



Outdoor Alaska



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"Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor heritage since 1955"

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Look over your shoulder !

Segregation of Alaskan Hunters during "Times of Plenty"

By Rod Arno

Segregation of Alaskans is where the Board of Game (board) approved Copper Basin Community Harvest Permit (CHP) hunt is headed regarding allocation of Nelchina herd caribou. Most likely that will spill over into moose allocation for GMU 13 at the Spring 2011 Board meeting, March 4 – 10th in Wasilla.

Alaska Department of Law (DOL) staff have led some board members to believe that statutes created by the legislature gives the board the authority to adopt regulations that differentiate among Alaskan subsistence users based on patterns of use, depending on whether they are part of an area, village, community, group, or even individually, as needed, to regulate subsistence harvest.

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The problem with where the board is headed in their allocation scheme for GMU 13 caribou is due to the results of active game management the Nelchina caribou herd. It has recovered adequately enough to provide a harvestable surplus two times greater than the amount necessary for subsistence (ANS). At the October 2010 Board meeting the DOL lawyer advised the board that they were in a "Tier I plus" situation regarding Nelchina caribou because the harvestable surplus is significantly above the ANS, meaning that there was enough caribou available for harvest to satisfy subsistence uses plus some other uses.

Past Supreme Court decisions, *the Morry case in 1992*, have already ruled against board actions that differentiate among subsistence users when the harvestable surplus of a stock or population is

Continued on Page 7 :SEG

Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, AOC President

It's been a long cold winter and we are all ready for spring. This year we are doing something different with our AOC Annual Awards Banquet at the Marriot downtown. It will also be a fundraiser and we will have guest speakers. The banquet on the March 11 will have a Prime rib and Chicken buffet. We are still looking for donations and helpers.

The annual meeting takes place March 10 to the 12th and tickets are available for the banquet. Contact Bill or Pam Iverson @ 907-260-5723 or 907-244-6285 cell. Or Email: membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org Rooms are also available at the Marriot for the out-of-towners. See article on pages 10-11 of this newsletter.

During the annual meeting we will have workshops on Friday open to the public. On Saturday the delegates will discuss current ADF&G proposals, pending lawsuits including the Carey Mills RS2477 Access lawsuit. (See article on page 3 of this newsletter). Come and participate and you may have an opportunity to tell us about the problems you may be having in your areas, that AOC is not yet aware of.

We have been discussing the Board of Game (BOG) candidates who have applied for appointments to the BOG and will be watching the appointments by the Governor. There are possibly three seats are up for grabs. Ted Spraker, Lew Bradley, and Stosh Hoffman terms expire on 6/30/2011.

Besides the current ones who may or may not run again, there are three new ones running, Mike Crawford, Lynn Keogh, Marty Caress, that I know of at this time. Here is the website showing the current board. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.bogmembers>

I submitted my name as a possible candidate for the Kenai Peninsula Advisory Council (AC) to the BOG, but was not successful. The person who did win is a long time resident of the area and an avid hunter. I am sure he will do a good job. The AC boards throughout the state are essential to the process but need accurate and timely data to make good decisions on what recommendations to the boards of Fish and Game. I have been attending the local AC meetings to understand the process and importance of these people. This is where you as a private person can voice your message and work toward submitting a proposal to get your issue changed or at least heard by the public.

In October, of this year, we will be having our 1st Annual Kenai Peninsula Banquet Fundraiser in Soldotna. We are looking for volunteers for that function as well. Contact information above.

If anyone has changed or acquired an email address recently, please let us know so that we can keep you posted on the latest occurrences. email is the way we let you know, timely info.

We will be at the Sports Shows in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Wasilla and Soldotna.



MAT-SU Outdoorsman Show
- Wasilla
Curtis D. Menard Memorial
Sports Center
MARCH 25, 26, & 27th
Friday - noon to 7 pm
Saturday - 10am to 6pm
Sunday 10am to 5pm

The Great Alaska Sportsman Show
Sullivan & Ben Boeke Arenas
1600 Gambell St, Anchorage, Alaska
March 31, April 1, 2, & 3
Thursday: 4:00pm to 9:00pm
Friday: Noon to 9:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am to 9:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am to 6:00pm

Fairbanks Outdoor Show
THE CARLSON CENTER
2010 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Dates: April 15, 16, 17, 2011
Friday: 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Sunday: 11:00am - 5:00 pm

Annual Kenai Peninsula Sport, Rec Trade Show
The Soldotna Sports Center
May 6, May 7, and May 8, 2011
Friday: 3pm 8pm
Saturday: 10am - 8pm
Sunday: 10am - 5pm.

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Executive Director Report

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director



It's time for a Paradigm Shift in State Land Management

The Susitna River Basin would be a good place for Alaska's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to start looking at state owned public lands management in a new light. As Federal public land managers further restrict public accessibility to the majority of Alaskans it is becoming more and more apparent that the state needs to assure public access to public resources for

the benefit of future outdoors people in Alaska.

Currently DNR is updating the **Susitna Matanuska Management Plan (SMAP)** for around 6 million acres of state owned public domain south of the Alaska Range. This area is one of the largest contiguously owned pieces of state lands surrounded by federally managed Parks, Forests, and US Fish & Wildlife Refuges lands. It is the "backyard" to over 70% of the state's population. The State Legislature has already designated an additional 3 million acres within this area for recreational use. Most of the lands in the SMAP that are up for management considerations lay west of the Parks highway. These lands represent most of GMU16 where active game management to increase moose populations has been implemented by ADF&G over the last six years. They also contain the drainages of the Yentna and Susitna Rivers where ADF&G has been working over the last few years to restore once abundant salmon stocks.

Past DNR Area Management Plans for these public lands have always contained a fair amount of public domain available for settlement purposes. This has been consistent with State of Alaska constitutional mandates calling for the development of state-owned lands for the benefit of its people. All that made good sense to the framers of the state constitution over half a century ago.

Now because of federal law (ANILCA) well over half the state has been turned over to federal managers who continue to add restrictive access provisions to lands designated as National Parks and Preserves, Monuments, Forests, and Refuges. ANILCA also gives a priority to all the renewable resources, such as fish and game, to anyone who chooses to live on these federal public lands. While another federal law ANCSA has placed 12% of the state into private land ownership. That leaves Alaskans who don't live on federal lands with the possibility of equal access only to public lands on the remaining less the 25% of unencumbered state land. It now seems more important than ever to preserve state public domain in public ownership.

Another factor that should also be considered in future DNR area planning, in detail, is how DNR will work with ADF&G and DOT to insure motorized access to public lands. Most land planners have been educated under a regime of development of a

secondary road system off of major highway arteries. From what we have witnessed over the last half century in Alaska that model will not work here. Because federal lands and how they are being managed under federal law, it is doubtful if an adequate number of major highways will be constructed to allow public access to state lands beyond what we already have. Get a map of Alaska land ownership out and try to draw in any north/south or east/west access corridors and you can't do it without running into federal reserved lands. Look what has happened along the North Slope haul road, state lands are still out of reach to motorized access do to federal pipeline corridor regulations.

When you consider the lack of our ability to disperse outdoor activities on public lands throughout the state, it becomes painfully clear that a paradigm shift in how the state manages public lands and water, is long overdue.

These are some of the concerns AOC plans on having State Commissioners address at our South Central AOC Annual meeting next month in Anchorage, March 11th. (See the AOC annual meeting schedule on page 10 of this newsletter) Bring your ideas and questions and help the current, supportive administration chart a future course of area planning that will assure public access to public state outdoor resources.

RS 2477 Access Legal Defense

By Carey Mills' for Legal Fees

When I began this fight over a RS 2477 rights-of-way to access my state mining claims; I thought I was that one in a million person who was having access problems. After the lawsuit became public I started receiving calls from other people throughout Alaska, who were having the same type of problem.

"Federal governmental agencies denying that RS 2477 rights-of-way exist"

This lawsuit seeks only to require Federal Agencies and others to recognize and accept one of over six hundred (600) RS 2477 rights-of-way listed in Alaska Statute AS 19.30.400. Yes that's right! The Alaska Legislature and Governor passed this law back in 1998.

This case will potentially set legal precedence for all Alaskans and the General Public who want to use those other RS 2477 rights-of-way. Because this case will be the first to actually fully litigate the RS 2477 rights-of-way issue, since the 1998 legislative enactment of AS 19.30.400; your financial support for this RS 2477 Access Legal Defense Fund is vital.

If you believe that Alaskans and the General Public should have RS 2477 rights-of-way to Public Lands for hunting, fishing, mushing, snow machining, ATV riding and mining, then please donate what you can afford, on the AOC website, choose the Access Assertion Fund.

Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) Meeting

By Bruce Knowles

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) will be meeting at the Egan Center in Anchorage from February 20 until March 4 to take action on some 220 proposals dealing with the Upper Cook Inlet fisheries. The Matanuska-Susitna Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee (MBRSC), along with representatives from all the area Fish and Game Advisory Committees (AC's) will be attending to present and support dozens of proposals submitted by these groups which are intended to correct and improve the Northern District's fisheries concerns. Proposals seeking to limit or reduce the returning numbers of salmon will be opposed.

The main topics of concern are the establishment of a conservation corridor through the commercial salmon fisheries in Cook Inlet to move salmon stocks bound for the Northern District into their natal streams; taking action to improve the returns of king salmon to the Northern District; trying to minimize the commercial catch of Coho salmon; trying to increase the numbers of sockeye returning to the Susitna/Yentna drainages; and keeping the personal use Dipnet fisheries in a status quo situation.

This meeting will significantly impact the status of our salmon fisheries in Cook Inlet for the foreseeable future. Representatives from the commercial fisheries industry will be in attendance by the hundreds. While representatives of the inriver users will be present, it would be a great benefit if hundreds more of those inriver users attended the meeting and made their voices heard about getting more fish north. For instance, there are 28 proposals aimed at limiting and restricting the personal use fisheries around

Cook Inlet. If -the BOF doesn't hear from a good number of the 30,000 personal use permit holders as to how important those fisheries are toward putting food on the table for tens of thousands of Alaskans, they might decide to reallocate those fish to the commercial fishing sector.

If you are unable to personally attend the meeting, you can submit written testimony for the BOF to review. A timely submission will guarantee your comments are included in board member's reading material. A link to get the mailing address or FAX number to submit written comments is www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/meetinfo/fcal.php.

Numbers do matter when the BOF listens to information either supporting or opposing a proposal. It is critical that the BOF hear from folks who use our fisheries resources recreationally or to feed their families. They will definitely be hearing from commercial fishermen who feel they have a right to harvest 80 to 90 percent of the returning numbers of salmon only to put money in their own pockets.

One of the most important things you can do is review the proposals at the Board of Fisheries web site and select two or three proposals then come to the Board of Fisheries and support or oppose your proposals. There are nearly as many proposals that try to restrict your fishing as there are that opens up fish opportunity.

Bruce Knowles 907-495-4965, 907-232-5873
bigfish@mtaonline.net

Ongoing legal challenges

By Rod Arno

AOC, and its 501(c)(3) sister organization the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (AFWCF) and member club Chitina Dipnet Association have appealed the Superior Court's denial of subsistence status for Chitina dipnetter's. Our attorney will be filing a Supreme Court brief in late February focusing on why the 8 criteria regulation found in 5AAC 99.010(b) needs to be stricken by the courts. In order to comply with the **1980 federal subsistence law and prevent federal takeover** the Alaska Joint Boards adopted regulations stating that only "rural residents" had "customary and traditional use". The Joint Boards then adopted the 8 criteria, 5 AAC 99.010(b) that they would use to identify "customary and traditional uses". Although the Alaska State Supreme Court struck down the rural priority in state statute the Boards of Fisheries and Game continue to use these same 8 criteria to create or perpetuate a rural preference. While still existing statutes and legal definitions adequately define subsistence uses without the need to apply arbitrary regulatory criteria both boards have continued to make unconstitutional distinctions among Alaskans based on cultural and residency distinctions. It has become painfully clear that only the State Supreme Court will put a stop to the board's misuse of the 8 criteria.

AOC/AFWCF is also defending an appeal by Ahtna of a judge's decision striking down the Ahtna Community Permit (CHP) hunt as unconstitutional. Against the advice from the State Attorney General the Board of Game passed a series of confusing changes to the prohibited CHP program at their Special October board meeting and the ADFG has only recently defined how the new community based hunting program would operate. While all Alaskans can now participate in the newly created Copper Basin CHP, participation requires adherence to the cultural harvesting practices defined by Ahtna. The state will now determine whether any individual Alaskan or group of Alaskans appropriately adhere to Ahtna hunting traditions. AOC/AFWCF intends to ask Superior Court Judge Bauman to determine whether the new CHP program complies with his earlier ruling finding the Ahtna CHP to be unconstitutional.

Your tax deductible donations for attorney fees are needed to continue these important court battles to assure the "Common Use" of public resources for all Alaskans. Please look at the back page of the newsletter for the donation form for AFWCF.

Sidebar: Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting

By Bruce Knowles

There are over 220 proposals to change to modify, close or to open fisheries of all types. There are two major and several minor user groups, with their agenda. The major issue at this Board of Fisheries meeting is the conservation of several salmon stocks. There are five King Salmon streams that have been present to the Board of Fisheries as stocks of concern, the retention of the Susitna River Red Salmon as a stock of concern that has continued it's down spiral. New management procedures must be developed to insure the survival of numerous in the Northern District

Establishment of a conservation corridor, increase in the amount of data for establishment of sound management plans, and will provide a safe passage to through the Central District drift fishery into the Northern District. If the Board of Fisheries is not providing accurate data from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Board will not be able to properly protect northern bound salmon.

Support:

A these proposals will improve sporting fishing and/ or PERSONAL USE fishing opportunity by insuring the passage of stocks north, by limiting the harvest ability of commercial fisheries.

159: this proposal will minimize the incidental harvest of non-targeted species. Reduce the commercial fishermen from taken Kings and Coho's, while fishing for Red Salmon, Chums and Pinks.

126: rewrite of Central District Drift Fleet Management Plan; Clarifies and regulate Central District fisheries to ensure the passage of stocks into the Northern District.

195: Modify the opening of Fish Creek PERSONAL USE fishery. Currently from 1-32 July, to when the department can project that the escapement will be above the 70,000 escapement goal. This will provide for additional PERSONAL USE opportunity for Northern District PERSONAL USE fishers.

200,201,203,204,22 and 23: If approved by the Board of Fisheries will increase the limit of Coho salmon from two to three. That will reestablish the old three fish limit that was put into place when Coho stocks were in trouble. The commercial fishing opportunity has already been reestablished.

283-289: Will liberalize pike fishing by changing methods and means increase the harvest to reduce pike population. Reducing the number of pike feeding on salmon stocks and resident species, providing increase opportunity

133: There are several proposals to reestablish Sports priority on Kings and Coho. Sports Priority had been mistakenly drop from the regulations. These are the only salmon that are supposed to be for Alaskans a better chance to take their winter food supply Home.

136: Increase the lower end of the Susitna River and Yentna River by a total 40-50,000, with the studies showing 40-50,000 red salmon that hadn't been previously identified.□

Oppose:

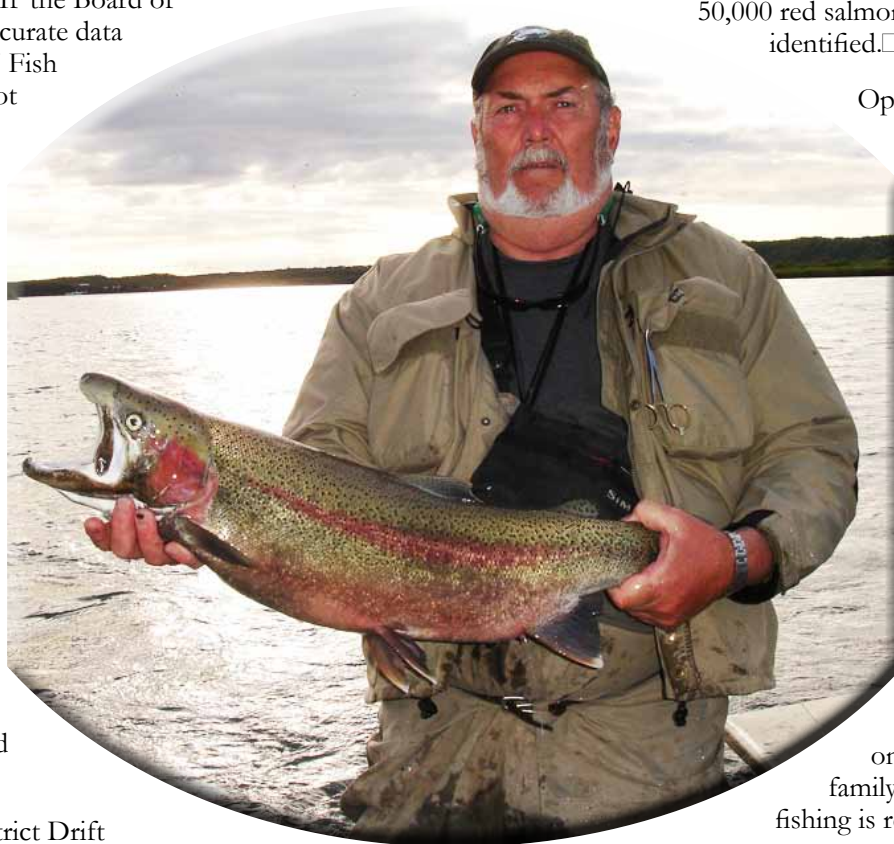
The following proposals are mint to reduce, restrict and to increase commercial opportunity, currently commercial fishers harvest 85% or more of Cook Inlet salmon sock, while spawning requirements and sports and personal use are given less 15 % of the returns to meet their needs.

103 and 186: This would reduce the subsistence harvest seasonal limit for Alaskan subsistence users from 2500 down to 500. Reduce the limit on the Kenai River to 15 per family. Personal use and Subsistence fishing is restricted to Alaskans only.

172: Require classes for PERSONAL USE fishing, this is an additional requirement that serve no use to the personal use fisher. This will require additional expenses and time going to the training.

138: Remove gear restrictions' after 30 July for Northern District set netters, by moving the gear restriction commercial fishers would be able to harvest more Coho salmon which are supposed to be restricted for the uses of sports fishers.

139: This is an attempt by the Northern District set netters to reopen as terminal fishery at the mouth of Fish Creek the only personal use fishery in the Northern District. This fishery was closed by the Board of Fisheries because it had been declare a stock of concern due to over harvest.



Fish fight

By Les Palmer - *who lives in Sterling.*

Originally published in the Peninsula Clarion, "An Outdoor View" column for Feb. 4, 2011

When the Alaska Board of Fisheries meets in Anchorage later this month to consider regulation changes, one of the hottest issues will be personal use dip net fishing in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers for sockeye salmon.

The issue isn't about conservation, but who gets the fish: the families who fish for food, or the people who fish for money. The debate will be mainly on political grounds, and it's almost certain to turn ugly.

Popular from the get-go, dip net fishing at the mouths of the Kenai and Kasilof rivers continues to increase unchecked. For 2007-2009, the 3-year average harvest for the Kenai was 288,457 fish; for the Kasilof, 56,793 fish.

On the other side, the 2010 total commercial Cook Inlet harvest for the 2010 season was about 2,900,000 sockeyes. The fish averaged 6.1 pounds, and fishermen were paid about \$1.75 per pound. You can see why they like to catch as many as possible. They see dip net fishing as an increasing threat to their incomes.

What this pending fish fight will come down to is who has the most clout, dip netters or commercial interests. From past observations, my money is on the guys who do it for money.

Of the 28 proposals addressing Upper Cook Inlet personal use fishing, 22 are from obvious commercial interests — 11 from the United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA), alone. Three seemingly are from rod-and-reel anglers who blame dip netters for reducing the number of sockeyes available in the Kenai. I was unable to verify if these were from commercial fishermen who also fish for sport and

sometimes wear both hats. Only two proposals came from dip netters, and neither addressed the most contentious fisheries, the Kenai and Kasilof. One, about king salmon retention, came from the local Fish and Game advisory committee.

A sampling of UCIDA proposals:

Prop. 174 would allow non-residents to participate in the Upper Cook Inlet personal use fisheries. At present, only residents can participate. This eyebrow-raising change would bring thousands of additional dip netters to the existing crowded fishery. Suspicious minds wonder.

Prop. 184 would establish a Guideline Harvest Limit (GHL) for the Kenai River and Kasilof River sport and personal use fisheries of 10 percent of the respective sonar counts. For the 2010 season, the final sonar count was 970,762. A GHL of 10 percent would mean the total sport and personal use harvest couldn't exceed about 97,000 fish.

Prop. 187 would reduce the household limit in Cook Inlet personal use fisheries from 25 to 10 fish, and would eliminate the additional 10 fish per household member.

Prop. 191 would reduce the allowable mesh size in Cook Inlet dipnet fisheries or prohibit release of fish.

Proposals 193 and 194 would prohibit dip netting from boats in the Kenai River personal use fishery. The issue here, according to UCIDA, is that the boats disturb beluga whales, causing them to abandon critical habitats in the lower Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

To date, dip netters haven't exhibited much clout at fish-board meetings. If they don't show up this time, they're almost certain to lose.



SEG: Continued from Page 1

sufficient to meet subsistence needs. It's clear after reading the state subsistence law that the State Legislature intended for the boards to differentiate among users only when the harvestable surplus falls below levels necessary to meet subsistence needs.

If the State Legislature had intended for the boards to differentiate among users at Tier I, they would have provided that expressed authority in the Tier I statutory language. Instead, language about differentiating among users is conspicuously absent from the Tier I statute; rather, the Tier I statute explicitly states that differentiating is to occur among uses, not users. And while it may not be stated quite as explicitly, it's clear to anyone reading this part of statute that the whole reason for requiring differentiation among uses at Tier I is to draw a line between subsistence uses and other uses, **not to carve up subsistence use itself**, much less to draw lines between subsistence users.

"Users," by the way, are not even mentioned in the Tier I statute, yet it is the Tier I statute that the board was supposedly operating under in October, when it differentiated among subsistence users by **creating two classes of subsistence uses** (communal and individual). The BOG first recognized two different patterns of subsistence uses in 2006 when they adopted findings for moose and caribou in GMU 13.

The results of the BOG action at the October 2010 meeting created three different types of hunts for Nelchina caribou each with different "conditions" and allocations:

A CHP allocation of up to 300 caribou for communities and groups of 25 or more Alaskans who agree to follow a hunting pattern established by indigenous Athna Athabasca's.

A registration permit hunt for Alaskan residents who don't really meet the boards definition of a true subsistence user with an unlimited number of permits.

A drawing permit hunt for Alaskan residents only who don't consider themselves subsistence users limited to up to 3,000 permits.

The BOG has also submitted an updated finding for subsistence uses in GMU 13, found on page 290 of the Spring 2011 meeting proposal booklet, that further define who qualifies as subsistence users. Submitted Proposal #50 for the upcoming Spring 2011 Central/Southwest Region meeting which reaffirms their actions taken last October. The findings state that after applying their expertise and judgment that only "a few 1,000 people use the Nelchina Caribou Herd in accordance with identified subsistence use patterns."

The board is hanging their whole CHP vs. Registration subsistence hunt hat on a clause that does indeed authorize giving permits to communities as well as individuals, but that gives no authority to differentiate within the subsistence group during times of plenty.

How can the board adopt hunt permit conditions on a game population that is above the maximum ANS that are so heavily

tied to cultural practices and that not be considered user-based and/or race-based? It is up to Alaskans to put a stop to this form of segregation by telling the board they **support Proposal #48 to repeal** the Copper Basin Community Harvest Permit hunt.



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Broken Meatball Soup

By Pam Iverson

(Bill calls it **Mooseball** soup)

We are always looking to find good recipes for moose and this is one of my favorites.

We cook this in a large crock pot, but a large pan will also work.

1 pound package of ground moose burger, cooked with ½ small onion diced, 1 clove of garlic diced, 3 or 4 stalks of celery diced, salt & pepper to taste. Drain fat if there is any. Put this into your crock pot with 8 cups of water (add more if you need to), along with ½ cup of barley, 4 Knorr beef bouillon cubes and 1 chicken bouillon cube. (These are in the Mexican and Chinese food isle)

The secret ingredient is ½ cup of tomato Ketchup. (Thanks to Bobbi at Fine Thyme in Soldotna)

Add a 15oz. can of diced tomatoes and strain and add one 15 oz. can of canned corn, one 15 oz. can of black beans.

Add 1 cup each of carrots, Broccoli, zucchini, Bok Choy, green beans or other vegetables you may have laying around that will hold up in a soup.

Simmer the soup for 4-6 hours.

I don't add these later vegetables until well after the rest has cooked a while, as they cook quickly. Enjoy.

AOC/AFWCF 27th Annual Dinner & Auction

By Dick Bishop

The Alaska Outdoor Council's (AOC) "sister" corporation, the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (Fund) held its 27th annual Dinner & Auction on Saturday, Nov. 6. Larry Kappel enthusiastically chaired the event while about 100 volunteers worked to put it on and over 400 guests attended.

Why? This event got started in 1983 to raise money needed to advocate sound State management of fish, game and habitats – and fairness in fishing, hunting and trapping opportunities for all Alaskans. Sound management and "common use" were at risk from a new federal law (ANILCA) and special interests. Some interests wanted to end hunting, trapping -- and traditional public access on new parks, refuges, etc. Others wanted ANILCA's rural priority for fishing, hunting and trapping on federal lands to only benefit them – preferably without regulations.

Federal resource agencies regularly patronized and appeased these special interests at the expense of the majority of Alaskans and of the Alaska's right to manage fish, game and navigable waters. Federal agencies were doing it in 1983 – and they're still at it. The



misanthropic management of the federal Yukon-Charlie Preserve – "Land Gone Lonesome" – and the troubles produced for Eagle area residents, visitors, and state game management is a prime current example of federal bias.

So the Fund and AOC chose to challenge special interests and feds – in regulatory forums, the Legislature, Congress, and in court. Currently in court the Fund and AOC are involved in 3 court cases: challenging discriminatory restrictions on Chitina dipnetting, discriminatory Nelchina basin caribou hunting regulations, and loss of State authority on navigable waters. With Statehood, Alaskans were granted both management of fish & game and of navigable waters -- as in all other states!

The Fund/AOC Dinner-Auction provides a big chunk of the money needed to advocate for and protect these rights of all Alaskans and of the State. You can help, too. Check with your local AOC/Fund Board members-- Byron Haley, Ralph Seekins, or Mary Bishop -- for more information.

And please join us for the 28th annual Fund/AOC dinner and auction, next November 5.

Proposed Expansion of Military Areas of Operation On and Above Alaska State lands

By Rod Arno

The U.S. Department of Defense has published a Notice of Intent to expand and/or establish new Military Operations Areas (MOA) in Alaska. MOAs could restrict airspace, create airspace corridors, expand ground access to training areas, and develop new ranges and facilities to provide military training opportunities for the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) across much of the Copper River Basin and the Eastern Interior of Alaska. (Also changes are proposed to airspace use on existing MOAs in the Mulchatna area in GMU 17, north upper through the Stony River country in GMU 19, and east into the headwaters of the Yentna River drainage in GMU16, and the Galena area in GMU 21, and must of GMU 20 and 25B. A large part of state owned lands where most Alaskans are still able to access publicly owned wild resources.)

For outdoors people and residents of these areas these proposed changes could result in restrictions to access state public lands and

private lands. Alaskans have been given an opportunity by the Alaskan Command (ALCOM) of the military to participate in the early stages of the planning process by submitting their comments on the proposed Alternative additions to the current MOAs. All proposed Alternatives may be viewed on the JPARC website; www.jpisceis.com.

Deadline for comments on the first round of public scoping ends February 18, 2011.

Written comments may be submitted to:
ALCOM Public Affairs
9480 Pease Avenue, Suite 120
JBER, AK 99506
Or faxed to; 907-552-5411, or www.jpisceis

While these expansions will have the greatest effect on Alaskans who access public lands via aircraft it may also affect ADF&G ability to manage and inventory wildlife resources. State management of wildlife resources is already limited by federal control of over 60% of the state that is federally owned. The affects of military airspace restrictions on and over the remaining less than 40% of the state should be considered during the early stages of the current Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping to assure that ADF&G can continue to manage public wildlife resources for the benefit of Alaskans.

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Alaska Outdoor Council 2011 Annual Meeting

will be held in South-Central Alaska this winter.

March 11-12 (Friday and Saturday)

At the Anchorage Marriott Downtown

The Alaska Outdoor Council's 2011 Annual Meeting will take place at the **Anchorage Marriott Downtown**.

- Thursday evening the 10th (6:00pm) - AOC delegates, and friends, will gather for a "meet & greet" at Skagway/Valdez room. Bar will be open at 6:00pm. Hors d'Oeuvres will be served.
- Friday 11th (8:00am – 5:00pm) - Informative meetings with guest speakers will take place in the Skagway/Valdez room.
- Friday 11th night starting at 6:00pm - The AOC Awards Dinner in the Fairbanks/Kenai/Denali room.
- Saturday 12th (8:00am- 5:00pm) - The AOC Annual Business meeting for AOC delegates and interested AOC Members will take place in the Skagway/Valdez room.

AOC Awards Dinner tickets can be purchased (\$60.00/singles and \$110.00/couples) by emailing membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org or calling Rod Arno (907) 841-6849 or Bill Iverson (907) 244-6285.

Tables, of 8, are available for \$600, \$1000, and \$1500 levels.

Door prizes, Silent and Live Auctions, Desert Auctions with surprise drawing.

Limited Seating so get your tickets early.

Our Annual AOC Awards Banquet will take place Friday evening, March 11th in the Marriott banquet room. **Tickets for the banquet are \$60.00/singles and \$110.00/couples** and may be purchased by emailing membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org or calling Rod Arno (907) 841-6849 or Bill Iverson (907) 244-6285. A marvelous meal will share attention with a featured speaker to be announced.

The scheduling of the 2011 AOC Annual meeting has been chosen to coincide with the ending of the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Board of Fisheries meetings. Actions adopted by these boards at their Spring 2011 meetings will go a long way in determining who has

access to public fish and game resources on state lands & waters in South-Central Alaska for years to come. A number of the seated board members will be up for legislative confirmation prior to the April 17th closure of the session, their votes may determine AOC's position on their confirmations.

The AOC 2011 Annual Meeting will provide an opportunity for you to meet other AOC members and talk to our Board Members, Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund Trustees, AOC Club delegates and invited speakers.

Each AOC member club has the opportunity to name one official delegate and, if desired, an alternate or proxy delegate to our Annual Business Meeting to represent them on Saturday, March 12th. In addition to reports of AOC activities this past year, the agenda includes election of AOC directors and voting on proposed changes to Bylaws, Policies or Resolutions. A registration fee of \$25.00 is asked of delegates to help cover meeting arrangements.

Please consider attending whether you will be representing your club in an official capacity or not. As an **individual member of AOC**, you can be elected as a **delegate-at-large** at the annual meeting. Individual (associate) members will be represented by one delegate from each region: Southeast, South-central, and Interior Alaska.

Nominations are currently being solicited for our annual awards to recognize outstanding work in fish and wildlife management or other resource issues important to our members. The AOC Board will consider nominations submitted in the following categories:

Outstanding AOC member club
AOC individual member of the year
Biologist of the year – fisheries or wildlife or habitat
Legislator of the year award
Outdoor educator of the year
Outstanding business of the year
Sidney Huntington award
Sam McDowell award
Fish & wildlife protection officer of the year
and other awards by nomination

Email nominations to membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org or mail to the AOC Office.

This is your opportunity to participate in protecting your outdoor heritage and providing for your outdoor future. We believe that this event will be an outstanding chance to be better connected to your Alaska Outdoor Council and the issues that affect you as a member. We're looking forward to a great event, and hope that you will help us make this meeting one of the best yet by attending in person!

Rooms are available at the Marriott at a reduced rate.

- 1) Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-228-9290. When calling, refer to your Mini Hotel Code "AOCAOCA" and the name of the conference, "Alaska Outdoor Council".
- 2) Or, book online at www.marriott.com/ancdt following these steps:
 - a) Under "Check Rates & Availability" (on the left-hand side of the page) enter the desired arrival and departure dates.
 - b) Click on the Special Rates & Awards Button
 - c) Enter your online group code, AOCAOCA, in the box that says "Group Code".
 - d) Select the button "Find".
 - e) Follow the simple steps outlined to complete the reservations.

For attendees at the rate of \$99, 3/10-3/13/2011



Jesse VanderZanden

Ralph Seekins

Current Board member

Ralph Seekins lives in Fairbanks where he is the owner of Seekins Ford-Lincoln (since 1977). Born in Minnesota and raised in Cody, Wyoming and Hardin, Montana, Ralph has a strong hunting and fishing heritage passed down from his father and grandfather. Now, he and Connie, his wife of more than 41 years, are passing that heritage on to their four children and thirteen grandchildren – all of whom also live in Fairbanks.

Ralph attended college at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois from 1964-1968 where he pursued a science major. Married to Connie in 1969, Ralph took a "temporary" job in a Seattle Ford dealership while Connie finished her nursing degree at Seattle Pacific University. Ralph, Connie and their first-born son, Aaron, moved to Fairbanks in 1974 where he eventually became the owner of Seekins Ford-Lincoln.

Ralph has been involved in Fairbanks in Alaska and nationally in many different positions. To name a few, he has served as Board Member and Chairman of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce; Board Member, Executive Board Member/ Treasurer of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce; Trustee and Chairman of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation; Alaska State Senator where he chaired the Judiciary Committee and the Senate Special Committee on Natural Gas Development and Vice Chaired the Natural Resources and Labor and Commerce Committees;



Chair of the Ford National Dealer Council; National Board Member of the American Quarter Horse Association where he was a member of and Chair of the Public Policy Committee; and the Alaska National Republican Committeeman.

Ralph is an avid hunter and fisher and has been active in working to preserve and enhance those and other outdoor activities. He was a founder of the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association; a founder of and President of the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – Alaska Chapter; a life Member of the NRA; and more. He was the author of and strong advocate for active wildlife management and gun ownership legislation while in the Alaska Senate.

As a businessman, Ralph has been recognized as the Business Leader of the Year Award from the University of Alaska Students of Business, as the Fairbanks Daily News Miner Community Service Award, as the National

TIME Magazine Quality Dealer of the Year award from a field of nearly 20,000 franchised new vehicle dealers, by a Distinguished Service Award from the Automotive Hall of Fame, and more.

Ralph says: "I'm greatly concerned by the constant attacks on Alaskan's ability to access lands and to hunt and fish in Alaska. Because of that, I am extremely proud to join with my friends at AOC in the pursuit of protecting, preserving and enhancing our outdoor heritage in Alaska."

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Alaska Frontier Trappers Association.	Palmer	Kodiak Island Sportsman's Association	Kodiak
Alaska Gun Collectors Association Inc.	Anchorage	Matanuska Valley Sportsmen, Inc.	Palmer
Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee	Fairbanks	Mat-Su Anglers.	Wasilla
Alaska Moose Federation.	Anchorage	McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle Club	Sutton
Alaska Motor Musher's Club.	Wasilla	Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska	Anchorage
Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance.	Palmer	Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association.	Valdez
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Houston Chamber of Commerce	Wasilla		
Interior Airboaters Association.	Fairbanks		
Interior Alaska Trail Riders Association	Fairbanks		

AIM-COMM Recognizes Outstanding Contribution Volunteers for 2010

By John Wyman

AOC affiliate club AIM-COMM (the Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee) recently celebrated more than ten years of fostering marksmanship, the safe and ethical use of firearms and supporting and promoting use of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range in Fairbanks. In addition, AIM-COMM recognized a number of volunteers for their many contributions to the six divisions that make up the organization, at a January banquet and awards ceremony.

The following were awarded for their “Outstanding Contribution” to the related division for the year 2010:

- Richard Briggs – Competitive Shooting Division
- Bud & Sally Burris - Firearms Instruction Division
- Rick Sterling – Hunter Education Division
- Scott Adams – Law Enforcement Division
- Paul Maki – Public Shooting Division
- Trish Yocum – Youth Shooting Division

In addition, Judy Johnson who chairs the Hunter Education Division of AIM-COMM and recently was elected president of the organization was awarded the “Range Volunteer of the Year

Award” by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation in Fairbanks.

AIM-COMM, Alaska’s first-ever NRA Gold Medal club, began in 2000 as an effort to pull interested community members together to help support and foster use of the newly built ADF&G Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range. It was important to bring together representatives of the various user groups of the range and work together to provide a safe, clean and healthy place to shoot for the public and to also provide the classes, clinics, events and programs for the community that would promote safe and responsible hunting and shooting. Hunter Education classes, school rifle team and club practices and matches and NRA bullseye pistol shooting leagues were some of the first organized uses of the range. A number of the founding members of AIM-COMM were heavily involved with hunter education and competitive shooting leagues and greatly helped get the organization up and running.

AIM-COMM has grown over the years and supports and conducts a number of valuable programs including Alaska’s NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge State Championship and Alaska’s most popular bullseye pistol shooting league program.

AIM-COMM is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the chair and vice-chair of the six divisions of AIM-COMM and any officers who are appointed by the president and confirmed by the board. An ADF&G Advisor serves on the board in an ex officio capacity.

More information about AIM-COMM and related programs is available online at www.aimcomm.org.

IPHC Does a Go Around to Set US Domestic Regulations

By Richard Yamada

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), the governing body that allocates Pacific halibut by treaty between the United States and Canada, recommended a maximum size limit of 37” for the already reduced bag limit of one halibut



per day for charter clients in Southeast Alaska. All it takes is the Secretary of State and Secretary of Commerce to sign off on the recommendation and it will become law. This action would circumvent the US regulatory process provided to the citizens of the United States through the US Administrative Procedures Act (APA). This Act requires all proposed regulations go through a process of analysis, economic impact review, and an opportunity for public comment. Up to now, halibut regulations went

through this process at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, whose job it is to manage our federal fisheries. The IPHC is saying by its actions that because it is an International Agency, it does not have to conform to the requirements of the

APA. This will set a deadly precedence if this is allowed to happen. Three of the six commissioners that sit on the Commission are from Canada. Do we want Canadians dictating how we manage our fish? Will they be able to set bag limits in Southcentral Alaska if halibut harvest isn’t kept within allocation due to the wave of anglers fleeing from extreme restrictions in Southeast Alaska? We all need to write letters to Secretary Hillary and Secretary Locke to return this recommendation as unacceptable!



Tony Russ



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