

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Requested Changes to FY06 Budget for the**  
**Boards of Fisheries and Game and State Advisory Committees**

**2004-153-BOG**

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

Whereas the Board Support Section also ensures the provision of the opportunity to participate in the state's regulatory process to local fish and game advisory committees; and

Whereas beginning in FY03 the budget components of Boards of Fisheries and Game and Advisory Committees have had a combined 25% reduction in general funds; and

Whereas the 25% reduction in general funds has significantly reduced the ability of the Board of Game to meet its statutory obligations which include normal allocation decisions, increasing regulatory conflicts over subsistence regulations involving federal lands, greatly expanded regulatory responsibilities involving intensive management programs, and significantly increased deliberations implementing precise predator control programs.

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 due to the 25% reduction in general funds, the reduced ability for the Advisory Committees to meet, and the diminished opportunity for public participation, decisions by the Boards of Fisheries and Game boards have become accelerated and abbreviated, without the benefit of a full range of information necessary for an adequate regulatory process; 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 one of the performance measures of the Board Supports Section is to facilitate regulatory roles effectively and within legal requirements, with the strategy to involve the public in the regulatory process; 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

Whereas the Board of Game, recognizing the goal of overall decreased general fund budgets and increased efficiencies in all agencies, does not request full restoration of the previous general

fund reductions, and recognizing that the Boards of Fisheries and Game have both decreased the number of meeting days and that the Boards Support Section staff has been reduced;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**

The Board of Game 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.

ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2004

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Fleagle, Chair  
Alaska Board of Game