

RC014



**FRIENDS OF
THE
ANCHORAGE
COASTAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE (FAR)**

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Attn: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and game
Board Support Section
*P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
*sent by email dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov with attachment

Subject: FAR supports Proposal 63 with amendment; opposes Proposal 62

2017 November 6

Dear Board of Game Members:

I write on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) with comments about two proposals under consideration at the 2017 November BOG meeting in anchorage.

1. FAR opposes Proposal 62.
2. FAR supports Proposal 63 with the amendment outlined by Rick Sinnott, which reads as follows: "add feral and free-ranging cats to the state's list of deleterious exotic wildlife (5 AAC 92.990[a][52]. This would automatically add feral and free-ranging cats to the list of animals that may not be intentionally fed by a person per 5 AAC 92.230."

FAR is a 501 (c3) non-profit organization of citizens and professionals whose mission is to preserve the integrity and biological diversity of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (ACWR). This easily damaged subarctic saltmarsh system supports an unusual diversity of plants, birds, mammals and invertebrates, and is of continental conservation significance. The proximity of the refuge to Alaska's largest city makes it important for public education and enjoyment but also makes it highly vulnerable.

FAR's volunteers have conducted numerous wildlife and habitat use surveys relating to the ACWR and have observed that feral and free-ranging cats are detrimental to birds and other wildlife and are cognizant of farther reaching negative ramifications to humans. We appreciate the documentation by many commenters opposing #62 and supporting #63, including Rick Sinnott, The American Bird Conservancy, Audubon Alaska, the Municipality of Anchorage, and many additional knowledgeable Alaska professionals and citizens.

We ask that you put an end to this unconscionable and wasteful destruction of Alaska wildlife now by adopting Proposal 63 with the aforementioned amendment. Thank you for your dedication and consideration.

Sincerely,
Barbara Švarný Carlson
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President and Executive Director