

Points of Interest For the Assembly From the Feb. SEAPA Meeting

* **HR 219 Swan Lake bill**-- (a bill to adjust land ownership boundaries around Swan Lake) has passed out of the House of Representatives and is now in the Senate. The significance of the bill to the communities is about \$1 million savings on the next FERC re-licensing.

* **Tyee ROV Inspection**-- The Board voted unanimously to proceed with an RFQ to inspect the penstock at Tyee with a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV). The tunnel has never been inspected since commissioned 33 years ago. The 8200' tunnel passes through 3 fault zones and has a rock trap at the base. The ROV is equipped with a 360 degree video camera that will take a video of the tunnel, feeding the video to a remote that will store the data for later review. There is some risk associated with this inspection which I will discuss.

***Stand For Salmon Ballot Initiative and Alaska HB 199** (Rep. Stutes)-- establish a presumption that all state waters in Alaska support salmon until proven otherwise. Each bill approaches that presumption in different ways. Stand For Salmon Ballot Initiative requires a sweeping rewrite of Alaska's water quality regulations and imposes a two-tiered process for permitting of new and existing projects. HB 199 puts the presumption responsibility on Alaska Department of Fish and Game but allows all residents the right to challenge that determination. HB 199 specifically addresses existing dams and obstructions. Both the Initiative and HB 199 place burden of proof and costs on the applicant to prove that no anadromous fish exist; applies to individuals, municipalities, and businesses; can be required repeatedly for any future changes or upgrades to a project; must be renewed every five years; and apply to existing projects. Here is a link to an article in the Anchorage Daily News regarding the effects of the Stand For Salmon Initiative. HB 199 can be accessed on the state Congressional website.

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/2018/02/09/stand-for-salmon-initiative-imposes-excessive-burden-on-alaskans/>

Respectfully submitted by Bob Lynn, Petersburg's SEAPA Board Delegate