



# Outdoor Alaska



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

Volume 30, Issue 1

www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Spring 2022

## Nature's loss

BY CRAIGMEDRED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2022

The massive, free-range, salmon-farming fishermen in Alaska's Prince William the natural spawning success of pink reviewed study published in the journal earlier this month.

The study reported finding "some of success values ever observed in Pacific mix of wild fish and hatchery strays.

Other than illustrating another sign of on the planet, however, the significance multitude of pinks straying from the is unclear.

Wild pink salmon stocks in the Sound Alaska Department of Fish and Game salmon run was above average in 2021, were from the parent year in 2019 when spawners returned to setting drought."

The Evolutionary Applications study of biologist Kyle Shedd with help from the Prince William Sound Science Center might also have shed some light on how those returns came back strong despite the drought faced by their parents in the spawning year of 2019.

The freshwater in the Sound's short, steep salmon stream – or at least that in the two streams that have been the subject of intensive genetics studies – does not appear to be as productive as the brackish water where the streams meet the ever ebbing and flooding tides of the sea.

"Parents sampled upstream had 59 percent as many offspring on average as pink salmon sampled in the intertidal" area, the study reported. If those results were to hold for all streams in the Sound, low water pushing more pinks to spawn intertidally might actually increase rather than reduce production although there is clearly a limit as to how much of a drought the fish can survive.

Saltwater will kill eggs in the gravel, so they need some flow of freshwater even if it is the little flowing beneath apparently dewatered streams. Old studies in Southeast Alaska, meanwhile, showed an interesting push-pull between environmental conditions for intertidal spawning pinks.



operation run by commercial Sound appears to be undermining salmon there, according to a peer-reviewed "Evolutionary Applications"

the smallest relative reproductive-salmon" in streams filled with a

humankind's massive footprint of this change driven by the region's industrial-size hatcheries

remain in excellent shape with the this year reporting the wild "pink encouraging given that wild fish

dewatered streams amid a record-

hatchery fish led by state fisheries colleagues at Fish and Game and

Continued on Page 6 - Nature's Loss

### In This Issue

Nature's loss .....	1
Presidents Message .....	2
Executive Director Report.....	3
Fish and Game Allocation is Political in Alaska.....	4
The Feds close federal lands to nonlocal moose and caribou hunters.....	8
2022 Board of Game Statewide Proposals .....	9
2022 Board of Game Statewide Proposals .....	9
Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund .....	12
Alaska Trust Fund - A Gift to Alaska .....	12

Fishing and Hunting Access .....	13
Dalton Gray .....	13
AOC Sustaining Business Members .....	14
AOC Member Clubs (to get contact info go to our website).....	15
Governors Award to Ron Somerville.....	15

# Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, Alaska Outdoor Council President

2021 was a good year, despite the economic, political and health problems.

To Governor Mike Dunleavy, Keep Standing Tall and please keep your campaign promises.

The U.S. Park Service has yet to implement their policies to comply with the rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court's second 9-0 vote for the John Sturgeon v Frost case. We need to continue to pressure them to implement the rulings from the Supreme Court. That may be a bigger challenge.

Covid-19 has made it a trying time, but it is time to get back on track and on with our lives. We had our annual Anchorage banquet in February of this year. It was a great success. Thanks to all the generous vendors, donors, volunteers, and attendees who helped make this event great. Caleb Martin our Executive Director has a great Fall Banquet planned. News to follow.

I would like to welcome our new board member Dalton Gray from Fairbanks. He will be a great addition to the board from the interior. See his bio in this issue.

Caleb Martin in his position as Executive Director for the Alaska Outdoor Council is doing a fine job learning all the tasks to be accomplished for AOC. As he is finding out, there is a lot to do.

If you can, please send a donation to the Alaska Outdoor Council or Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (tax deductible).

When planning your estate, please remember both Alaska Outdoor Council or the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund for donations.

AFWCF received \$50,000 donation from the James E. Moody Estate, an Alaskan Outdoor Council Life member from Fairbanks. We also received \$300, so far, from the Carroll Lee Cook Memorial.

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



Sockeye Fishing 2021- Bill Iverson  
**KENAI RIVER**

## Donations and volunteers

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

## AOC Supporters

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

### ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

Vice-President Interior: Rob Mathews  
Delta Junction, Alaska  
vp1@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Vice-President South-East: Jim Cartmill  
Juneau, Alaska  
vp2@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Vice-President South-Central: Teresa Burnett  
Anchorage, Alaska  
vp3@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Treasurer: Todd Clark  
Big Lake, Alaska  
treasurer@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Secretary: Anthony Celia  
Anchorage, Alaska  
secretary@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

At Large: Dalton Gray  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
atlarge@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

### Staff:

Executive Director: Caleb Martin  
AOC/AFWCF  
ed@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com  
Cell: 740-1702

Public Policy Director: Rod Arno  
aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com  
Cell: 841-6849

Administrative Director:  
Pam Iverson  
pam@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

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

# Executive Director Report

*Caleb Martin, Alaska Outdoor Council*



As we struggle to finally leave the last two years of pandemic behind us, Alaska Outdoor Council is looking forward to new beginnings and new direction within the organization. We have already managed to change many of our methods of fundraising in 2021 from online raffles and digital software for our banquets. This allows us to have become more efficient, provide

convenience to members and more raise more funds for advocacy and conservation. The new banquet software allows members from throughout Alaska to bid on silent and Live actions or buy raffles right from the convenience of their home. While it takes a bit of a learning curve, it can be effective. A major change coming in 2022, will be the combining of the Anchorage and Matsu Banquet into one south central banquet. This will free up time for staff and allow us to greatly increase our quality of the experience.

## New Major Issues

As we move forward in 2022, Alaska Outdoor Council will be taking a different approach to our major issues. We have identified several issues that affect a large portion of membership and Alaskans. These issues include but are not limited to Federal Overreach on Federal Lands, Trawler bycatch in Alaska and Public Access on State Funded Roadways. While we will continue advocacy on many issues throughout Alaska, we will be taking a stronger position on these issues going forward. Recently, the Alaska Outdoor Council secured legal counsel to litigate in federal court and defend the rights of All Alaskans on Federal Lands. We believe this fight is one we must not lose and is critical to the mission of our organization. Updates on this issue will continue as we move forward. The Trawler Bycatch issues arose to our organization, but nonetheless is a major conservation issues that negatively impacts the food security of all Alaskans. While the State administration has taken some initial steps towards a solution, we believe there is much more that can be done. Lastly, Alaska Outdoor Council has long supported resource development across Alaska, but recently it has shown that despite the use of public funds public access has proven to not be a priority on these projects. In the Susitna River Drainage and the Ambler Mining Districts, the State administration lead with a promise of public access to public lands. As these projects progressed, the amount of public funds needed continue to increase while access to the public lands has continued to decrease. The Ambler Road now is

advertised as purposed blocking access and the West Susitna Road access has gone from over 100 miles to now down to 30 miles which limits Alaskan's ability to access their land. We cannot continue to support these projects if they do not guarantee access as is required in the Alaska Constitution.

## Going Forward

As we consider our stance as an organization in 2022 and where we want to focus our efforts, we really break down our mission into four major areas. These areas are Advocacy, Conservation, Restoration and Education. Currently, we focus primarily on advocacy, and we are working to change that in 2022. We will continue to be the voice for Alaskans in 2022 as we advocate at the Board of Game, Board of fish and at the Legislature. We will also begin to focus on a variety of other projects such as Outdoor Education camps, repairing eroding trails, and issues that focus on the conservation of different species. Likely the majority of our conservation efforts for 2022 will focus on fisheries issues as these issues have become a focus for many Alaskans. Trawler Bycatch and the effects of Commercial Hatcheries are of great concern.

## Upcoming Events

### Matsu

#### Outdoorsman Show

Alaska State Fairgrounds

Palmer, Alaska  
March 25-27, 2022

Fairbanks Outdoor Show  
APRIL 1-3, 2022

Great Alaska Sportsman's Show  
APRIL 8-10, 2022

Kenai Sport Rec and Trade Show  
May 6th, 7th & 8th 2022

Soldotna Progress Days  
July 20th-24, 2022

Alaska State Fair  
August 19-September 5 2022

Alaska Outdoorsman Banquet  
October 15, 2022

Fairbanks Banquet and Fundraiser  
November 12, 2022

### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.

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

# Fish and Game Allocation is Political in Alaska.

Rod Arno, Public Policy Director



Make no mistake about it - what you get to hunt/fish (plus when and where) are all politically determined in Alaska on a regular bases. Changes in regulations can occur annually under the Alaska Board of Fisheries & Game (through the Agenda Change Request process). The Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) service rural Alaskan residents only and

can take Special Action to close all federal lands to non-federally qualified subsistence users at any time.

All Alaskans are able to participate in the State of Alaska regulatory process of creating hunting, trapping, or fishing regulations that apply to all state and private (ANCSA) lands and some federal lands/waters.

Alaska Board of Fisheries and Game members are all political appointees. That means whomever is the elected state governor has the final word on which appointees will go before a joint meeting of the state House and Senate in order to be confirmed to the regulatory boards. When a board members 3 year term is up they can either be reappointed for another term if reconfirmed by the AK Legislature or the Governor may choose to appoint someone else.

Board of Fisheries or Game members votes determine who gets how much of the harvestable surplus of fish and game that you have an opportunity to harvest every year. That's why the AOC board members and staff participate annually in the state's political arena working to get good board member representation for AOC membership's benefit. Board of Fisheries and Game member confirmations occur each legislative session in Juneau. It's these 14 individuals who allocate fish and game harvest on state and private lands/waters, and some federal lands.

Politics is an integral part of fish and game management and allocation in Alaska. The framers of the Alaska State Constitution made sure lawmakers would have to keep going back to the public asking them what is the preferred beneficial use of publicly owned resources;

Alaska State Constitution Article 8, Natural Resources. Section 4. Sustained Yield;

Fish, forest, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the state shall be utilized developed and maintained on the Sustained Yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

Article 8, Section 4 of the AK State Constitution saddled the AK State Legislature with having to pick what use of fish and wildlife resources was of the greatest benefit to the public. It didn't take long for the AK Legislature to free themselves of the burden of allocating fish and/or game harvest among special interest groups. The legislature passed that burden on to publicly confirmed individuals when they passed the bill creating a state Board of Fish and Game. Since then the Alaska Court System has bent over backwards defending a number of allocative board actions. As long as the board can weave a trail through numerous state statutes governing allocation of fish and wildlife that is acceptable to legal council seldom has the board's authority to allocate harvest been successfully challenged in court.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, state Fish&Game Advisory Committees, state, federal, and private land owners, special interests, big game guide/outfitters, trappers, and individuals are all given the opportunity to submit regulatory changes or new regulations for the 7 board members to deliberate on. A 4 - 3 vote of the board would change the regulations in the proposers interest. When board actions are challenged in State courts judges have repeatedly confirmed the board's authority to allocate fish and game in state law.

The Alaska Board of Game (BOG) is meeting this month in Wasilla to deliberate on hundreds of proposed changes to hunting and trapping regulations in SouthCentral and Western Alaska. In March the BOG will meet in Fairbanks to take action on proposals that effect statewide hunting/trapping regulations. Schedules of meeting and times that the public is welcome to tell the board members what their preference uses of wildlife are.

All proposals submitted to the BOG to act upon are available for public review on the ADF&G website. Also BOG public meeting locations, agendas and time lines for deliberating on proposals is available on the ADF&G website, under Board of Game.

Public comment carries a lot of weight in allowing the boards to justify their actions during deliberations. When the Alaska Legislature passed the torch on to the Boards of Fisheries and Game they also made it law, AS 16.05.260, that the boards would hear from folks with an interest in hunting, trapping, or fishing. Since the early 80's the boards ,by law, have been following 5 AAC 96.610. Procedure for developing fish and game regulations. Which identifies 5 phases of the fish and game regulation making process in codified. Phase 4 says each board will hold a public hearing on submitted proposals before the board takes action on them.

Only the public who choose to submit public comments or better yet give oral testimony before the boards make up the record of their preference among the beneficial uses of wildlife. That's what the boards need when allocating fish or game to users. That's how the board's actions can be defended in court, should they be challenged by special interests or individuals.

The politics of the state are good at the present to have the Board of Game continue to provide all Alaskans with a reasonable opportunity of success to harvest wildfood supplies on state, private, and some federal lands. The board would benefit from having public support in favor of increasing the opportunities to gather a wildfood harvest.

The Boards of Fisheries and Game need to hear from you in order to know what is the most beneficial use of fish and game. That's the law.

**The OTHER fish and game regulatory board. For rural residents only, on 220 million acres of federal lands in Alaska.**

The other regulatory board that makes hunting and fishing rules on 60% of Alaska, the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB), is totally politically made up. The President of the U.S. picks a Secretary of the Interior and Agricultural, the U.S. Congress confirms their appointments and they pick who will set as a voting members on the FSB.

Under 50 CFR § 100.19 Special actions the FSB can vote any time, because of a multitude of reasons, to close federal lands to hunting by all nonlocals. Federal court judges continue to support the FSB actions as what Title VIII of ANILCA authorized them to do, give a rural priority to harvest fish and game.

The FSB can direct Federal land managers to close public federal lands/waters to nonlocal harvest of public resources within a short amount of time. The FSB does not allocate fish or game to nonfederally qualified Subsistence Users. Neither the state nor nonlocals have much say before the FSB.

The takeover of allocation of fish and game from the state on federal lands/waters is what happens at FSB meetings. Only through successful federal court challenges like the one filed by Gov. Dunleavy's administration SOA v FSB (Case No. 3:20-cv-00195-SLG)

Or amendments to federal law, Title VIII of ANILCA will stop the federal takeover attempt.

AOC urges Governor Dunleavy to keep up the legal challenge as to who manages and allocates public resources on public lands in all of Alaska. AOC, club members, and other Alaskan hunting organizations have urged Alaska's congressional delegation to help out on this issue with little results to date. AOC will continue advocating for all Alaskans who choose to hunt and fish public resources on federal lands/waters in Alaska.

# Annual Business Meeting

## April 8-9, 2022

### 8-5pm

**Laquinta Suites**  
**4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks,**  
**AK 99709**

## Open to the Public

Topics include

### Federal Land Closures

### Public Easements

### Trawler Bycatch

### Pink Salmon Hatcheries

### Guest Speakers from:

**NOAA**

**DOT**

**DNR**

**Nick Begich**

**ADF&G**

**Virtual Link on**  
**Alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org**

**Nature's Loss- Continued from Page 1**

Warmer ocean waters, especially during cold winters, improved the survival of eggs and alevins in the gravel of intertidal areas, but eggs that didn't get enough water to reduce the salinity of the ocean died. If the parent fish spawned too far outside the zone of brackish water, their young were

doomed.

The survival problem scientists documented in the Sound by genetically fingerprinting adult fish and then looking for their fingerprints in the genes of returning young are not, however, due to environmental problems related to habit, but to human-driven problems, albeit accidental, related to salmon wandering into Sound streams to spawn instead of returning to the region's hatcheries.

**Farming fish**

Alaska has a massive fish-farming program, but it does not confine the fish to pens as in Norway, Chile, Scotland and elsewhere.

Instead, the fish are born in hatcheries, raised there briefly, and then released to free-range the ocean. Net-pen farming was banned in Alaska three decades ago, and the state prefers to call what it does "ranching" rather than farming.

The returning fish are sold as "wild-caught," which subtly distinguishes them from wild fish without overtly alerting consumers to their origin. Alaska, for a time, led international efforts to market the idea that farmed salmon were inherently healthier than those caught in the ocean but has now backed away from that idea.

The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute no longer attacks farmed salmon but instead pushes Alaska fish for its:

- "Superior flavor and texture...prized around the world"
- Sustainability
- Made in America origin
- And the chance for consumers to help support "generations of fishing families and communities"

Much of the shift in strategy appears tied to the fact that the major fish processors that help fund the Institute are these days deeply involved in sales of net-pen farmed salmon, which dominate the global market.

Approximately 75 percent of the salmon eaten around the world today is farmed (not counting U.S., Japanese and Russian hatchery returns) and the percentage is growing. The net-pen farmers have enjoyed record profits as sales of fresh salmon have skyrocketed during the pandemic.

Alaska, unfortunately, has limited access to fresh-salmon markets because of the seasonability of its salmon returns. As a result, many of the hatchery-returning fish still go into cans for which increasing market demand is projected, but primarily in lower-value markets.

"Owing to rise in consumers' purchasing power, (the canned-salmon) market is likely to increase significantly in developing countries. Furthermore, the vast customer base in developing nations is likely to have a significant impact on segment growth," according to Allied Market Research.

And where there are higher-valued markets for canned salmon – such as those for boneless, skinless filets – the farmers are increasingly getting into the market. Still, Alaska canned salmon, now sometimes also packed in pouches, overwhelms the list of the "The 8 Best Canned Salmon in 2022" posted by The Spruce Eats, a website for foodies.

Unfortunately, the website's suggestions on the best-canned salmon also come with the proviso "if fresh salmon isn't available...."

Competition from the net-pen farmers for fresh fish makes the fishing business in Alaska a battle for companies trying to take advantage of the tens of millions of pink salmon that now return each year thanks to the annual ocean stocking of more than 700 million pink salmon.

The 49th state is a world leader in ocean ranching with a total release of "approximately 1.8 billion juvenile salmon annually," according to the study. This is largely thanks to a government-funded hatchery program begun by the Fish and Game in the 1970s.

The hatchery salmon that aren't pinks are almost all higher-value chum salmon once commonly referred to as "dog salmon" in the 49th state because of the hooked snouts and obvious, canine-like teeth that develop on males during spawning, but now most often marketed as "keta salmon."

**Humpies gone wild**

Humpies – as Alaskans usually call pink salmon, the males of which develop huge humps on their backs as they begin the reproductive stage of life – are by far the most abundant salmon in the state.

And though they might all look alike in Sound streams, according to the new study, they don't all perform alike.

"Reproductive success, measured as sampled adult offspring that returned to their natal stream, was significantly lower for hatchery- versus natural-origin parents," the study found, with female humpies performing far worse than males.

Hatchery females that decided to spawn in the wild were less than a half as productive as their wild sisters with the range of success falling from 0.47 all the way down to 0.03. Some males did much better, with the range running from 0.86 down to 0.05.

Overall, researchers concluded, the "results strongly suggest that hatchery-origin strays have lower fitness in the wild," adding that it is still uncertain, however, whether reduced productivity is environmentally driven, and thus subject to quick changes as environmental conditions shift, "or genetically driven, and likely persistent across generations."

The study looked only at humpies spawning in Hogan Bay Creek and Stockdale Creek from 2013 to 2016. Both are short streams. Hogan is only about a third of a mile long, and most spawning gravel is in the intertidal reach. Stockdale is slightly less than a mile long with more freshwater spawning habitat.

One of the notable differences found between hatchery fish gone feral and wild spawners was the former's preference for freshwater spawning. That might have been part of the reason for the much lower spawning success of hatchery strays.

"It is unclear why hatchery-origin fish traveled farther upstream where reproductive success was lower," the study's authors wrote. "They may have experienced lower reproductive success because they were strays and were not locally adapted to the spawning habitat. Alternatively, they may have traveled further upstream to less suitable spawning habitat and avoided the intertidal zone because many of the hatchery brood sources came from upstream, freshwater sites and hatchery-origin fish imprint on freshwater sources as embryos and fry in the hatcheries."

Study lead author Shedd said in an email exchange that there are still a lot of unknowns here, but he added that it is doubtful any loss in wild-salmon productivity can be overcome simply by increasing the number of spawners returning to hatchery-affected streams.

The way fisheries can be managed in the Sound today, he said, the spawning grounds are maintained at carrying capacity. A variety of previous studies have found that over-crowding spawning areas decrease spawning success as pinks spawn atop the beds of other pinks and knock eggs out of the gavel.

“...Egg loss during spawning increases as the density of female spawners increases,” Robert McNeil reported in a peer-reviewed study in the Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada in 2011.

Still, even if spawning success declines in the Sound due to straying hatchery fish, fishery managers should be able to maintain the same-size returns to wild streams by simply reducing harvests in wild-fish harvest areas given that pinks usually return in numbers significantly greater than are needed for spawning.

Salmon fishery management is entirely built around the idea that salmon returns usually exceed spawning needs and thus produce a “harvestable surplus” of fish in “sustainable fisheries.”

A perfect world

In the ideal scenario, both humans and salmon benefit from sustainable management in that by reducing the so-called “over-escapement” of salmon, the fish surviving to spawn maintain a high rate of productivity.

Hatcheries were designed to boost productivity even further by providing the fish a more stable environment early in their life cycle, and the hatcheries have been very successful at doing so in the Sound.

A peer-reviewed study published in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in 2016 reported that since the North Pacific warmed in the 1980s the pink salmon harvest in the Sound “increased nearly tenfold between the low-productivity, pre-hatchery period and the high-productivity, full hatchery production period.

“Meanwhile, in all other management areas (in Alaska) catch increased approximately threefold. The disproportionate increase in catch observed in PWS compared with the other areas suggests a considerable contribution by the PWS hatchery program, even after accounting for potentially increased wild stock productivity following the shift to improved environmental conditions.”

The unseen cost of this now appears to have been a loss in some wild watershed productivity due to genetic or epigenetic alterations arising from the domestication of pinks in hatcheries, but it is hard as yet to quantify the size of that loss.

Shedd said the productivity of wild-hatchery hybrid pinks is not yet fully defined, and there is a bigger question revolving around the hybridization that has now been underway for decades. Hybrids are not as successful on the spawning grounds as wild fish, the study indicated, but they are more successful than hatchery fish.

If what was found at Hogan Bay and Stockdale creeks holds true for all streams in the Sound, hybridization would decrease natural production overall, but that would be more than offset by the hatchery production which is orders of magnitude above the historic, natural production of the Sound.

How much the natural production might fall overall will “largely hinge on whether the mechanisms driving reduced reproductive success of hatchery fish are primarily due to genetic mechanisms or to non-genetic mechanisms,” Shedd said.

“For example, if hatchery fish are genetically poorly adapted to successfully reproducing in the wild, then they may pass these poorly adapted traits on to their offspring and it may take generations for (natural) selection to work to increase the reproductive success.

“On the other hand, if the reason why hatchery fish have lower reproductive success is because they are unfamiliar with the stream and don’t know where to spawn (homing wild fish may key in and spawn in the stream section where they emerged), then those effects could be erased in the next generation (poorly selected spawning areas will not produce many fish).

“These are just two examples of these mechanisms – there are lots more postulated in the paper. We are hoping that additional years of data will provide clues regarding the mechanisms and address this important question.”

And the answer to the biggest question is tied up in learning more about how the long-term spawning success of the hybrids.

“We...know that some of the hatchery strays are successfully contributing to the next generation,” Shedd said. “(But) we don’t yet know how their offspring are contributing, so that makes calculating precise proportions of hybrids difficult.”

Also unknown is how long it will take before the Sound is fully hybridized. There remain large variations across the region as to the numbers of hatchery straying salmon, wild salmon and hybrids in streams.

“Both of our study streams located in Southwestern Prince William Sound (PWS) had high proportions of hatchery-origin spawners,” Shedd said. The research was specifically focused there for this reason. Access to a lot of hatchery strays made for better data.

“...Most of the rest of PWS has much lower average proportions of hatchery-origin spawners, so the levels of hatchery introgression are likely much lower. I’d guess that most streams in southwest PWS likely have some degree of hatchery introgression, whereas the streams in eastern PWS, likely have very little hatchery introgression based on the low proportion of hatchery-origin” salmon observed in earlier studies, Shedd said.

Genetic studies are ongoing although some salmon scientists are now wondering if they don’t overlook a far bigger question involving hatcheries – that being the possible effect on Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon when huge numbers of young hatchery pinks and chums are dumped into the ocean every year.

Some scientists have suggested never-before-seen numbers of humpies in the North Pacific may be depressing the number of those big Chinook, the fish Alaskans call “king,” sockeyes; and cohos all along the North American West Coast by grazing ocean pastures down to the terrestrial equivalent of bare ground.

Think of the European rabbits introduced to Australia in the 1800s only to reach a population estimated at 10 billion by 1920, leading to pasture degradation that cost Australian farmers hundreds of millions of dollars in lost production.

Scientists are only beginning to thoroughly examine the abundance of pinks in relation to the declines of other species of salmon to see if they can pin down a cause-and-effect relationship. So far, there are only correlations.

A group of scientists led by Canadian Brendan Connors in 2020 reported finding that “from 2005 to 2015, the approximately 82 million adult pink salmon produced annually from hatcheries were estimated to have reduced the productivity of southern sockeye salmon by 15 percent on average.”

They blamed food competition, but other scientists have argued the real culprit could be ocean-warming due to a changing climate creating a friendlier environment for pinks. They say more evidence is needed to link the declines in sockeye in Canada and the Pacific Northwest to the Alaska pink salmon boom.

# The Feds close federal lands to nonlocal moose and caribou hunters.

*Rod Arno, Public Policy Director*

This time it's up in northwest Alaska, GMU23 and 26A. Millions of acres of federal lands could be closed this fall to nonlocal moose and caribou hunters. Why? Because the members of the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) can vote to keep nonfederally qualified subsistence users off federal lands whenever asked. United States District Judge, Sharon L. Gleason made it painfully clear on Dec. 3, 2021 (SOA v. FSB case No. 3:20-cv-00195-SLG) that as far as she was concerned Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) allows the FSB to usurp the State of Alaska's authority to manage and allocate game on federal public lands. In Judge Gleason's Decision & Order to the SOA v. FSB, page 42, she writes;

“ANILCA necessarily tolerates some level of federal interference with state authority.....”

So if the local regional advisory council for the FSB submits a Wildlife Special Action (WSA21-01) request to close federal lands in GMU23, over 70% of the unit, and GMU 26A, again over 70% of the unit, to nonfederally qualified subsistence users (NFQSU or just nonlocals) to save subsistence uses they sure can.

The only way to stop the loss of hunting opportunity, for the few nonlocals who choose to hunt either moose or caribou in GMU23 and GMU26A, is to convince at least 5 of the 8 board members to vote down proposal WSA21-01 to ban nonlocal hunters.

**Who are the FSB members and what do you write to convince them not to vote to close federal lands to nonlocal moose and/or caribou hunters?**

4 board members represent the four federal land owners; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management BLM, and U.S. Forest Service (FS). So in GMU23 and GMU26(A) it's mainly NPS and BLM as the federal land owners. USFWS encompasses 6% of GMU23, and not for FS. Do you write and ask these public lands managers to share public resources (moose and caribou) with others. That seems fair when you realize that nonfederally qualified subsistence hunters (nonlocals) take less than 25% of the harvest.

How about asking the board chairman and the 2 public members to not support their fellow subsistence users and vote no on WAS21-01(A) and (B). I don't know why they wouldn't support the local RACs proposal to restrict nonlocal moose and caribou hunters.

The only other voting member yet to mention is the Alaska Regional Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I have no idea why they wouldn't support the local RACs special action request WAS21-01.

All folks interested in having the opportunity to hunt on federal public lands when subsistence needs are being met can dial in to the Public Hearing on WSA21-01 March 21, 2022 starting at 3:00pm and let the Feds know your opinion of large closures to nonlocal hunters on federal public lands in Alaska.

Teleconference: 1-800-779-2712

Password: 5653753

Comments will be forwarded to the FSB members who will take action March 31, 2022 to close all or some lands in GMU23 and 26A to moose and or caribou hunters for the fall 2022 state hunting season.

As long as Title VIII of ANILCA is interpreted by the federal courts to allow the members of the FSB to close federal lands and waters whenever locals feel their subsistence opportunities are threatened by nonlocals presence hunting organizations will have to jump up and defend their opportunities to hunt publicly owned game on federal public lands.

Only Alaska's Congressional Delegation can put a stop to this divisive nonsense between hunters. For 30 years they have done nothing to relieve the conflict.



## 2022 Board of Game Statewide Proposals

Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) position on select proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Game (Board) for the 2022 Statewide meeting held March 2022.

### **Proposal 101. Oppose**

**(Proposal Failed)**

5 AAC 92.990(11). Definitions.

Change the definition for bows to include crossbows

Repeatedly bow hunters comment to the Board the reason they should have early and/or extended seasons is because of the fact that they are ineffective at harvesting. Modern crossbows can be too effective to be considered primitive.

**(Proposal 120. Support.**

**(Proposal Passed)**

5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy.

Allow proxy hunting for moose as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.011 to allow proxy hunting for any antlered bull moose

Adoption would be consistent with Title 8, section 3. Common Use of the Alaska State Constitution. Wildfood provides security for many elderly Alaskans who physically cannot retrieve moose out of the field.

**Proposal 135. Support.**

**(Proposal Failed)**

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Repeal the restriction on the use of aircraft for locating Dall sheep for hunting

**Proposal 139. Support.**

**(Proposal Failed)**

5AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Restrict the use of aircraft for making multiple, consecutive approaches near Dall sheep for hunting

**Proposal 147. Oppose.**

**(Proposal Passed)**

5 AAC 92.031. Permit for selling skins, skulls, and trophies.

Allow the sale of prepared game trophies under a permit a

**Proposal 150. Oppose.**

**(Proposal Failed)**

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Increase the number of times a hunter may apply for drawing permit hunts for each species

**Proposal 152. Oppose.**

**(Board took no action)**

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Require all drawing permit hunts available to residents be available for application online

**Proposal 155. Support.**

**(Amended out shall and replaced with may and Passed.)**

5 AAC 92.XXX. New regulation.

Establish protocol for ADF&G to issue "any bull" resident moose permit in selective harvest hunts

**Proposal 162. Support.**

**(Proposal Passed)**

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Require the salvage of the meat or hide of snowshoe hare

**Proposal 163. Support.**

**(Proposal Failed)**

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

Count wounded big game animals towards the hunter's bag limit for all units and require additional action in the field from hunters that attempt to take game.

**Proposal 173. Support.**

**(Proposal Failed)**

5 AAC 92.530(7). Management areas.

Repeal the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

# 2022 Board of Game Statewide Proposals

Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) position on select proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Game (Board) for the 2022 Statewide meeting held March 2022.

**Proposal 193. Support with a negative C&T finding.**

**(The board amended the proposal to just carry over the C&T from the muskox herd in GMU23 and Passed.)**

5 AAC 85.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.  
Establish a hunt for muskox within a portion of Unit 26A

**Proposal 196. Support.  
(Proposal Failed)**

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limit for caribou.  
Allow ADF&G to utilize a targeted hunt for registration caribou hunts (RC860 & RC867) in Units 20 and 25

**Proposal 199. Oppose.  
(Proposal Failed)**

AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.  
Prohibit trapping within 50 yards of multi-use trails and trailheads in Units 13, 14, and 16

**Proposal 237. Amend and support.  
(Proposal Failed)**

Define “other permanent dwelling” in 5 AAC 92.044(b)(5)(B)(I) as permanently fixed and legally owned.

**Proposal 239. Support.  
(Proposal Failed)**

Require all resident registration permit hunts be available for application online

**Proposal 100. Support.  
(No Action)**

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.  
Remove the requirement that traps and snares for beaver be submerged in Unit 16

**Proposal 267. Oppose.  
(Proposal Failed)**

New board member orientation by the department clearly needs to do a better job of defining what it takes to meet the threshold requirements for an agenda change request (ACR).

Allocative proposals do not qualify for ACRs. 5 AAC 92.005(3) the board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information that is found by the board to be compelling



**Executive Director, Caleb Martin  
Governor Mike Dunleavy  
Nunivak Island**

## Alaska Outdoor Council Fallen Alaskans

The Alaska Outdoor Council is saddened by the sudden passing of Gary Olson, the founder of the Alaska Moose Federation (AMF). As the son of Warren and Jan Olson, Gary grew up in a family of hard core Alaskan conservationists who have dedicated most of their lives to the well-being of Alaska's public resource, wild game.

Gary's work and hunting adventures had him out on Alaska's highways year around where he witnessed numerous car/moose collision. Having been raised eating moose Gary was well aware of the value of moose meat and it's importance to providing food security to many Alaskans. Gary organized many other Alaskan conservations to create a volunteer service of retrieving road killed moose from the Kenai to Fairbanks. So far Gary's efforts has resulted in the salvage of over 6,000 road killed moose that went to Alaskan families tables.

Gary's moose salvage program is alive and well today, and as many of us travel Alaska's highways we are all thankful to Gary and a crew of volunteers who help keep drivers and troopers safe by removing road killed moose from Alaska's highways.

Our thoughts, prayers, go out to the Olson family.



The Alaska Outdoor Council mourns the passing of wildlife biologist Patrick Valkenburg. Pat was instrumental in putting the "science" in science-based management of populations of moose, caribou and their predators while working for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (Department).

From the mid-'70s to his recent passing Pat was often in the air counting and tracking caribou herds from the Arctic to the Alaska Peninsula. Data he and his peers gathered is what made the Department's predator/prey management programs defensible before an international audience of anti-hunters. Alaskans who depend on moose and caribou as part of their food security, now and in the future, should take a moment to thank Pat as part of their harvest ritual. Not only was Pat a great biologist and pilot he was also a calming voice at many regulatory meetings of the Alaska Board of Game.

Pat willingly gave his time and energy to improving the relationship between the Department and the public as a board member for the Alaska Outdoor Council for many years. He knew that the public was totally dependent on the Department's managers to provide accurate information on prey and predator population data, body conditions, and the health of the habitat in order to understand the rationale for setting state hunting regulations.

Pat's many adventures are now available for all to read in his recently published book "49 Years in the 49th State." Anyone wanting to leave mark on Alaska's history of wildlife management should read the book to see what high standards they will need to achieve to meet the high mark set by Patrick Valkenburg.

Our thoughts are with his wife Audrey Magoun and their son Toby.





[Make a Difference in the New Year](#)

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

Please choose:

**Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund**

As your non-profit

Help hang onto your outdoor future.

The fund is the associated conservation arm of AOC

## Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund

Mission: to assist the Alaska Outdoor Council in perpetuating Alaska's outdoor heritage of hunting, fishing, trapping, public access, and gun ownership.

Vision: to utilize education, research, and in limited cases, litigation, to perpetuate Alaska's outdoor heritage of hunting, fishing, trapping, public access, and gun ownership.

History:

The Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (Fund) was certified as a 501c(3) charitable organization in 1983. The general charitable, educational, and scientific purposes of the organization include:

- Information on fish and wildlife resources, outdoor activities and resource conservation programs;
- Public education on the American and Alaskan heritage of hunting, trapping and fishing;
- Litigation if necessary to protect hunting, trapping, fishing, access and scientific wildlife management;
- Promotion and explanation of wildlife conservation and scientific wildlife management through various media;
- To provide other organizations assistance in promoting these purposes;
- Provide information on critical issues affecting fish and wildlife and their uses.

The Fund was established with a recognition that public policy decisions are increasingly being made in the courts. In cooperation with Alaska Outdoor Council, the Fund allows us to address all three legs of the public policy stool: administrative, legislative, and judicial. Over the years, it has been directly involved in high profile and statewide precedent cases such as Babbitt v. Alaska and Katie John v. Alaska and the John Sturgeon case that we contributed substantially to.

## Alaska Trust Fund – A Gift to Alaska

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

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 Warren Olson @ 1-907-346-4440.

*Ad Paid for by:*

*Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund*



## Fishing and Hunting Access

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, often referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides funds to state fish and wildlife agencies and territories for wildlife management and research, and also funds projects to restore, conserve, and enhance wildlife populations and their habitats. Projects also include providing public use and access to wildlife resources, hunter education, and development and management of shooting ranges.

The Wildlife Restoration Program is the nation's oldest and most successful wildlife conservation program. In 1937, legislation created this "user pay/user benefit" program through federal excise taxes and import duties placed on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. The tax revenue collected is transferred to the US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, which is the federal agency responsible for administering the Wildlife Restoration Program. The money is then apportioned to state fish and wildlife agencies through a formula based on land area and number of hunting license holders. State fish and wildlife agencies then make their own management decisions as to how the funds are utilized.

### Hunter access bridge in wilderness

In Alaska, after the federal appropriation has been determined it's up to the legislature to authorize the amount of Wildlife Restoration funds that may be spent. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Wildlife Conservation is the only entity permitted to receive and spend Pittman-Robertson funds apportioned to Alaska.

The Wildlife Restoration Program covers up to 75% of the cost of an eligible project and requires a 25% non-federal match. Match funds may be met through revenue from the sale of hunting licenses and tags or other funds. ADF&G also often partners with other state agencies, local governments, and non-governmental entities to meet match requirements and help control project costs.

ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation staff work with state and federal land managers, local governments, and the public to identify and facilitate design and construction of projects that develop and enhance access to wildlife resources for hunting, trapping, and other recreation. These projects are diverse and include building, improving, and repairing public use trails, roads, parking lots, campgrounds, boat launches, bridges, and more. Projects provide additional or improved opportunity and access to Alaska's lands for hunters and other recreational users.

## New Board Member

### Dalton Gray

*New AOC/AFWCF Board Member*

I currently live in Fairbanks and am a Ventilation Specialist for Ventilation Solutions where I've worked for 3 years. This past spring, I began working for an outfitter, helping with spring brown bear hunts for two months. I then got my Assistant Guide license through the state upon the recommendation of the Master Guide that I worked for. I intend to continue to guide spring bear hunts as much as I can and then some hunts in the fall as the opportunities come.

Throughout the last couple of years, I've become aware of some land access issues in the State of Alaska where large portions of land are closed to hunting solely based on the opinion of a few, and most of the hunting public, like myself, don't even hear of it until it's too late. I believe that organizations like the Alaska Outdoor Council have the ability to educate the public on these issues and present them in an understandable fashion so that the public gets the opportunity to put in their opinion before a vote or teleconference happens without the input of those that it affects the most.



# AOC Sustaining Business Members

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

Life SB memberships in yellow

## *INTERIOR*

Alaska Gun Guard, LLC.  
763 Wanda Drive  
North Pole, AK 99705  
lbridgmanjr@gmail.com  
www.alaskanscopecouplerguard.com  
907-378-9346  
“Protecting your firearm & trailer coupler is our business.”

### **Artic RV**

**Kevin & Evelyn Brown**  
3013 Peger Road Fairbanks AK 99709  
kb@arcticrv.com  
cheryl@wscpa-ak.com  
907-451-8356

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

Fairbanks Fur Tannery  
Al Barrette  
380 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709  
barrette@gci.net

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

**Hutch's Mobile Service, LLC**  
Earl Hutchinson  
PO Box 58583  
Fairbanks AK 99711  
hutchak@yahoo.com  
907-590-2535

**Warwick & Schikora, PC**  
Rick & Cheryl Schikora  
1416 Gillam Way Fairbanks AK 99701  
schikora@wscpa-ak.com  
cheryl@wscpa-ak.com

## *SOUTHCENTRAL*

Alaska Remote Guide Service  
Wayne & Marilyn Kubat  
PO Box 874867  
Wasilla, AK 99687  
wayne@alaskaremote.com  
www.alaskaremote.com  
907-376-9568, cell phone 907-355-8568

### **Bickman Builders**

**Jim Bickman**  
4316 Upper Kogru Drive  
Eagle River, AK 99577  
hunts@alaskabickman.com  
907-694-9694

### **Chimo Guns**

Nancy Wallis  
401 Ivory Way  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
chimos@mtaonline.net  
907-376-5261

### **CMM General Contractors, LLC**

Robert & Paula Caywood  
PO Box 670972  
Chugiak, AK 99567  
cmmgen@mtaonline.net  
907-688-1231

### **Cruz Companies**

Dave Cruz  
7000 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy  
Palmer, AK 99645  
info@cruzconstruct.com  
www.cruzconstruct.com  
907-746-3144

### **Fishtale River Guides**

Andrew N. Couch  
PO Box 155  
Palmer, AK 99645  
fishing@fish4salmon.com  
www.fish4salmon.com  
907-746-2199

continued Sustaining Business Members

**Lynx Construction, Inc.**  
 James Sterling  
 16235 Elizabeth Street  
 Anchorage, AK 99516  
 lynxconstruction@alaska.net  
 907-242-2653

**Premiere Electric LLC**  
 301 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Suite 300  
 Anchorage, AK 99503  
 slinden@premiereelectricak.com  
 www.premiereelectricak.com  
 907-278-4400

**Price Gregory International, Inc**  
 Steve Linden  
 PO Box 874362  
 Wasilla AK 99687  
 https://www.pricegregory.com/  
 907-746-3144  
 “Honesty, Integrity and Quality Workmanship Making the Difference”

**Skyline Sales & Service**  
 Gary Stevens  
 PO Box 672145  
 Chugiak, AK 99687  
 garyatls@cs.com  
 907-229-4710

**Team CC**  
 Barbara Harris  
 16770 Snowmobile Lane  
 Eagle River, AK 99654  
 ads@teamcc.com  
 www.teamcc.com



Governor’s Award to Ron Somerville

**MATSU Events LLC**  
 Matt & Sue Rowley  
 PO Box 277  
 Willow, AK 99688  
 matt@matsuevents.com  
 www.matsuevents.com

## AOC Member clubs

- Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee**
- Alaska Machinegun Association**
- Alaska Professional Hunters Association**
- Alaska Rifle Club**
- Alaska Snowmachine Alliance**
- Alaska Waterfowl Association**
- Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation**
- Chitina Dipnetters**
- Cook Inlet Archers**
- Golden North Archery Assoc.**

- Houston Chamber of Commerce**
- Interior Airboaters Association**
- Juneau Rifle and Pistol Club, Inc**
- Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.**
- Matanuska Valley Sportsmen, Inc.**
- Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska**
- Sitka Sportsman’s Association**
- Snomads, Inc.**
- Tanana Valley Sportsmen’s Association**
- Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.**



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

Non-Profit Org.  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 Anchorage, AK  
 Permit #537

**“Alaska’s Outdoors is Yours”**

**Check mailing label for membership expiration.**

**Please renew today!**

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

**AOC Membership Application / Donation Form**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAYMENT:  Check  Visa/MC: - - - Exp: -

CVS (3 digit code): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Option out of Newsletter to View online instead.

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

**I WOULD LIKE TO:**

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



**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:**

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

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