

January, 2014

To the board of fish members and any other interested parties:

I'm Dan Anderson, a 3rd generation commercial fisherman, originating from the Great Lakes region of the United States. I started crewing on a Drift boat in Cook Inlet in 1986, purchased said boat and permit in 1989. My family with 3 children resides in Homer.

All during this fish board meeting you are going hear and see numerous facts and opinions. All of which will not mean a thing if we don't take care of the fish habitat. The in river things that have went on and look to continue scare the by Jesus out of me. Most users seem to turn a blind eye to the facts of what we humans have done to fish habitat, sadly it continues.

Invasive plants, fish, humans (yes humans are also a form of invasive species as far as the fish are concerned). Left unchecked the mentioned will most certainly forever alter and destroy the rivers our salmon need to thrive. Spawn, rear, and return back to complete their life cycle and hopefully begin the next one.

The many things that are going on in the rivers and lakes really concern me. As little as some may seem to most they are not to me. Having come from the Great Lakes invasive species are somewhat a sore spot with me. I experienced the mussel invasion of the Great Lakes first hand. First it was the Shallow water Zebra mussel, and then came its deep water cousin the Quagga mussel which even displaced the Zebra mussel from its new environment. In many places of the lakes they are many layers thick. Both arrived in ballast water discharge from the Black and Caspian Seas. As small as they may seem about the size of a quarter very small compared to the size of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes are the largest surface freshwater system on earth. They have 21% of the world's supply of surface fresh water. Mussels are a filter feeder that all but wiped out the lower end of the food chain. Size, growth rates, and overall health of the native species sport and commercial, in the Lakes have been dramatically altered (Lake Superior is the only lake of the 5 that to date hasn't been completely colonized by these invasive demons). The commercial fisheries and sport fisheries have felt the financial pain of this invasive species, along with the many support businesses.

I ask myself at times do we have a demon in Alaska also. What could we do to fend it off if it's getting close?

I feel at times with the way current management gets manipulated in the political arena that the humans may very well be every bit as bad as the mussels in the Great Lakes.

I ask this board to do the right thing for the fish, and don't worry about public opinion. I believe that is your assignment on this board. Use the best available science in making management decisions with this magnificent resource. Don't over escape the rivers and lakes as they all have a limited carrying capacity to provide for the fry and smolt. Leave all the fish that make it to the spawning grounds alone (even if it's somebody's favorite fishing hole). Try to get a handle on invasive species like Pike, it makes no sense

to put fish in the rivers so the Pike can eat. Try to address the hydrocarbons in the rivers and lakes. At all times keep in mind that the world we live in has a fragile sense of balance. Don't allow management decisions to be made in the halls and back rooms in Juneau.

In closing I would like to add

Without habitat nothing flourishes!

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Anderson

41140 China Poot Street

Homer, Alaska 99603

(414)788-5197