



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Southeast Region

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May 22, 2015

The Municipality of Skagway (proposer) has submitted an Agenda Change Request (ACR) to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping (ACR 5). Under the Board's ACR policy, the Board will accept an ACR only:

- A) for a conservation purpose or reason;
- B) to correct an error in a regulation; or
- C) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

The board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of information that is found by the board to be compelling. [5AAC 92.005(a)(2-3)].

With respect to the allocative nature, the department has learned that the Municipality of Skagway has attempted to reach a compromise between user groups. In addition, the department has participated in numerous educational events in Skagway to provide information to the public about trapping. We have attended assembly meetings in person, we have provided written comments on proposed ordinance changes over the last 18 months to guide the Municipality towards compliance, all with little resolution. The Municipality of Skagway has the authority to adopt regulations that address public safety concerns within the Skagway Borough. However, the current ordinance language specifically addresses trap types, which falls under the authority of the Alaska Board of Game and is outside of the authority of the Municipality.

With respect to the ACR policy acceptance criteria:

- A) We do not have a conservation concern for furbearers in the Skagway area.
- B) The department is unaware of an error in current regulation that would be addressed by this ACR with the caveat that there may be an error in the applicability of municipal code.
- C) The department is unaware of an effect on hunting or trapping that was unforeseen when this regulation was adopted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Dale".

Bruce Dale
Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation