

BOF Public Testimony 3/26/22  
Ellen Hannan Craig AC

Thank you Madame Chair and Fisheries Board Members for this opportunity to speak. My name is Ellen Hannan and I represent the Craig AC on Prince of Wales Island in SE Alaska. I am a lifelong resident of Alaska with forty years in Craig and on Prince of Wales.

Craig AC supports **proposal 234** which requires in season reporting of non resident sport fish harvest and effort. This is already being required of non-resident charter anglers and would provide additional data on the take of fresh and salt water species.

Craig AC supports **proposal 241** which is seeking a universal definition of shrimp. Head on or tails only, specifically for sport fish regulations.

Craig AC supports **proposals 235 & 236**. These proposals seek to define domicile as it pertains to residency status for sport fishing licenses. Alaska has an increasing population of seasonal residents who come to Alaska for all or part of fishing or hunting season, to take advantage of the resources of Alaska. They reside most of the year in another state or country, while the majority have never been domiciled here for twelve consecutive months. Some stay in a RV on a rented space while they are here or buy a lot and

put a building on it. Many of these visitors are obtaining resident fishing and hunting licenses.

In past practices of the Alaska Court System, if the person is charged with a false statement on a ADFG resident license, the definition of domicile keeps being the deciding factor in court decisions.

Currently the proof of burden rests with the State to prove the seasonal resident is meeting the requirements. It should be the opposite, like the PFD, that a resident must provide to the state that they meet the residency requirements. The law is not clear, is confusing and in many instances makes it difficult for the judge or jury to find beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty.

Our Alaska Department of Fish and Game is missing out financially from these seasonal residents and the people who live here year round, are missing out on available resources. Just like the Permanent Fund Dividend is wealth sharing for Alaska's year round residents, we need to make sure our available fish and game resources are shared appropriately as well.

The changes being asked for will ensure that Alaska's Fish and Game resources are for true residents not "seasonal residents". The increased revenue from more non-resident sales will benefit the State at a much needed time.

This proposal requests changing the ADFG administrative code's definition of domicile to include meeting the requirements of the PFD in order to obtain

a resident fishing/hunting/trapping license. The person does not have to apply for the PFD.

Changing the statute so that it is a strict liability offense with the same requirements as receiving the PFD will permit enforcement of residency status.

Proposals 235 & 236 are both supported by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, if the board has the authority to change the definition of domicile. If the Board of Fish does not have the authority to change the definition, please forward your recommendation to the governing body that has the authority to do so.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Membership of the Craig AC

Trapping 1

Hunting guide 1

Hunting 1

Charter fishing 3

Herring Pound 1

Subsistence 1

Longline fishing 1

Shellfish 1

Gillnet salmon 1

Total of 11 members