

RC 207

Elbridge G. Walker
McRoberts Creek
Palmer, AK 99645
(480) 747 5725

February 7, 2014

Re: Proposal Requesting Board of Fisheries to make an Advisory Recommendation to Legislature and Mat-Su Borough for Funding of Eradicating Invasive Species in the Susitna Drainage and West Cook Inlet.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board Members,

After my testimony today I thought it would be wise to ask the Board to take an advisory vote only to send the State Legislature and the Mat-Su Valley Assembly a message that there is a serious Invasive Species concern with Pike in the Northern District/Mat-Su Valley and the Board believes that this is a very warranted concern.

I would ask this advisory vote be taken with just some basic parameters for funding this Pike eradication in the Northern District and then could be used later for other areas in Alaska where invasive species become a concern. The following ideas could be a starting point:

That \$5-10 dollars be added to the cost of all sport fishing licenses for residents and a \$10-20 dollar Invasive Species and Restocking Fee and could be added to all sport fishing licenses for non-residents. This fee would also alert residents and non-residents that introducing such species is a Natural Stock killer. Just suggestions of course and could be evaluated further.

That enough of a tax levy in the Mat-Su Valley be assessed on all property owners to raise

2-3 million dollars annually to help with the eradication through possible Derbys followed by the restocking/aquaculture needed to fund and replace the loss of salmon stocks due to Invasive Species. Any money not used could be put into a culvert repair program for the Mat-Su Valley salmon in order of need and economic value.

That a \$10 Bounty be placed on all pike under 18 inches and a \$15 dollar bounty be placed on all of those over 18 inches. This would be funded by the income raised through the Invasive Species Fee

collected on fishing license sales. This fee could even be collected if a commercial fishery was opened for pike, to help get it started and possibly profitable. Collection or verification stations and areas of those stations in relationship to open areas would be determined by ADF&G.

I believe this is a good start and strong message to bring back the stocks in the Northern District or possibly other areas of the state. As a large property owner in the Mat-Su Borough I am willing to put my money where my mouth is and help all Alaskans recover their failing salmon stocks.