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Press Release

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Alaska Consumers Protected by Registered Guide Outfitter License Actions

(Juneau, AK) – On January 25, 2013, the Big Game Commercial Services Board (board) took action to protect consumers and protect Alaska's carefully-managed wildlife resources by revoking the license of Registered Guide-Outfitter Michael C. Vanning, Jr., of Washington Gateway Guiding. On February 13, 2013, the board accepted Michael H. Vanning, Sr., of Silver Star Guiding's offer to surrender his Registered Guide-Outfitter license.

Big Game Guides are professional hunters who, for compensation, provide guiding services, equipment, and transportation to big game hunters in Alaska's vast outdoors.

Father and son Michael H. Vanning, Sr., and Michael C. Vanning, Jr., were involved in multiple violations of State Fish and Wildlife and Big Game Commercial Services statutes and regulations pertaining to their business as Big Game Guides in Alaska from 2007 through 2011.

In September 2012, the Attorney General's Office for the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, (division) filed a 69-count accusation against Michael C. Vanning of Gateway Guiding, compiling the efforts of Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Wildlife Investigation Unit, Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals, and division investigators assigned to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

The accusation included two cases of wanton waste of a bull moose harvested by the clients of Gateway Guiding, multiple violations of Guide Use Area statutes, unlicensed guiding activities, trespassing, breach of contract, unsworn falsification,

the harvest of sublegal Dall sheep, and aiding and allowing the commission of a violation.

Similar violations were being pursued against Michael H. Vanning, Sr. of Silver Star Guiding when he voluntarily surrendered his license.

The mission of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing is to ensure that competent, professional and regulated commercial services are available to Alaska consumers. The division is one of several within the department tasked with consumer protection, along with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Division of Banking and Securities, and the Division of Insurance. For more information about the department, visit www.commerce.alaska.gov.

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