

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 74.035. Ice house registration.

Repeal registration requirement for ice houses that are not removed from the ice daily in the Tanana River Area as follows:

Several options:

- **Remove the ice-house registration requirement for all ice houses – my preferred choice.**
- **Remove registration, at a minimum for soft sided “pop-up” ice houses and define ice house as “constructed with rigid, load bearing materials for the floor, walls and sides”.**
- **Require the Boroughs to register ice houses.**
- **Remove registration requirements, but require all ice houses and pop up that are left on the ice for more than a month to have label with name and contact information posted by the entrance.**

Repeal: [5 AAC 74.035. ICE HOUSE REGISTRATION. (A) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH APRIL 30, A PERSON USING AN ICE HOUSE THAT IS NOT REMOVED FROM THE ICE DAILY SHALL REGISTER THAT ICE HOUSE WITH, AND RECEIVE A PERMIT FROM, THE DEPARTMENT FOR THAT YEAR. (B) AN ICE HOUSE REGISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION MUST DISPLAY THE DEPARTMENT'S PERMIT NUMBER ON ONE SIDE AND ON THE ROOF OF THE ICE HOUSE IN NUMBERS NOT LESS THAN 12 INCHES HIGH, ONE INCH WIDE, AND PLAINLY VISIBLE. THE NUMBERS MUST BE IN A COLOR THAT CONTRASTS WITH THE COLOR OF THE ICE HOUSE. (C) AN ICE HOUSE MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE ICE BY APRIL 30, HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DESIGNATE OTHER CONDITIONS ON THE PERMIT, INCLUDING OTHER TIME AND AREA RESTRICTIONS].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I understand that in order to go fishing and leave my soft-sided pop-up “ice house” set up overnight, I am required to register it with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). However, this process presents several inconveniences. Not only do I have to go through the time-consuming task of registering my ice house, but I am also required to affix large 12-inch letters to the top, front, and side of my expensive ice house, which feels like an unnecessary defacement of the equipment with tape residue, paint, or punching hole with safety pins. And my number may change from year-to year.

Additionally, if I decide to move my pop-up to a different lake, I am supposed to notify ADF&G about the new location. This becomes particularly challenging when I am out of cellphone range, such as when fishing for lake trout along the Denali Highway. This added step feels burdensome, both for me and for ADF&G, and I question its necessity.

From my understanding, the primary goal of this registration is to ensure that troopers can cite individuals who fail to remove their trash before spring. However, given that ice houses are generally too valuable to simply abandon and are likely to be registered if left behind, this process seems to be more of an administrative burden than a real solution. For example, I inquired with

ADF&G in Fairbanks and they could only recall one instance where an icehouse was left on the ice on (lost Lake), and unsurprisingly it was NOT registered!

In Anchorage and Wasilla, there are no such ADF&G registration requirements for ice houses, and yet these areas seem to manage just fine without them. This suggests that the registration may not be as essential as it is made out to be.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough provides an Ice House Registration Form, but it is not mandatory. The form highlights concerns about unsanitary conditions and safety hazards if ice houses are abandoned after breakup, but it does not impose a legal requirement for registration. For lakes with a listed management plan; “Registration is required only for ice houses on the following lakes: Big Lake; Diamond Lake; Lake Five; Little Question Lake; Little Lonely Lake and the two unnamed lakes located between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Rd., Sec. 30 7 31, T25N, R4W, S.M.

For lakes with lots of cabins and property owners, let them work with their own local entities if ice house registrations are desired on “their” lake. Please don’t make me duct tape numbers onto my \$400 ice house.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Contacted Fish and Game in Fairbanks and Palmer.

PROPOSED BY: Tony Hollis

(EF-F26-018)
