

ACR #1 – Close the trapping season for river otter in Units 14A, 14B, and 16.

SUBMITTED BY: Dewey Bitler

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 92.008. Trapping river otter, Central Alaska Units 14A, 14B and 16.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

Lack of salmon to Susitna River drainage caused by the northern pike infestation. Northern Pike eat all the salmon fry. The main predator of Northern Pike is river otters, and their numbers are suppressed by a liberal trapping regulation. River otter start having their pups in January while the trapping season goes until March 31st. The river otter can eat 2-3 pounds of fish a day. We are spending millions of dollars on gillnetting Northern Pike when the river otter can do it for free. At \$100 a pelt it doesn't make sense to pull a predator like that out of the ecosystem.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

Central Region

River Otter

Area 14A, 14B and 16

NO OPEN SEASON

In the future have a shorter season corresponding to mink with a limit of 2.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) To correct an error in regulation.**
- 2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**

We have to do everything we can to help the salmon. There are many problems causing the demise of the salmon. One problem is the Northern Pike infestation that was unforeseen. Everything that Fish and Game has tried has not worked. We need to use every tool available to combat Northern Pike. One tool is the river otter.

- 3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**

Low numbers of salmon return to Susitna River drainage. Low numbers of river otter.
High numbers of Northern Pike.

- 4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?

The benefits far outweigh any inconvenience this ACR would cause. It would make for better trapping opportunities in the future.

- 5) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?

A delay would prolong the absence of salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

River otter numbers will stay suppressed and Northern Pike numbers will increase.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

Hunter and fisherman. I do not want to see Northern Pike expand into lakes I fish for trout

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.

To my knowledge this ACR has not been considered before.