



# *Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.*

A non-profit, community service organization

October 10, 2016

RE - Update to Alaska's Fish Habitat Permitting under Title 16

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fish Members,

At the Talkeetna Community Council, Inc. (TCCI) Oct. 3rd meeting, the board voted unanimously to support the salmon habitat proposal seeking Board of Fish action to recommend a legislative update to Alaska's fish habitat permitting under Title 16 ( AS 16.05.871 )

As a community that depends on healthy rivers and salmon populations, we believe that Title 16 should be updated to ensure that development is done in a responsible manner that protects the sustainability of our fisheries resources and our regional economy. Ensuring healthy Mat Su salmon habitat is a key factor in the continued vitality of river based recreation businesses and local tourism which host over 300,000 tourists each year - creating 5400 jobs and generating \$200 million annually.

TCCI has been involved in the review of many projects in the Susitna and Talkeetna River basins which require the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to issue permits for uses which may impact fish habitat. While the intent of Title 16, is sound, it lacks specific criteria that define how fish habitat will be protected and the level of development activity that should be allowed. TCCI respects the work the Board of Fish has undertaken in developing strong habitat provisions in its Sustainable Salmon Policy. These provisions should be incorporated in decision making when issuing permits within anadromous fish habitat.

*Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.*  
*P.O. Box 608, Talkeetna AK 99676*

As the state faces an ever increasing number of applications to develop projects in fish habitat, we support a Board of Fish action recommending that the habitat protection provisions of the Sustainable Salmon Policy be added to Title 16 ( AS 16. 05. 871 )

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Whitney Wolff  
Chair / TCCI

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