

RESOLUTION
JOINT BOARD OF FISHERIES AND GAME
24-01-JB

A resolution of the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game supporting increased funding for local fish and game advisory committee members.

WHEREAS, local fish and game advisory committees provide a local forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendation on matters relating to the management of fish and wildlife resources pursuant to AS 16.05.260; and

WHEREAS, this statewide system is dependent on volunteers who provide critical input to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game on management issues; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Board has heard in public and advisory committee testimony that meeting regularly is challenging for rural advisory committees that are made up of multiple communities which makes it additionally challenging to meet; and

WHEREAS, 5 AAC 96.060(o)(1): Uniform Rules of Operation reads

(1) **Regular Meeting.** A committee shall meet at least twice a year to remain active under 5 AAC 96.450.

WHEREAS, advisory committee members in rural Alaska incur disproportionate uncompensated personal costs when traveling away from home to attend advisory committee meetings unlike more urban, suburban, and road-connect communities; and

WHEREAS, the current per diem rules preclude compensation for costs beyond basic travel and food allowances; and

WHEREAS, the present per diem rates often do not adequately cover even these basic expenses or take into account loss of wages by missing work to attend meetings; and

WHEREAS, the state's regulatory system is at risk of losing expertise within specific areas as the advisory committee system loses members who have become disheartened with the state's regulatory process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game requests the Alaska Legislature and/or Executive Branch provide additional funding for the local fish and game advisory committees to:

- A. Increase meeting activity. The Department will pay the expenses for two in-person meetings for local fish and game advisory committees per year.
- B. Increase participation at Board meetings. The Department will increase the stipend amount and/or per diem rate for individuals traveling to Board meetings.
- C. Lack of Consistent Meeting Minutes: The Department will pay a secretary/recorder to record meeting minutes.
- D. Increase advisory committee meeting accessibility: The Department will purchase additional call-in/teleconference materials to supply those advisory committees currently without those capabilities.

ADOPTED DATE: _____

Anchorage, Alaska

Jerry Burnett
Chair, Board of Game

John Wood
Chair, Board of Fisheries