP UA and yet distant from homes and the high traffic area of the Knik river bed. To address public concerns and get ideas for a suitably-designed range, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) met with the Maud Road Shooting Range Committee to gather input. One initial concern was the 100-yard range access trail was too steep for the handicap to access the range. As a result of public input, the trail and range were lowered and made easier for wheelchairs and people with disabilities. Construction began on the 100-yard range in 2014.

The Maud Road Shooting Range Committee was formed through the Alaska Outdoor Council to work with DNR as a group sounding board and to alert DNR and the Alaska State Troopers if violations occur at the range. In the summer of 2015, volunteers from the Maud Road Shooting Range Committee, the Alaska Frontier Trappers, and friends met to build 22 benches with funds obtained from a rifle raffle held at many of the gun shows around the Valley. The Alaska Raceway Park generously donated many trash barrels to aid in keeping the range clean. Spenard Builders in Palmer also was able to give a substantial donation for the lumber used to build the benches. Volunteers are needed to keep the range free to use by helping with weekly maintenance, critically in the high use summers.

Travis Jensen, the KRP UA Land Manager (269-8503), and volunteers are there on the only closed day, Wednesday, to clean and repair facility as needed. As long as this volunteer maintenance work continues, the range will remain fee-free to use. The Maud Road Shooting Range Committee has a Facebook page that is well used by the public and is monitored often to offer help and answer questions. The State of Alaska also maintains a website at <http://www.knikriver.alaska.gov/#krpua=4>. Not on Facebook? Call Kenny Barber at 745-4446.

Directions to the range: Old Glenn Highway (out of Palmer, approximately 3-4 miles) to Maud Road

Maud Road Shooting Range Committee Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Maud-Road-Shooting-Range-Committee-1418234718422497>



# AOC Sustaining Business Members

Please support those who support AOC by patronizing these AOC's Business Members!

## INTERIOR

F & E Taxidermy  
Frank Borba  
3679 Hurst Road  
North Pole AK 99705 . . . . .907-488-2850  
feborba@alaska.net

Fairbanks Fur Tannery  
Allen Barrette  
380 Peger Road  
Fairbanks AK 99709 . . . . .  
ibalbarrette@yahoo.com  
barrette@acsalaska.net-new email 12-22-2014

**Frontier Outfitters / Sentry Hardware**  
Mike Lund  
250 Third Street #6  
Fairbanks AK 99701 . . . . .907-452-4774  
mlginc@gci.net  
Alaskan Lifestyles

Pacific Rim Geological Consulting, Inc.  
Tom Bundtzen  
PO Box 81906  
Fairbanks AK 99708 . . . . .907-458-8951  
bundtzen@mosquitonet.com  
www.pacrimgeol.com

Active in Geological consulting in Alaska, Northwest Canada and Eastern Russia.

Portwine Plumbing and Heating  
Dan & Joanne Portwine  
1500 Alaska Way  
Fairbanks AK 99709 . . . . .907-479-3046  
pph@gci.net  
Serving the Interior since 1974.

Stu's GoDevil Outboards and  
Santa's Neighbors Bed & Breakfast  
Stu & Carol Ann Varner  
PO Box 56655  
North Pole AK 99705 . . . . .  
varner@alaskan.com

Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.  
William S. Brophy  
100 Cushman St. Suite 210  
Fairbanks AK 99701-4674 . . . . .907 452-2625  
info@usibelli.com  
www.usibelli.com  
Clean Energy - Brighter Future

Valley Landscaping LLC  
Dave Stutz  
PO Box 82703  
Fairbanks AK 99708 . . . . .907-455-6332  
daveastutz@gmail.com  
Service From the Ground Up!!

Warwick & Schikora, PC  
Rick & Cheryl Schikora  
1416 Gillam Way  
Fairbanks AK 99701 . . . . .907-456-1566  
schikora@wscpa-ak.com  
cheryl@wscpa-ak.com  
2010 Special Recognition Life Sustaining Business membership at Fairbanks Banquet 2015

## SOUTHCENTRAL

Alaska Remote Guide Service  
Wayne Kubat  
PO Box 874867  
Wasilla AK 99687 . . . . .907-376-9568  
wayne@alaskaremote.com  
www.alaskaremote.com

Moose calling & hunting instructional videos, also Bull Magnets" -- durable five function moose calling megaphones."

Alaska Sausage Co., Inc.  
Martin Eckman  
PO Box 92157  
Anchorage AK 99509 . . . . .907-562-3636  
aks@ak.net  
www.alaskasausage.com  
Custom fish and game processing. Retail - wholesale - gift packages.

**Bickman Builders**  
Jim Bickman  
4316 Upper Kogru Drive  
Eagle River AK 99577 . . . . .440-2876  
hunts@alaskabickman.com

Boondock Sporting Goods & Outfitters  
Don Hanks  
17007 Eagle River Loop Road  
Eagle River AK 99577 . . . . .907-694-2229

**Cruz Companies**  
Dave Cruz  
7000 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy  
Palmer AK 99645 . . . . .  
info@cruzconstruct.com  
www.Cruzconstruct.com



**Fishtale River Guides**  
Andrew N. Couch  
PO Box 155  
Palmer AK 99645 . . . . .907-746-2199  
fishing@fish4salmon.com  
www.fish4salmon.com  
Guided Mat-Su Valley Salmon Fishing Trips 90 Minutes from Anchorage

Holliday Aircraft Services  
Terry & Sue Holliday  
PO Box 670109  
Chugiak AK 99567 . . . . .907-688-4337  
holliday.93934@gmail.com  
www.hollidayair.com

Aircraft Maintenance-Birchwood Airport

## Life SB memberships in yellow

Precision Mechanical and Plumbing, LLC.  
Benjamin Eaton  
20610 David Ave.  
Eagle River AK 99577 . . . . .907-444-9043  
beaton1970@gmail.com  
www.PrecisionMechanicaland Plumbing.com  
We specialize in commercial, industrial, mining and North Slope work.

**Premier Electric LLC**  
Steve Linden  
PO Box 874362  
Wasilla AK 99687 . . . . .  
slinden@premierelectricak.com  
www.premierelectricak.com

**Skyline Sales & Service**  
Gary A. Stevens  
PO Box 672145  
Chugiak AK 99567-2145 . . . . .907-688-9993  
garyatsls@cs.com

Trustworthy Hardware & Fishing  
Scott Miller  
44648 Sterling Hwy.  
Soldotna AK 99669 . . . . .  
trustworthy@acsalaska.net

Valley Business Machines Inc.  
Loren Rupe  
5825 E. Mayflower Ct.  
Wasilla AK 99654 . . . . .907-376-5077  
Loren@vbmalaska.com  
We are your One Stop Technology Shop!

## SOUTHEAST

Alaska Reel Adventures  
Richard Yamada  
P O Box 210064  
Auke Bay AK 99821 . . . . .  
richard@alaskareel.com  
www.alaskareel.com  
Shelter Lodge richard@alaskareel.com Alaska Connections  
richard@shelterlodge.com new name and email 9-14-2015

Orion Sporting Goods  
Bert Stromquist  
705 Halibut Point Road, Unit E  
Sitka AK 99835 . . . . .907 738-3541  
orion@gci.net  
705 HPR Unit E, Sitka, AK 99835

Space Unlimited, Inc.  
Gary L. Jenkins  
PO Box 210194  
Auke Bay AK 99821 . . . . .907-780-6633  
gjenkins@gci.net  
www.spaceunlimitedak.com

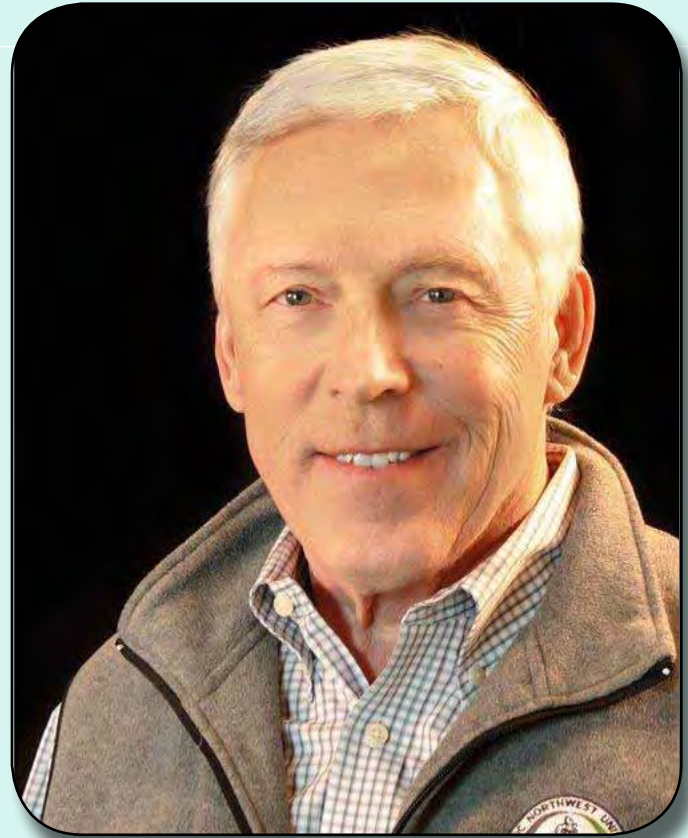
We have warm dry storage for your summer toys in the winter and your winter toys in the summer.



## John Sturgeon

*New AOC/AFWCF Board Member*

John graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1970 with a degree in forestry and shortly thereafter moved to Alaska. He enjoys hunting and fishing and doing activities with his family. He has worked in the Forest Products industry his entire career. He has run Koncor Forest Products on Afognak since 1986. Prior to that he worked for the State of Alaska and ended his time there as State Forester. In addition he has run several of his own businesses. John's interests include boating, hunting, fishing, archery, reloading and basically any activity that is out of doors. He serves on a variety of organizations and is a director of Resource Development Council, the Alaska Forest Association, the Anchorage Chapter of the RMEF and is a member of Rotary. John served in the US Navy with two tours in Viet Nam. John believes we must work constantly to protect our hunting and fishing rights or we will soon loss them.



## AOC Member Clubs (to get contact info go to our website)

Alaska Backcountry Adventure Tours .....	Palmer	Fairbanks Trap Club.....	Fairbanks
Alaska Charter Association .....	Homer	Golden North Archery Assoc.....	Fairbanks
Alaska Frontier Trappers Association.....	Palmer	Houston Chamber of Commerce .....	Wasilla
Alaska Gun Collectors Association Inc. ....	Anchorage	Interior Airboaters Association.....	Fairbanks
Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee .....	Fairbanks	Juneau Gun Club .....	Juneau
Alaska Machinegun Association.....	Chugiak	Juneau Rifle and Pistol Club, Inc.....	Juneau
Alaska Moose Federation.....	Anchorage	Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. ....	Juneau
Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance.....	Palmer	Kodiak Island Sportsman's Association .....	Kodiak
Alaska Professional Hunters Association.....	Anchorage	Matanuska Valley Sportsmen, Inc.....	Palmer
Alaska State Snowmobile Association .....	Anchorage	McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle Club .....	Wasilla
Alaska Waterfowl Association .....	Anchorage	Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska .....	Anchorage
Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation .....	Anchorage	Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association.....	Valdez
Anchorage Snowmobile Club, Inc.....	Anchorage	Ruffed Grouse Society/SC AK Chapter .....	Anchorage
Chitina Dipnetters.....	Fairbanks	Sitka Sportsman's Association.....	Sitka
Clear Sky Sportsmen's Club.....	Nenana	Slana Alaskans Unite .....	Slana
Cook Inlet Archers .....	Anchorage	Snomads, Inc.....	Homer
Delta Sportsman's Association, Inc.....	Delta Junction	Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association .....	Fairbanks
Fairbanks Retriever Club .....	Fairbanks	Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. ....	Juneau
Fairbanks Snow Travelers Association .....	Fairbanks	Tok Shooters Association.....	Tok



Alaska Outdoor Council Inc.  
310 K Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
P: (907) 264-6645 F: (907) 264-6602  
www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org  
aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage

**PAID**

Anchorage, AK  
Permit #537

## "Alaska's Outdoors are Yours"

### Check mailing label for membership expiration.

Please renew today!

If you are not getting AOC  
E-mail alerts – E-mail us at  
membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

# AOC Membership Application / Donation Form

NAME #1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

OPTIONAL: Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME #2: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

OPTIONAL: Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: ☐ Check ☐ Visa/MC: \_\_\_\_\_ - - - Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Option out of Newsletter to View online instead.

For membership and lobbying donations, please make payable to "AOC".  
Lobbying donations are not tax deductible;  
Mail to 310 K St., Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501

### I WOULD LIKE TO:

- ☐ Renew my membership  
☐ Become a new member  
☐ Make a donation



### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- ☐ Annual Individual \$25 ☐ Annual Family \$30  
☐ 3-year Individual \$60 ☐ 3-year Family \$70  
☐ 5-year Individual \$100 ☐ 5-year Family \$110  
☐ Club Membership \$50 annual  
☐ Sustaining Business \$150 per year  
☐ Sustaining Business - Life \$1500 one time  
☐ Life Membership \$400 one time  
☐ Lobbying Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_