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## **Editorial**

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**Robert L. Wilbur and Kurt E. Savikko**

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## Editorial

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### ONLINE BULLETIN'S NEW FEATURE

The Bulletin is now fully electric, literally, instead of just figuratively. You can access the Bulletin from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's homepage: <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/adfghome.htm>. The Bulletin is available in Adobe® Acrobat® Portable Document Format (PDF), which allows us to provide it in a fully formatted layout. It mirrors previous hard-copy versions but is ready for electronic viewing and printing. All that is required to use these PDF documents is a free Adobe viewer available from a link on our website or directly from Adobe. After installation of the viewer, direct access to the PDF documents is only a click away.

For now, the Bulletin will continue to be anchored in its paper copy. This means we will continue to produce printed issues, and the online issues will be posted issue by issue concurrent with the printed distribution. We may in the future become exclusively electronic, which would eliminate paper production costs and provide more timely access. That is, electronic-only journals are not posted by issues but are instead posted paper by paper (whenever a paper is ready, it is posted). This eliminates a paper's delay while the rest of the issue is assembled, which would benefit both authors and readers.

The online Bulletin, however, now offers a significant feature — a *postnote* — not present in the paper version. The postnote will be appended to the end of some papers after they are published (e.g., see online vol 3, nr 1, p 44) and will contain abbreviated post-publication notes that may be important to the readers of that paper, that is, important subsequent developments they might otherwise overlook or not discover until much later. As such, the postnote is intended as a service to our online readers, one that hopefully will increase their timely access to subsequent and specifically related information.

For example, if there was a particularly pertinent follow-up publication, that publication might be noted in the postnote, and if that related paper was published in a subsequent issue of the Bulletin, it would be electronically linked so the reader could immediately access that paper. The postnote will be especially useful in flagging and accessing subsequently published errata or challenges and rebuttals. In other cases, we

might include a reader's contribution of unpublished findings or observations that would provide useful information or insights. However, we do not envision the postnote developing the demeanor of a chat room or bulletin board, so contributions will be carefully examined for their scientific importance and relatedness before acceptance and posting.

For most of our readers the postnote will be a new, unfamiliar feature in scientific reporting. However, we believe that postnotes will enhance the utility of our online service, so we especially encourage our readers to submit items for consideration and possible posting. Past authors are also encouraged to submit relevant follow-up items.

If you have an item you would like to have considered for inclusion as a postnote, please submit it to the editor at the address noted on the inside cover (or email: [bobw@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:bobw@fishgame.state.ak.us)). Please remember to cite the article your item references. We will notify you shortly thereafter of our decision and of any recommended changes. Inclusions will be filed chronologically within a postnote and include the contributor's name(s) and address. Additions to a postnote will be posted within several days of their approval.

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