



# NEWS FROM MARY

## Representative Mary Sattler Kapsner

Representing the Lower Kuskokwim and Upper Bristol Bay

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### Resource Issues in 2000 Legislature

It's been a fairly quiet year in both the House Fisheries and House Resources Committees, both of which I serve on in this legislature. It goes without saying we are not addressing subsistence, and with legislative leaders focusing on early budget action to make way for early adjournment, there's been a reduced focus on issues that may involve legislative bill action.

By far and away the most lively discussions we've had have been over wolf control.

One bill of interest to the district may be **HB 108, the Safe Boating Bill**. I supported this bill because it will move the responsibility for safe boating programs from the Coast Guard to the state, allowing us to access funding and develop safe boating messages that are geared toward Alaska boating situations. Alaska's statistics on drownings each year are staggering. I am hopeful that programs geared toward young people will be successful in preventing future boating accidents.

Check out Mary's News on the Web:

<http://www.akdemocrats.org/bios/kapsner.htm>

## Fishermen's Tax Obligation Loan Program

A sale of limited entry permits will be held on April 14 of this year by the Department of Community and Economic Development. A list of the permits that will be auctioned can be found on the Department's web site (<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/investments/permits4sale.htm>). Of the twenty-one permits for sale, five have IRS debt.

I introduced **HB 238** to re-institute a previously existing program that assisted fishermen in paying back taxes following a poor fishing season. The intent of the program is to rescue Alaska limited entry permits from seizure by the IRS. The IRS is under no obligation to re-sell permits to Alaskans, nor are they obligated to sell the permit for its real value. In 1996 one permit valued at \$30,000 was sold by the IRS for only \$5,005. This has the effect of devaluing all commercial fishing permits.

The loan is financed at 10.5 percent, and when the money is returned to the fund it becomes available for other loans, thereby helping other fishermen.

**HB 238** passed both the House Fisheries and House Resources Committee without objection. I am optimistic the House Finance Committee will hear the bill soon, and then it will be ready for a floor vote. Support for the bill has been tremendous. If you have something you'd like to put on the record on the tax obligation loan program, please contact my office. We'll make sure your views are included.

### House Bill 238

Section 1. Authorizes the commercial fishing loan program to make loans to Alaska resident fishermen to satisfy past due federal obligations that may result in the involuntary transfer of their entry permits.

Section 2. Provides that a loan may not be made to satisfy past due IRS debt unless the person has filed tax returns and executed a repayment agreement with the IRS. Limits access to the program to one loan per lifetime. Loan maximum is \$30,000.



### House Resources Schedule for the Week of April 3

Monday, April 3

SJR 39 Encouraging Congress to Open ANWR

HB 426 Transfer of Railroad Land: Chugach Park

HJR 44 Conditions Imposed on States by Federal Govt

Wednesday, April 5

Confirmation Hearing: Board of Fisheries  
names

HJR 60 Habitat for Endangered Eider Ducks