

Task Force Members:

Ghost Dollars and Economics



Members of the sport fishing community testified concerning the economic value of sport vs. commercial fishing. In making these unsubstantial comments, most of this “economic benefit” really does not exist.

A couple of examples:

1. A person from the Chicago area travels to Alaska for sport fishing; 2 days traveling and 3 days in Alaska:

	<u>Location of Expenditures</u>		
	<u>Alaska \$\$</u>	<u>Lower 48 \$\$</u>	<u>Total \$\$</u>
Air Fare	200	1000	1200
Airport Parking	--	200	200
Car Rental (4 @ \$100)	400	--	400
Gas / Car	100	100	200
Meals (5 @ \$60)	200	100	300
Lodging (4 @ \$125)	500	--	500
Guide Fees (2 @ 200)	400	--	400
Fishing Gear	100	300	400
Total	\$1600	\$2000	\$3600



The majority (\$2000) of the costs never enter the Alaskan economy. The majority of the costs occur in the economy of the Lower 48. It is misleading to apply the full \$3600 to the sport fishing economy of Alaska.

2. A person travels from the Mat-Su to halibut fish at Homer; 3 day trip:

Fuel – 30 gal @ \$4.50	135
Meals – 3 @ \$50	150
Charter – 1 @ \$225	225
Gear/Ice	<u>25</u>
Total	\$535



It is deceptive and misleading to include the \$535 for this Homer halibut trip in the “sport fishing” economy when discussing **salmon** issues. Be careful when discussing **salmon** economics that the term “sport fishing economic benefits” **only include salmon sport fishing**. The term “sport fishing economic benefit” includes trout, grayling, halibut, rockfish, ling cod and salmon fisheries. In all sport fishing activity, both the consumptive and non-consumptive economic benefits are included. These comprehensive economic values are presented as applying only to **salmon** when **salmon** allocations are discussed. When **halibut** allocations were being discussed, these same comprehensive economic benefits were presented as applying to **halibut**.



These above examples are, in part, what Dr. Gunnar Knapp referred to as inappropriate values or economics when making comparisons. Most of the economic values presented at the Soldotna hearing had Lower 48 “ghost” economic values included. Also, all sport fish economic benefits that were given were collective values for all species of sport fish and were not only salmon economic values.

Sincerely,

Roland Maw

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