

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**Funding for the**  
**Boards of Fisheries and Game and State Advisory Committees**

**2004-232-FB**

Whereas the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game are delegated direct responsibility from the state legislature to allocate the fisheries and wildlife resources of the state; and

Whereas the Boards Support Section's mission is to ensure efficient and effective regulation of the state's fish and wildlife resources, and to provide the opportunity to participate in the state's regulatory process to local fish and game advisory committees and the public; and

Whereas the recent 25% reduction in general funds has significantly reduced the ability of the Board of Fisheries to meet its statutory obligations which include complex allocation decisions, significantly increased deliberations regulating state waters fisheries for multiple species where federal fisheries programs have a potential negative impact, increasing regulatory conflicts over subsistence regulations involving federal waters and lands, and expanded regulatory responsibilities involving multiple fish species; and

Whereas current funding levels have led to a decrease in the participation level of state advisory committee members at board meetings and state advisory committees have been limited in the number and frequency of advisory committee meetings that may be held, which results in decreased participation in the state's fish and game regulatory process; and

Whereas current funding levels have forced decisions by the Boards of Fisheries to become accelerated and abbreviated, without the benefit of a full range of information necessary for an adequate regulatory process, including the inability of the board to hold meetings in communities that are affected; and

Whereas the reduction in general funds budgeted to the Board Support Section creates the risk that the Boards of Fisheries and Game cannot continue to meet the individual and joint statutory obligations; and

Whereas an increase in general funds of approximately 15% of the overall budget, will ensure the Boards of Fisheries and Game and state advisory committees can meet the minimum legal requirements of their mission, while still finding the efficiencies and reductions that meet the goal of reduced state budgets; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**

That the Board of Fisheries supports a minimum combined increment of \$150.0 in general funds in FY06 to allow the Boards of Fisheries and Game and the State Advisory Committees to meet their statutory responsibilities in all areas of the state;

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
2004-232-BOF

That the Board of Fisheries supports restoration of previous reductions in the Department of Fish and Game's overall budget to ensure that fishery managers can gather the best information upon which to have management decisions. The board recognizes that only with good science can we expect to have healthy and viable fisheries.

ADOPTED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art Nelson', written over a horizontal line.

Art Nelson, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries