



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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January 16, 2020

Katie Koester
Homer City Manager
kkoester@ci.homer.ak.us

Ms. Koester:

Thank you for forwarding the Homer City Council Ordinance received in my inbox 12/23/2019 concerning the proposed repeal of 5AAC 95.310.

In the ordinance, the city council asked three requests of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I have repeated them here, for clarity, with a response to each.

1. Provide the scientific and technical information supporting its proposed rule change in a timely manner so the City of Homer and local residents can better understand and comment on the issues presented.
 - The science used throughout the process is inconclusive that personal watercraft have any affect, more or less, on fish and wildlife and their uses than other watercraft. Most of the comments received were speculation on “potential” issues arising from behaviors that can also be conducted on other watercraft currently not prohibited from the critical habitat area.
2. Your ordinance asked that the Comment Period be extended for 90 days to allow local residents sufficient time to comment meaningfully on the proposed rule change.
 - Since original comment period was held around a couple of holidays and we had a few requests such as yours, we extended the period for 15 more days to allow all Alaska residents to comment meaningfully.
3. The ordinance asked for an explanation why this rule change should not be considered as part of the ongoing revision process for the Area Management Plan.
 - We are addressing it outside the plan process because it is a stand-alone regulation, outside the plan itself.

If you have any further questions please contact me at rick.green@alaska.gov, or by phone at 907-267-2228.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Green", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Green
Special Assistant to the Commissioner

CC: Sarah Vance, Representative, Legislature, State of Alaska