

RECEIVED
NOV 15 2002
BOARDS

**ALASKA BOARD OF FORESTRY
AND
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

JOINT PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

This Joint Protocol Agreement is entered into between the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries and the State of Alaska Board of Forestry, to provide a process for the exchange of information and for the facilitation of discussion of matters of mutual interest and responsibility.

RECITALS

A. The Board of Fisheries is created by statute for the purpose of the conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state (AS 16.05.221). The Board of Fisheries regulates the commercial, sport, guided sport, personal use and subsistence use fishing as needed for conservation, development, and utilization of fisheries in the state. The regulatory authority includes watershed and habitat improvement as related to fisheries and protection of fish stocks. The Board of Fisheries meets in communities around the state, providing a forum for the public discussion of concerns relating to fisheries and fish stocks, including habitat.

The Board of Fisheries has adopted by regulation a Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (SSFP). The goal of this policy is to ensure conservation of salmon and salmon's required marine and aquatic habitats, protection of customary and traditional subsistence uses and other uses, and the sustained economic health of Alaska's fishing communities. In formulating salmon fishery management plans, the board must consider factors such as environmental change, habitat loss or degradation, data uncertainty, and limited funding for research and management programs.

B. The Board of Forestry is established by statute to review and comment on regulations adopted under AS 41.17.010, et seq. ("Chapter 17"), Alaska's forest resources and practices regulations., AS 41.17.098(d) and .115, which provide that forestry regulations and approved variations from the regulations must recognize fish habitat as the primary value of riparian areas. Except for activities subject to AS 16.05.840 (relating to obstructions to fishways) or AS 16.05.870 (relating to use of streams important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fish), these regulations establish the fish habitat protection standards, policies and review processes for administration of forest resources under state law. The Board of Forestry, among its other duties:

- Conducts, with the assistance of state agencies and other interested parties, an annual survey of research needs related to forest practices;
- Coordinates the monitoring of the implementation and effectiveness of forest practices, regulations and best management practices adopted under Chapter 17;
- Reports annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness of Chapter 17 and makes its recommendations for changes and for needed research and monitoring;
- Conducts a minimum of three public meetings each year, providing a forum for interested parties to discuss and attempt to resolve issues relating to forest practices regulated under Chapter 17.

SCOPE

The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Forestry each have important responsibilities relating to the protection of fish habitat and water quality. The boards are entering into this joint protocol agreement to provide a protocol for the exchange of information, and ideas of mutual interest, and to provide for the opportunity for regular dialogue on matters of mutual concern, including:

- effectiveness of best management practices,
- where appropriate, the effectiveness of harvest restrictions in riparian areas in providing adequate supplies of large woody debris,
- compliance by operators with the requirements of Chapter 17,
- adequacy of the technical assistance and compliance monitoring by state agencies,
- identification and funding of monitoring and research projects to determine the effectiveness of Chapter 17.

AGREEMENT

The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Forestry mutually agree:

1. A joint Board of Fisheries/Board of Forestry committee, not to exceed three members from each body, will be formed to meet at times necessary to review available analyses, issues, and matters of mutual concern, and to report to the full boards as appropriate.
2. The liaisons shall communicate regularly to:
 - a. assist in the identification of issues before their respective boards which may be of interest to the other board,
 - b. consider the sufficiency of the exchange of information and ideas on issues of mutual concern, and
 - c. explore ways of ensuring continued communication between the two boards.
3. Members from each board are encouraged to attend the meetings of the other board and, as authorized by their respective boards, provide testimony and comments on behalf of their board. Each board working with the respective staff or agency personnel shall facilitate this process.
4. This joint protocol agreement expresses the continuing intent of each board until either board provides written notice that it no longer subscribes to the provisions of this agreement.

STATE OF ALASKA
BOARD OF FISHERIES

By: 
Chair

STATE OF ALASKA
BOARD OF FORESTRY

By: 
Chair