



NEWS FROM *MARY*

Representative Mary Sattler Kapsner

Representing the Lower Kuskokwim and Upper Bristol Bay

E-mail: Representative_Mary_Kapsner@legis.state.ak.us

Mail: State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone: 1-800-323-4942

FAX: 465-4589

Keeping Score: Subsistence “0” Wolves “2”

Sixteen resolutions and bills dealing with subsistence were filed in the 21st legislature. Not one passed this session. On the issue of wolf control, however, the legislature took decisive action. HJR 56 passed the House on a vote of 27 to 11 and the Senate by 14-6. It places on this year's General Election Ballot the question of amending the Constitution to prohibit initiatives relating to wildlife. Senate Bill 267 which allows same day airborne hunting of wolves under certain conditions passed the legislature and was vetoed by the Governor. I joined 41 other legislators to override the veto, sending a strong message about the problems of wolf control and its impact on moose populations.

Alaskans who keep score on the legislature and its record on subsistence are watching four senate races this year. Four seats among the “Senate 8” who voted last September against putting the question of a constitutional amendment for subsistence on this year's ballot are up this year. Regardless of your position on state vs. federal management, keeping our eye on the ball as to who is being elected in seats outside of our district is important. Reapportionment has taken its toll on the numbers of elected representatives from rural Alaska. We've got to pay attention and encourage urban friends and relatives to be active voters and campaigners for candidates who have statesmanship in their blood.

To Reach Mary During the Interim



Mary's Session Staff Pat Jackson and Trim Nick with Mary and Conrad. We all enjoyed a rare Juneau sunny day at the going away picnic for retiring veteran Rep. Ben Grussendorf of Sitka.

My office will remain open and my numbers the same:

call:: 1-800-323-4942 mail to: State Capitol
fax: 465-4589 Juneau, Alaska 99801

It may be slower to reach me through e-mail, so please use Pat's e-mail address as a backup for any message that I should see soon:

Representative_Mary_Kapsner@legis.state.ak.us
Pat_Jackson@legis.state.ak.us

I always appreciate hearing from you. Do keep in touch, and have a safe summer--on both land and water!

Mary

The Kenaitze Decision

On May 20 the federal subsistence board found that all communities on the Kenai Peninsula are rural for the purposes of subsistence. The Kenai is rural for numerous other federal programs. For the Kenaitze, it is simple logic that they should be viewed as rural for subsistence as well.

This decision is only a first step. The federal subsistence board must still act on a specific proposal before determining which fish stocks and game populations qualify for customary and traditional use. They would also have to propose regulations. Board allocations are made in the fall, so there will be no change this summer.

Senator Murkowski has announced he will hold an oversight hearing on the decision in early August in Anchorage.

While the federal subsistence board's decision has many Alaskans worried, some of whom use decisions like this to create flash points in public opinion. When talking about this issue, we can remind others that

- the decision applies only to federal public lands
- subsistence uses are a very small percent of harvest (1% of 4 million salmon in 1980)
- customary & traditional use still must be established
- not every community on the Kenai will be able to establish C&T
- Title VIII was intended to protect the subsistence rights of people like the Kenaitze Tribe.

