



Outdoor Alaska



The Official publication of the Alaska Outdoor Council and Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund.
"Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor heritage since 1955"

Volume 21, Issue 2

www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Winter 2013-14

Sharing the Burden of Conservation, Whose harvest gets cut when harvestable surplus is low?

By Rod Arno, Executive Director for AOC

Upcoming Events

Annual Anchorage Banquet & Fund-raiser

Egan Center
Anchorage, Alaska
Saturday - February 15, 2014

AOC Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

Anchorage, Alaska
March 13-15, 2014

MAT-SU Outdoorsman Show Wasilla

Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center
MARCH 21st, 22nd, & 23rd

The Great Alaska Sportsman Show

Sullivan & Ben Boeke Arenas
1600 Gambell St
Anchorage, Alaska
March 27 - March 30

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.

contact:
president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

It's during times of low abundance of fish stocks or game population that this questions gets asked. It's not like the questions has never come up in Alaska before. The framers of the Alaska State Constitution were acutely aware of fish and game allocation battles when they sat down to draft the constitution. A commercial fisheries trap in the mouths of major salmon producing rivers was on everyone's mind.

The constitutional framers of the 50's made a couple things clear regarding renewable resource management and allocation in Article VIII, Natural Resources of the Alaska State Constitution;

1. Fish and game were commonly owned by all Alaskans. Section 3 - Common Use
2. Fish and game will be maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses. Section 4 - Sustained Yield.

When cuts in fish and game harvest are necessary to ensure sustainability there is a clear order in state law as to who gets their harvest reduced. The state Legislature has determined which uses of fish and wildlife are the most beneficial to Alaskans; subsistence uses. Subsistence harvest has a priority



Pam Iverson - Red salmon on the Kenai

over all other uses and is only cut when sustained yield of the fish stock or game population is threatened and all other uses have been restricted.

In the regulatory process regarding the harvest of fish stocks the legislature created an **allocation criteria**, AS 16.05.251(e), for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to consider when deciding whose harvest gets cut. The BOF adopted their own findings (91-129-FB) based on this criteria to determine whose uses are the most beneficial among commercial fisheries, personal use,

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Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, AOC President

I attended the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Public Hearing on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge 2013 Emergency closure of brown bear hunting this fall, to all but federally qualified subsistence hunters. What a joke. Here goes the Feds overstepping their reach again. The odds of the Services changing their direction are very remote, even though the testimony was almost all against the closure. The notice of the Anchorage meeting was hardly known about even though the Services were at the local AC meetings within the past couple weeks and said nothing of this public testimony announcement. They didn't want us to show up. The Anchorage meeting, on November 21st, had hardly any attendance except by the anti's, who somehow got notice. AOC didn't find out about it until that afternoon so we concentrated on the Soldotna meeting. There were 100 people that showed up at that meeting on November 25th in Soldotna.

Over 40 people testified, and all but a few were against the closure. Amongst them were Doug Vincent-Lang Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (see Director Lang's testimony in the newsletter) and Ted Spraker of the Board of Game (BOG), who both gave great testimony. I gave testimony as well and it was received well from the crowd.

There seems to be a huge divide between the Service and those who attended the meeting. The Services goal is to continue to growing the bear population whereas the rest of the majority of the room wanted to reduce the number of bears on the Peninsula. The Services had graphs showing just that.

There was testimony from their experts that at the present course the bears would be extinct within 25 years. What kind of scare tactics are these. The BOG, or as far as that goes AOC, would ever allow that to happen. We are first and foremost true conservationists, but as with all species we need to keep a balance. With man being the only species that can do that, it is up to us to maintain that balance. Hunting interest on brown bears will slow as the local hunters get one for the wall or floor and decide one is enough.

It is generally agreed on that the old estimated number of bears on the Kenai Peninsula (250) was way low but most agree that the formula used to come up with the new number is also suspect. Of the 211 bear hair samples taken, 5 were from the approx. 35 tagged bears known to be on the refuge. Using simple math, if only 5 out of 35 bears got sampled then the bigger picture should hold true. So if you divide 35 by 5 you get 7 for the multiplier. 7 times their 211 sample gets you to 1477 bears, a far cry from their 624 number. Even that by some estimates is way low. Anyone wanting to comment on this need send them to Kenai National Wildlife Refuge at kenai@fws.gov or fax to (907) 262-3599.

Well it is another year and time to get ready for our Annual Anchorage Banquet on February 15th at the Egan center. Also the Annual meeting on March 14th & 15th at the Clarion Suites Downtown.

See center spread with info.



Bill with this years moose - 51" rack



We have more challenges to our outdoor rights daily.

Banquets

Thank you to all who volunteered, contributed to and attended the Banquets around the state. Without your help we would not be able to represent you.

Interior Airboaters Association has outdone themselves again with more large donations to AOC, to the Fairbanks banquets. Thank you very much.

Donations and volunteers

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

AOC Supporters

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

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Executive Director Report

Rod Arno, Executive Director Report



Gaining Momentum

Persistence pays off, the Joint Boards of Fisheries & Game voted unanimously to strike “rural” from the regulation and definitions governing subsistence uses at the Fall 2013 Joint Boards meeting. Just in time to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Alaska Supreme Court decision, back in 1989, determining that the

rural qualification was in violation of the Common-use clause enshrined in the Alaska State Constitution.

Amazing, that while the unconstitutional rural subsistence priority lasted in state regulation less than 10 years it took 25 to get it out. Thanks to Board of Game members, Teresa Sager Albaugh, and Pete Probasco for making, and seconding the motion to adopt the AOC proposal.

Another major victory for AOC was the willingness of Governor Sean Parnell to elevate the *State of Alaska v. Sally Jewell, U.S. Sec. of Interior* Appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. AOCs litigating arm the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund has been a Plaintiff-Intervener in this suit since it's filling in 2010. This appeal to the US Supreme Court could lay to rest the issue of whether or not the U.S. Secretary of Interior can establish the existence of federal reserved water rights over navigable waters in Alaska by rulemaking. This case revives the *State of Alaska v. The Sec. of Interior, Bruce Babbitt* suit which was dropped by then Gov. Knowles 1995. This has led to a decade of federal overreach on Alaska management authority that was granted the state at statehood by Congress. It will be good to finally get this jurisdictional question resolved by the US Supreme Court. Fourteen Western States who realize the importance of this decision regarding their water rights have joined Alaska as Amici Curiae supporters of the petition.

On yet another front AOC continues to pursue equal opportunities to hunt during times of abundant harvestable surplus in the Copper River Basin. The Board of Game and their legal counsel, the Alaska Department of Law, have tried their best for years to circumvent the state subsistence law by adopting a community subsistence hunt. That hunt continues to frustrate both hunters and ADF&G managers. Unequal hunt conditions giving advantages to groups of hunters over individuals during times of harvest above amounts necessary for subsistence should not go unchallenged. Oral argument before the Alaska Supreme Court on appeal of the lower court's ruling allowing the community subsistence hunt to continue was heard December 10, 2013. A Supreme Court decision on the appeal should be coming within the next year and a half.

AOC staff has been working with DNR and the governor's office

over the last 6 years to promote 17(b) easements through private Alaska native's lands to public lands beyond. DNR has been actively mapping these access corridors which were guaranteed by Congress with passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act back in 1971. The Governor's budget includes funds to construct a number of parking areas along public roads marking some highly used 17(b) easements. AOC hopes knowledge of the locations of these easements will lead to reductions in trespasses on to private native lands.

AOC staff has spent years attending public meetings, and advocating for Alaskans, with federal land managers and watching our opportunities to access publicly owned resources diminish over 60% of the state under federal management. Recently AOC staff and board members have become quite pleased to witness a ground swell of interest by legislators, regulatory boards' members, and some of the public in the current level of overreach by federal land managers into Alaska's authority to manage and allocate public resources. Governor Parnell and department staff in ADF&G, ADNR, and the Attorney General's office have taken a much more aggressive stance on actions taken by federal agencies, from bear hunting closures on the Kenai U.S. Fish & Wildlife Refuge to policies dealing with management of the Arctic region. Momentum is building in the state to defend Alaska's authority to manage public resources, like all other States get to. AOC is grateful for that.

AOC continues to advocate for conservation and fair allocation of Alaska's renewable fish stocks and game populations for the benefit of its citizens. Every additional AOC member adds to AOC's clout in the regulatory and legislative process. Please join up.

Upcoming BOF meetings

January 7-11 2014 Kodiak Finfish
[5 days] Kodiak Harbor Convention Center

Jan. 31-Feb. 13 2014 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish
[14 days] Egan Civic Center

March 17-21 2014 Statewide King and Tanner Crab (except Southeast/Yakutat), and supplemental Issues
[5 days] Sheraton Anchorage

Upcoming BOG meetings

January 10-13 2014 Arctic/Western Region Meeting
(Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A)
[5 days] National Guard Armory, 605 3rd Avenue, Kotzebue, Alaska

February 14-23 2014 Interior Region Meeting
(Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C)
[10 days] Alpine Lodge, 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, Alaska

Conservation - Continued from Page 4

sport, and guided sport. The criteria contains 7 factors for board members to consider each time they are adopting regulations that cut any user groups allocation of the allowable harvest.

The big unanswered question is who is responsible for providing the allocation criteria data to board members before they deliberate on proposals that will cut a user groups share of the total allowable harvest? The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) is the only agency that can provide the number of participants in each personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries to the board members. ADF&G also has the best data regarding any alternative fisheries resources that would be available to a user group who had its allocation cut.

But who is responsible for telling the board the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal use and family consumption? Or the importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents? It seems reasonable that data can only come from the public facing a cut in their fish harvest. If the board doesn't hear from individuals, fishing groups, or Fish & Game Advisory Committees how will they know the value of these factors? They won't, that's why the board process allows days of oral public testimony and written comments to be submitted on each proposal submitted.

Two of the seven allocation criteria relate to the economics of the fishery. That's a tough one, who can the board trust to bring that data to the board? Are independent economic surveys, ADF&G, Department of Commerce, industry sales data, or testimony by individuals a reliable source? Does the highest monetary value of the fishery win out? How about the monetary value per fish? How does the board measure the value of fish to someone's food security?

The history of the fishery and whether its harvest is going to the highest beneficial use to the state seems to be the factors most often applied by past boards when circumstance requires a cut in any user group's harvest.

Because of a number of fish stocks not meeting their escapement goals in Upper Cook Inlet the BOF, starting next January 31st in Anchorage, will determine whose salmon harvest is going to get cut in the most diverse, heaviest fished drainage in Alaska. If you fish in Cook Inlet you will want to let the board know your desires to harvest salmon commercially, for personal use, or for recreation. Your continued opportunity to harvest salmon in Cook Inlet may depend on your input.

Now on the game side there is no set allocation criteria other than subsistence use, which trumps all other uses. At the Interior Region Alaska Board of Game meeting, starting February 14th in Fairbanks, the board will be addressing Dall sheep allocation between residents, nonresidents, guided, and hunting with next of kin. Sheep hunters will want to comment on those proposals. There appears to be a much higher demand to harvest sheep than there is harvestable surplus these days.

The open to the public Boards of Fisheries & Game works, but whether or not your preferred use gets a share of the harvest depends a lot on your participation in the process.

Alaska Board of Fisheries - finding #91-129-FB

Mike Martin, former Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

ALLOCATION CRITERIA

The Alaska Supreme Court recently issued a decision, Peninsula Marketing Association vs. State (Opinion No. 3754; dated September 20, 1991), regarding the application of the allocation criteria found in AS 16.05.251 (e). The Court interpreted the statute to require the criteria to be considered when allocating between commercial fisheries as well as among the three user groups, commercial, personal use, and sport.

Consistent with the decision of the Court, the board finds that it will utilize the following specific allocation criteria when allocating between fisheries. Note that these criteria are essentially the same as the allocative criteria specified in AS 16.05.251 (e), which the board has historically used as set out in 5AAC 39.205, 5AAC 77.007, and 5AAC 75.017.

- 1) The history of each personal use, sport, and commercial fishery,
- 2) The characteristics and number of participants in the fisheries;
- 3) The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption;
 - 4) The availability of alternative fisheries resources;
- 5) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the state;
- 6) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;
- 7) The importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents

Note that all seven (7) criteria do not necessarily apply in all allocation situations, and any particular criterion will be applied only where the board determines it is applicable.

Adopted: November 23, 1991

Vote: (Yes/No/Abstain/Absent) (5 /O /O /2.) [Absent: Robin Samuelson, Tom Elias]

Location: Anchorage International Airport



Alaska's Sheep Management – catching the interest of sheep hunters throughout North America

By Tony Kavalok Asst. Director, Div. of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Alaska is recognized as the jurisdiction with the most sheep hunting opportunity in North America. As is the case everywhere though, the demand for sheep hunting surpasses supply. For this and other reasons, Dall's sheep in Alaska have been getting more attention from ADF&G in recent years. This has been due to several factors including the increasing number of sheep-related Board of Game proposals, more vocal public interest in sheep management, and direction from division leadership to address concerns from the public. Many of the sheep regulation proposals have been recurring with each Board cycle with some of the same proposals submitted to each of the four "sheep" regions (Regions II, III, IV and V). Some proposals suggest major shifts in allocation while others opt for changes to hunting seasons, bag limits, and sealing (horn plugging) requirements. Hunters, guides and others have told us they want to see the agency spend more time addressing sheep issues. These factors have influenced recent Board direction

and the department's increased support of sheep research and management programs. Examples of recent work includes Tom Lohuis' project to evaluate lamb survival and ewe condition in the Chugach Mountains as well as Steve Arthur's survival and movement project in the Brooks Range. This increased emphasis on sheep has been noticed by people interested in sheep in Alaska, including non-resident hunters from the lower 48 and elsewhere.

DWC biologists have been attending the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council professional meetings for a number of years, but for the last 5 years the department has been sending two or three staff to the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) Convention. Biologists and other staff also occasionally attend other events such as the Grand Slam Club /Ovis (GSCO) Convention and the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo (SFW event). We attend these events to support national sportsmen's organizations that support us, promote Alaska auction permits (e.g., Chugach Sheep) and interact with hunters (including Alaskans) and others at ADF&G show booths. An added benefit for department staff has been to attend professional sheep managers' meetings at WSF and the opportunity to visit with sheep biologists from other jurisdictions in Canada and the western states. All of this has brought more attention to the department's activities related to sheep.

As an example, the Chugach Sheep Permit sold for \$180,000 during the final auction at the WSF convention in Reno (this revenue helped make 2013 the most successful year ever for Alaska's auction / raffle permit program). This was second only to the very first Chugach Sheep permit ever offered in 1997, which was sold at the

Foundation for North American Sheep Convention auction for \$200,000. Auction and raffle permit revenue is matched with federal Pittman-Robertson dollars to support research and management activities. Due to public demand and availability of these funds, the department has been motivated to spend additional dollars on sheep. While it is true the Chugach Mountains and other ranges in Alaska have been producing some very large rams over the last few years, other reasons for interest in Alaska's sheep have been at play. These points were brought up in discussions with the two highest bidders in Reno last year and it was clear that their willingness to bid high dollars for an Alaska sheep permit was as much about their support of the state's current sheep program as it was their desire to get a large ram. This sentiment is shared by many of the hunters, guides and others that have been talking to DWC staff. Although the public is generally pleased with the department's current level of

attention on sheep, they have indicated through the Board of Game that they are looking for more from the division.

The Board is making a concerted effort to respond to the increased interest from the public regarding s h e e p . They have requested additional information from the department to be collected through a survey to improve their understanding of sheep hunter concerns and preferred management options. This survey will inform future board decisions on regulatory proposals from hunters, guides and others. UAF will conduct the survey for ADFG with input from a subcommittee of three board

members.

In addition, interest outside of the state has culminated in this year's decision by the WSF Board of Directors to host a "Thinhorn Summit" in Vancouver, B.C. this coming April. Agency managers and researchers from Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories and British Columbia have been asked to participate along with hunters, guides, and others. The meeting and discussions will focus on management of Dall's and Stone sheep. These activities will provide more information for the Board and the department as they evaluate proposals and consider management options brought forth by the public.

Now is a good time for anyone interested in sheep management in Alaska to engage in the Board of Game process. Based on input received from the public, interest in sheep is as strong as ever across the state and elsewhere. We encourage all who receive the survey to take time to respond. You will be providing the valuable input necessary to inform sheep management decisions. Watch for survey results next fall. Be assured that ADFG and the Board of Game are committed to addressing public concerns and providing the best sheep hunting opportunities for sheep hunters in Alaska.



Tom & Tony Sheep Tagging



Lamb Survey

Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska (PWCA) news



By Gina Poths

Members of PWCA have been busy for 10 plus years fighting for equal access for the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay in Homer. In the spring of 2012 after several attempts to negotiate a combined meeting with the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game that meeting finally occurred with the help of Governor Parnell's Deputy Chief of Staff Randy Ruaro.

PWCA President Gene Gerken, Vice-president John Lang and Executive Director Gina Poths met with Randy in Juneau during the 2012 AOC meeting. Randy gave the members valuable instructions on the process for submitting information to these two agencies and requesting a meeting. Part of the process besides gathering as much information regarding scientific studies with the use of personal watercraft and the environment was to submit a petition requesting the agencies for a change in policy. AOC and AOAA allowed PWCA members to collect signatures at their booth at the 2012 AK Sportsman show. Petitions were also sent to Homer businesses that are pro-equal access. All and all in 2 months 700 signatures were gathered and Gina submitted a 180 page document and the petitions to the agencies requesting a review of the management plans of the Kachemak Bay State Park, Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. (It took a year after this to get the joint meeting!)

Attendees to the April 2013 meeting were:

ADNR- Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner, Ben Ellis Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Director; ADFG- Cora Campbell, Commissioner, Randy Bates Director Division of Habitat; PWCA- Gene Gerken President, Gina Poths Executive Director, Corey Cronquist member and owner Valley Team CC; AOC-Rod Arno Executive Director and from Homer Mike Arno lifelong Homer resident and owner of Lower Peninsula Power Sports.

To save writing a book here, the bottom line from the AK Dept. of Natural Resources who manages the state parks side of Kachemak Bay: they are currently reviewing the management plan and will take under consideration the use of personal watercraft in the bay. As of September 25, 2013 their progress is (I copied and pasted an email from Director Ben Ellis that I had received on 9/25/13) "I was informed today that our planners will be meeting with the K-Bay State Park Advisory Board in October to begin discussions on the K-Bay plan revision. It is my understanding that preliminary work will be done this fall including a survey and a set of focus groups. As I learn more about the process, I will pass along the information."

By Gina Poths

Now for the ADFG side of things; ADFG manages the entire pay excluding the state parks side which is basically the entire bay with the main access point being the small boat harbor in Homer. Even if DNR opens the state parks side of Kachemak Bay to the use of personal watercraft, one can't get there without going through the rest of the bay. This fact was brought up in the meeting by Gina. Commission Cora Campbell said that they had too many other habitat areas in the state that did not have a management plan at all and they currently didn't have the time or the resources to open up re-evaluating the management plan for Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area. She and Randy Bates both stated that if we could give them 'current' information to review they would consider it. Gina asked about the 180 page document she submitted on behalf of the 700 petition signers and PWCA and Cora stated she had looked at it. Apparently this information isn't current enough or not what they want. What they want is for PWCA to do or hire someone to do an environmental assessment in Kachemak Bay with personal watercraft. So, that's where we are today. The plan has been to contact the University engineering and environmental studies departments to see if anyone would like to participate in this kind of study for their thesis or other project. We are also in contact with the manufacturers to see what kind of assistance they can provide. If anyone has any other connections or suggestions please contact one of the board members.

PWCA would like to give special thanks to Rod Arno for all his assistance with this topic over the last several years. Together we will



Gina Poths



Deb with cruise

accomplish this goal!

NOW SOMETHING FUN TO REPORT
My Alaskan Adventure by (from Minnesota)

By Deb Krook

Debra Krook

When a group of my friends talked about going on an Alaskan cruise 4-5 years ago, there's no way I could have imagined what was going to happen. My friend Carl, who had been the president of our PWC club JAM, Jetsporters Association of Minnesota (it no longer exists), said what fun it would be to go jetskiing in Alaska! What a great idea! But life isn't usually easy; Carl became ill and his condition deteriorated before we made the trip. He died 3 years ago.

We finally made plans to go this year, and I was still determined to go jetskiing there, both for myself and in memory of Carl. But where to find jetski excursions along the cruise route? I found one place but they were in the process of relocating and wouldn't be open yet. The only other one I could find was inland. So I found the website for PWCA and contacted Gene Gerken and Gina Poths to see if they knew where I could rent one. No, they didn't know of any, but Gene said he would take me out on one of his machines! A total stranger offering to meet me and take me riding, what amazing hospitality!

Fast forward to August, our plans are made; I'll be meeting them in Seward at the end of the cruise. But the week before, Gene tells me that a cruise ship has been docked in Seward for several days that is having mechanical problems; surely it's not our ship, right? Wrong, it is our ship, the Celebrity Millennium, but we're assured that it would be in Vancouver next week ready for our cruise! As promised we left there on Friday, August 16. After a day and a half sailing, we reach Ketchikan and spent a fun day there. That afternoon, off we go to our next destination, Icy Strait Point. But wait, the ship is turning around and heading back to port! More mechanical problems, but they're working on it. After five days of being docked in Ketchikan, it's over, the cruise is cancelled. We've seen one port. We're assured they'll get us to Anchorage where our flight leaves from. But wait, they've changed their minds;

in Alaska, a dream come true! Carl would have loved it, but in a way, he was there.

The water is calm, we're cruising along at 45-50 mph (I like to go fast), and the scenery is incredible! Could it get any better than this? It's hard not to stop all the time to take pictures and videos, but there's so much to see! And believe it or not, it does get better...glaciers!! We saw so many gorgeous views, glaciers, snow-capped mountains, waterfalls, sea otters, eagles, lots of seagulls, and even salmon! It's all beautiful, but my favorite was Blackstone Glacier! It was stunning; we sat there and listened to it cracking and moving. It was something I've never experienced before! In Minnesota, we have to watch for debris in the river after a storm; here, we have to watch for ice chunks!

The waterfalls were fabulous and we could get pretty close to them as they poured into the water. They were a big hit with the seagulls too; there must have been thousands of them! Then we head out to Esther Island State Park for lunch. There's a salmon hatchery there and we could see tons of them swimming around our jetskis. After a short hike, we come upon the most spectacular dining view I've ever had, surrounded by mountains and overlooking Esther Island Waterfall! A sub sandwich never tasted so good with a view like that! Some of the group has camped there before too.

Heading back towards Whittier was so beautiful but so hard to leave. It was a gorgeous day with great new friends, on jetskis...it doesn't get any better than this! This was easily the highlight of my entire trip! But I had to catch the flight home that night, so at a brief stop at Gene's house to drop off the skis; I met his wonderful wife Vicki. Not only did she let me use her jetski that day, but she gave each of us a jar of smoked salmon that she made! And being the nice guy he is, Gene then drove us to the airport. I did get searched at the check-in, I think they wanted my salmon that I had on my carry on, but they let me keep it!

I can't express my gratitude enough to all of you so very much for fulfilling my dream, spending your time with me, and sharing your beautiful Alaska with me! PWCA is the best, and I'm happy to now be a member of your club and wear my new t-shirt proudly! I wish I could return the favor, and you're welcome to come ride here with me anytime, but of course the scenery can't compare to Alaska. Since my adventure there, has come here and ridden with Croix and Mississippi Rivers, time. Maybe next time we could of Lake Superior, you guys would feel right at home with the cold water, so bring your dry suits!

Thank you again, I'm eternally grateful,
Deb Krook

P.S. Gene stated we rode about 80 miles that day.

Side note: jetski is actually a trademark brand name of Kawasaki but it is the term that everyone uses for personal watercraft. It's easier to write and say!



Deb & Jan at Waterfall

they're going to send us back to Vancouver! Noooo! That's not where my return flight leaves and NOT where the jetskiing is! Did I haul my jetski gear all that way for nothing? I felt my dream of jetskiing in Alaska was slipping away :(

After many people had heated exchanges with Celebrity's management, they finally agreed to fly us to Anchorage, whew! They had to charter a jet and make 11 trips in 2 days from Ketchikan to get people there. I'm in contact with Gene who tells me it's no problem, he'll pick me up in Anchorage and we'll go jetskiing in Prince William Sound at Whittier. What a nice guy! We get to our hotel at 2am, and Gene picks us up at 9am, where I see that it's cloudy, foggy, and a little rainy. Hey, I'm just glad I get to go, I can hardly wait!

Along the way to Whittier, we're in awe of the beautiful scenery; Gene points out Beluga whales along our drive! Then we come to a one-way tunnel, through a mountain, the only way in and out of Whittier, and emerge into clearing skies on the other side! What a blessing! My friend goes off on a boat cruise, and we meet Gina and Jan there. I'm so excited to go! After launching, making preparations (believe me, these folks are prepared!), and getting gas, we're off! I'm FINALLY jetskiing



What a view

Gene and I went out on the St. Lawrence and we had a fun ride the North Shore. I feel right at home with the cold water, so bring your dry suits!

2014 AOC Annual Meeting – Invitation

Clarion Suites Downtown, 1110 West 8th Ave, Anchorage, Alaska - March 14th-15th, 2014

The 2014 Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) Annual meeting will take place in Anchorage, March 14th – 15th 2014. The same weekend the Board of Game will be taking public testimony on Statewide proposals at the Dena’ina Center. The timing of the 2014 AOC Annual meeting will give AOC members and delegates ample time to weigh-in on legislation affecting fish & wildlife conservation and outdoor uses currently being debated in committees during the **2nd Session of the 28th Alaska Legislature**.

Schedule:

- **Thursday March 13th at 6:00pm** - “Meet & Greet” AOC delegates and members are invited to meet other delegates, Alaska State employees, and politicians. Please RSVP and we will let you know where we will meet.
- **Friday March 14th (8:30am – 5:00pm)** – The AOC 2014 Annual Meeting, at the Clarion Suites Downtown, will provide an opportunity for you to meet other AOC Club delegates and active AOC members, talk to the current AOC Board members, Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund Trustees, and invited speakers.
- **Friday March 14th at 6:00pm** - Our 2014 Annual AOC Awards Banquet will take place at Clarion Suites Downtown.
- **Saturday March 15th (8:30am- 5:00pm)** - The 2014 Annual AOC Business Meeting at the Clarion Suites Downtown. Each AOC Club has the opportunity to name one official delegate and, if desired, an alternate or proxy delegate to the Annual Business Meeting to represent them on. 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.



Tickets for the 2014 Awards Banquet are \$55.00 or \$100.00 for couples and may be purchased by emailing: membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com or calling Pam Iverson (907) 260-5723, Bill Iverson (907) 244-6285.

A registration fee of \$25.00 is asked of delegates to help cover meeting arrangements.

AOC Club delegates and AOC delegates-at-large will have the opportunity to vote on five AOC Board seats up for renewal during the AOC Business Meeting Saturday March 15th.

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.

- **Sunday March 16th** is reserved for the AOC Board of Directors meeting with newly elected board members.

Current topics of interest to AOC delegates and members;

- Federal land agencies encroachment on state fish & game management and allocation.
 - Continued litigation supporting the “Common Use clauses” enshrined in the Alaska State Constitution.
 - Regulated motorized access to public lands, waters, and resources.
 - ESA ramifications on fish and game management.
 - New “Roads to Resources” projects.
 - Creation of Big Game Guide Concessions on State and BLM lands.
 - Game population abundance
 - Salmon stock management.
 - In-river salmon allocation.
 - Alaska shooting range funding
 - ADF&G, DNR, and Alaska State Wildlife Troopers funding.

2014 AOC AWARDS:

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:

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

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

Room Reservations are available at Clarion Suites Downtown, 1110 West 8th Ave; AOC room rates of \$95.00 per night (please call 907-222-5005 and reference AOC Meetings to get the \$95.00 rate).

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!

AOC staff and board members have had a productive year in 2013 representing fishers, hunters, trappers and members who access Alaska's outdoors. Numerous agenda topics from past AOC Annual Meetings have been addressed by both State and Federal courts, the State Legislature, or the Boards of Fisheries and Game. The Obama administration has had a profound effect on all aspects of federal land management in Alaska. Many topics are still unresolved and may come before state and federal courts and agencies this year.

Proposed Resolutions or Policies may be submitted by AOC members and delegate clubs. All proposed resolutions or policies, along with a signed statement of the reason for their passage, must be submitted to the AOC office prior to the 1st of February 2014. These proposed resolutions or policies will be distributed to AOC member clubs for their review; action will then take place during the Annual Business meeting. (All current Resolutions and Policies are available for review on the AOC website)

Please return signed 2014 Delegate Certification forms (which are available on the AOC website under the Clubs tab) and any proposed Resolutions or Policies by mail or email to: membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com
Or fax to: 1-888-932-3353 Toll free.

We are looking forward to seeing you March 13 – 15th in Anchorage at the AOC 2014 Annual meeting.



Robert Caywood - AFWCF Bison permit winner



Alaska Outdoor Council



4th Annual Anchorage Awards Banquet & Fundraiser

Saturday February 15, 2014

No-host Bar open at 4:30 pm
Fabulous Dinner at 7:00 pm

Door prizes, Raffles and Auctions

Egan Center

Dinner ticket @\$75.00 each

Get Tickets by emailing membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com or calling Gary Stevens (907) 229-4710
Pam Iverson (907) 260-5723 or Bill Iverson (907) 244-6285

Hobo Jim will provide entertainment!

AOC is making a number of tables (reserved seating for 8) available to businesses and organizations for \$1000 & \$2000.

\$1000.00 Tables - 8 dinner tickets, each sponsor's table guest will receive \$240.00 worth of raffle tickets. Table as well as program recognition. Value \$2520.00

\$2000.00 Tables - 1 Ruger SR1911 pistol per table and 8 dinner tickets, each sponsor's table guest will receive \$480.00 worth of raffle tickets. Table as well as program recognition. Value \$5240.00

The Alaska Outdoor Council is (and always has been, since before Alaskan statehood) Pro-Hunting, Pro-Trapping, Pro-Fishing and Pro-Public access to Publicly owned lands/waters and resources.

Tickets purchased by January 31st will be entered into a drawing for Ruger 10/22 Rifle.

Please come and support your "Outdoor" Voice



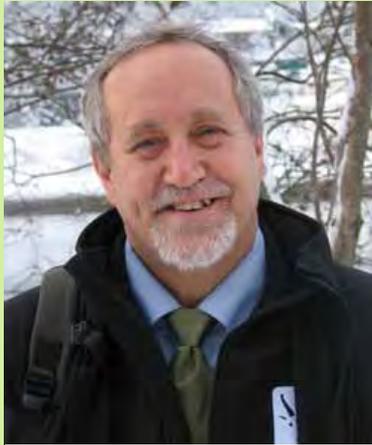
Hobo Jim @ Anchorage Banquet

USFWS Preemption of State Hunting Regulations on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Oral Testimony of Doug Vincent-Lang Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation Alaska, Department of Fish and Game

November 21, 2013

On October 26, the Service closed hunting for brown bears on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. In so doing, the Service unnecessarily preempted state hunting regulations legally adopted by the Alaska Board of Game in a comprehensive public process.



Doug Vincent-Lang

As justification for the closure the Service stated that their action was necessary because the state's management approach exceeded sustainable levels and threatened long-term viability. Quite an accusation in that the Department is constitutionally required to manage populations for sustainability. In essence the federal government is accusing us of mismanaging brown bears to an extent that we are threatening their viability and violating our Constitutional mandates.

This is simply not accurate. We agree that this year's harvest of bears at the level approved by the Alaska Board of Game probably cannot be sustained indefinitely. This said, it was not the intent of the Board or the Department to maintain these harvests at this level indefinitely. Instead, these harvests are meant to be temporary, to:

- address increased human-wildlife conflicts by taking those bears most likely to be causing difficulties,
- provide expanded harvest opportunities based on a new Service population estimate that minimally doubled the estimated bear population on the Peninsula, and,
- reduce or stabilize bear numbers.

Let me address one issue – that is that the Board and Department meant this as a predator control effort. Let me be clear, it was not. If this was meant as predator control it would have been done using our intensive management protocol.

The department reviewed the board's proposed approach at the meeting, and concurred that this short-term strategy would have no adverse impact on long-term viability of the brown bear population. If there were concerns, the department would have stepped in to prevent overharvest. Also, the department retains the authority to restrict hunting at any time if our biologists believe it is necessary to ensure conservation. Simply put, our professional biologists agree that there is no long-term conservation concern with the number of bears killed this year.

It will probably surprise many to know that we repeatedly tried to

discuss this issue with the Service before they implemented their pre-emption closure. We had nothing to hide from the Service and regularly sent them updated harvest figures. Instead the Service repeatedly stated an unsubstantiated concern about this year's harvest, but could not or would not provide us with empirical data showing the harm that concerned them. They would not tell us a number above which they thought we should take action to ensure for sustainability. Instead they told us we must close the hunt to prevent them from taking unilateral action to close federal lands.

Absent their analysis of any harvest impact on long-term conservation I was not inclined to close a legally authorized hunt that my staff agreed was not affecting the long-term sustainability of the population. In short, the hunt was having the desired effect requested by the public and as envisioned by the Alaska Board of Game, and was not causing long-term conservation concerns.

Over the past 50 years, biologists from our Department have learned a great deal about how to manage Alaskan brown bears. We have learned that with adequate natural resources and responsible harvest strategies, brown bear populations are much more resilient than had been previously assumed. The Kenai population is a good example of this as it has increased in size in the past couple decades, to the point that dangerous bear-human encounters are also increasing. Based on our successful management programs throughout the state, we are confident in our ability to achieve a sustainable and healthy bear population across the Kenai while balancing the public's desire to stabilize or reduce the size somewhat.

Because the State refused to capitulate by employing its emergency order authority, the Service chose to exercise its supremacy to preempt state regulations on federal lands and closed the state hunt without specifying any specific metrics that caused them concern. All they stated was extreme concern over this year's harvest levels and its possible impact on long-term conservation. One has to ask if the hunt was causing such dire impact to the brown bear population, why the Service didn't simultaneously close the federally authorized hunt. This federal hunt targets the same population and could cause additional harvest and harm, yet the Service left it open.

Despite a request by the Service to jointly develop a harvest strategy, the Service unilaterally developed the population viability model you saw Dr. Morton present tonight. We saw this model for the first time at a public meeting in Anchorage last Thursday. I would like to note that the Service cancelled 3 meetings with us to discuss harvest strategies since taking their action. We have not had a chance to review this model and its conclusions in detail, however a preliminary assessment shows reason for concern. Models such as this are only as accurate as the information put into them, and one of the ways of assessing the accuracy of a model is to see how well they retrospectively predict current populations. In other words,

how well do the models predict what actually occurred. These analyses have yet to be performed. We feel it is inappropriate to present unverified models in a public forum or to use such models as the sole source for a management decision. At ADF&G, we are continuing our efforts to develop, test and verify the most accurate models possible and have those models peer reviewed by professional biologists outside of our agency. We will share the results of this analysis with the Board and the Service early next spring, prior to the bear hunting season, so that everyone can see the predicted impacts of various harvest strategies. This will ensure we can take any corrective action that may be necessary to ensure for long term conservation.

In many discussions with the Service we have been told that their legal mandates requires them and the state to maintain “natural diversity” of brown bears on the refuge. When queried about what “natural diversity” means we have received varying responses, including:

- state regulations cannot result in any change in bear numbers or alter their population trend or trajectory on the Kenai Peninsula;
- state regulations must maintain the important biological function that brown bears serve, and have served, as predators and recyclers of marine derived nutrients; and/or,
- state regulations must ensure Kenai Peninsula bear numbers are maintained at a range equivalent to other coastal brown bear populations.



Photo courtesy Ken Marsh/ADFG

Unfortunately, none of these provide specific metrics to guide state management and prevent preemption. So we are left to guess and interpret to the best of our ability what these undefined goals might mean.

Through the Alaska Constitution, the Department of Fish and Game is required to maintain sustainable populations of fish and wildlife for the maximum benefit of the people. Populations that are sustainable are biologically diverse and vice versa. By managing for sustainable populations I believe the Department is meeting the requirements of the Service for biologically diverse populations.

So if the Department is managing for sustainable and biologically diverse populations and that population is without conservation concerns, what is the Service really trying to do? Our perspective is that this is not a biological issue, but a philosophical divide. It pits the theory of non-intervention enshrouded in an ambiguous interpretation of the Services Biological Integrity Policy against the

active ecosystem management philosophy long employed by the state. The Service has embraced the philosophy that man should not intervene in natural processes, including the management of wildlife, despite the outcomes as prescribed by their own Biological Integrity Policy.

An example of this non-intervention philosophy at its worst can be found on the Alaska Maritime Refuge at Unimak Island, where the caribou herd is on the verge of extirpation due to wolf predation. The Service refuses to allow the state to take temporary management actions to reduce wolf predation because it is inconsistent with their philosophical ideal of natural processes. We're not proposing to exterminate wolves on a broad scale as the federal government did throughout the country in the late 18 and 1900's, but to reduce their impact on calves for a period of time that will allow the herd to recover and provide for subsistence and other ecosystem functions. And just to provide an important fact, in a biological review of the situation on Unimak, the Service's biologists and a group of independent scientists agreed with department staff that if nothing was done to manage the situation, these caribou were in danger of extirpation. When the primary ungulate and a purpose of the refuge disappear from the landscape it's not a very naturally diverse picture, is it? Nor does it ensure that an important link in the marine derived nutrient food chain of Unimak Island is preserved, a consideration the Service told us was a critical reason to preserve with brown bears on the Kenai.

What we are facing is not just the question of how brown bears are managed on the Kenai Peninsula, but if there will actually be management of wildlife anywhere on Service administered lands, refuge or otherwise. Will there be active management intended for specific outcomes of sustainability and natural diversity? And will the tradition of hunting for any purpose, subsistence or otherwise, continue?

In summary, there is no long-term conservation concern that necessitated federal preemption of a valid state hunt. Understanding that current brown bear hunting regulations on the Kenai are intended as a temporary adjustment, the department and board are developing a long-term harvest strategy for brown bears. This strategy will ensure the long-term conservation of brown bears in a manner that addresses human and ecosystem considerations on the Kenai Peninsula, as well as meet the needs of its residents. We welcome involvement of the public and the Service in this effort. We are also committed to continuing and expanding our research monitoring efforts on this bear population to assure its sustainability.



Make a Difference in the New Year

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

Obituaries

By Dick and Mary Bishop

Sally Burris passed away at home on October 9, 2013 after a long illness. Her husband Bud, four children and several grandchildren survive her. On top of her devotion to family, Sally gave a lifetime of good works to the Fairbanks community – including Tanana Valley Sportsmen’s Association (TVSA), the Alaska Outdoor Council, local 4-H and many other organizations. She and Bud educated literally thousands of kids in gun safety and shooting skills. They initiated the Fairbanks AOC/Fund banquet and auction event effort in 1983. Sally served as treasurer of the event for a decade or more.



Sally was unfailingly gracious and respectful to all – and unfailingly true to her principles. The family invited community friends to a memorial reception in her honor on Nov. 23 at TVSA.

Long-time AOC member and strong supporter **Jack McCombs** passed away on October 22, 2013. Besides his profession in clinical psychology and a career with the State of Alaska, Jack had a passion for adventures in Alaska’s outdoors, fine shotguns, skeet and sporting clay shooting, and equal rights for all before the law.

These interests apparently spurred his interest in, and long-term support of, the Council and Fund. He was a member, auction donor and volunteer, and upon his passing a substantial donor to AOC through his estate. In fact, he left a note on the brink of his passing which said in part: “if somebody hustles they might get some of this stuff on the Nov. 2 AOC auction”. The event invitation was tucked in a book among that “stuff”. We did get it in time, Jack. Thanks. We’ll miss your no-nonsense perspective on the human condition.



nonsense perspective on the human condition.

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.

“Mike” Dalton honored

By Richard Bishop



I first encountered Mike Dalton about 40 years ago at a meeting I remember nothing about - except this lady who was so well informed and spoke with such conviction. I didn't know her. When I got home I asked Mary, my wife, who that lady could be? She said "I'll bet it was Mike Dalton!" I said no - it was a lady, not a guy!

Well, little did I know what a big role that lady would have in our future. Kathleen "Mike" Dalton soon became a spark plug in the AOC. Whether it was pushing for

individual and states' rights, or organizing the Fairbanks Banquet and Auction, Mike has been there. When the kitchen and laundry room at Monroe High School Gym needed cleaning before we could use the place for this event, Mike arrived with Clorox, rubber gloves and dish towels in hand. She declared war on grease and grit. Monroe's kitchen and laundry got a good cleaning at least once a year for 10 years!

Mike attacks bad public policy the same way she attacks grease and grit. She and Lisa Harbo spent countless hours documenting public access on RS2477 trails all over the state when the feds and Tony Knowles were trying to bury the subject. Through Mike's political know-how that effort led to about 600 trails being recognized in State law.

When TVSA members scrambled to rebuild following the 2007 fire which destroyed their clubhouse and range, Mike showed up weekly with homemade goodies to energize bodies and spirits. And the Friends of NRA could hardly have a better friend.

Mike is not a hunter or fisher though she may pack a pistol as needed. But she is passionate about Alaskans' rights to fish, hunt, trap, travel, and shoot, and about everyone having equal rights under the law.

A few years ago Mike created this phrase for the Fairbanks Fund/AOC banquet that says it all: "Alaska's Outdoors is Yours". AOC has adopted that saying.

In recognition of her huge contribution to AOC, the Board of Directors chose to recognize Kathleen "Mike" Dalton as an Honorary Life Member.

Mike, I'm proud to present you with this certificate, 30th Anniversary Flask, Life Member pin, - and this special award of a dish towel, Clorox, and rubber gloves - commemorating your hard work on behalf of AOC. Thank you, Mike. (Sandy Jamieson sketched a cartoon on the towel and many volunteers signed it.)

Dear Alaskan Outdoor Enthusiast,

Do you have a personal or professional interest in the prolific salmon fisheries of Alaska's world famous Cook Inlet? Would you like to catch a mighty Cook Inlet King Salmon or, perhaps, watch your child or grandchild catch one?

Well, if so, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Surely you have heard about dismal Cook Inlet returns of various salmon species of importance to in-river users the past few years. On January 31, 2014, the Alaska Board of Fisheries will begin a two week public meeting dedicated to fisheries management in the Upper Cook Inlet. They will be dealing with over 200 proposals put forth by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, commercial fishing interests, subsistence fishing interests, personal use fishing interests, sport fishing interests, and others. There are many proposals that, if adopted by the BOF, will have an extremely negative impact on our ability to catch any salmon. For instance, proposals that would eliminate fishing in any river while salmon are spawning. On the other hand, there are proposals that focus on the responsible management and conservation of these precious renewable resources.

Historically, the commercial fishing interests have been better organized, more engaged, and more united than any of the other stakeholder groups. **WE MUST DO BETTER!**

We have to get an "Army" of well informed individuals to testify before the Board in favor of conservation and an increased allocation for in-river users. Credible public testimony is necessary for board members to justify their votes during deliberation. A public education campaign is the only way to inform in-river users of the regulatory process and the facts related to the allocation criteria found in state statute. This campaign will likely cost in excess of \$10,000. **Again, WE NEED YOUR HELP.....**

We are asking for financial contributions, however, products or services could be used to generate additional revenue. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks to "Alaska Outdoor Council" and reference "BOF Ad Campaign" on the memo line.

Please feel free to contact either of us to discuss this project or to offer any suggestions/opportunities that you believe could further our cause. Again, we all need to join together and communicate to the Board that the conservation and sustainability of all the Cook Inlet salmon stocks is **PARAMOUNT!**

Respectfully,

Gary Stevens, AOC Board of Director, At Large 907-229-4710

Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director 907-841-6849

AOC Sustaining Business Members

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

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

Ruth's Salmon Loaf Recipe

By Ruth Swanson & Pam Iverson

Can be used for salmon, tuna or other fish

- 2 cups of drained, cooked salmon (no bones or skin)
- 1 cup soft bread crumbs
- 1 cup medium white sauce
- 2 eggs
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice

Combine salmon, white sauce, bread crumbs, eggs, and lemon juice, place in a greased loaf pan and bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes.

Thin White Sauce

- 1 Tablespoon Butter
- 1 Tablespoon flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup milk

Use 3-4 Tablespoons of butter and 2-3 Tablespoons of flour to make a medium sauce or use 4 Tablespoons of butter and 4 Tablespoons of flour to make a thick white sauce.

Stir all ingredients in a small pan and heat over medium flame to the correct consistency before pouring into loaf above.

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| Alaska 2nd Amendment Coalition Fairbanks | Interior Airboaters Association. Fairbanks |
| Alaska Backcountry Adventure Tours Palmer | Interior Alaska Trail Riders Association Fairbanks |
| Alaska Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation. Anchorage | Juneau Gun Club Juneau |
| Alaska Charter AssociationHomer | Juneau Rifle and Pistol Club, Inc Juneau |
| Alaska Frontier Trappers Association. Palmer | Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. Juneau |
| Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee Fairbanks | Kodiak Island Sportsman's Association Kodiak |
| Alaska Machinegun Association. Chugiak | Matanuska Valley Sportsmen, Inc. Palmer |
| Alaska Moose Federation. Anchorage | Mat-Su Anglers. Wasilla |
| Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance. Palmer | McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle ClubEagle River |
| Alaska Professional Hunters Association. Anchorage | Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska Anchorage |
| Alaska Rifle Club Chugiak | Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association. Valdez |
| Alaska State Snowmobile Association Anchorage | Ruffed Grouse Society/SC AK Chapter Anchorage |
| Alaskan Marine Dealers Association Anchorage | Sitka Charter Boat Operators Association Sitka |
| Anchorage Snowmobile Club, Inc. Anchorage | Sitka Sportsman's Association Sitka |
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| Cook Inlet Archers Anchorage | Snomads, Inc..Homer |
| Delta Sportsman's Association, Inc.Delta Junction | South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association. Wasilla |
| Fairbanks Retriever Club Fairbanks | Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife. Wasilla |
| Fairbanks Trap Club. Fairbanks | Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association Fairbanks |
| Fortymile Mining Association Fairbanks | Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. Juneau |
| Golden North Archery Assoc. Fairbanks | Tok Shooters Association. Tok |
| Houston Chamber of Commerce Wasilla | |



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