

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries

RC 064

January 31st, 2014

From: Terry Umatum / 2125 Dahl Ln #3 Anchorage, AK 99503

I have lived and sport fished in Alaska since the mid 1970's and I also helped operate a set net site out of Kasilof as a summer job in 1989. I am writing to you in order to air my concerns for the Kenai King Salmon, which in my opinion is a unique resource that needs your urgent attention to keep from being decimated in the years to come. I have stopped fishing the Kenai for Kings going on three years now as I watched the returns dwindle and the escapement goals reduced. I made a conscious decision to stop fishing for that particular species and was hopeful that others would follow suit. To my dismay I have only watched as the commercial operations in Cook Inlet are still fishing as usual as sport fishing and guided fishing has been curtailed by emergency orders dictating catch and release, slot limits and or stopped completely. The fact that commercial interests are not willing to stop their fleets and nets from profiting on the backs of our shared resource (Kenai Kings) tells me that they are not in fact interested in saving or preserving this particular resource, only in annual profits derived from the sockeye fishery. This is a shared resource and therefore the consequences of managing a dwindling resource should be shared equally; right now it appears as though the consequences are only felt by the sport fishing angler and or the guides who are losing business because of the limits imposed on all sport fishermen. I would ask that the responsibility is equally shared along with the resource (King Salmon) so if there are any limits put on the sport fishing community then equal limits should be put on the commercial interests as well, up to and including closing the commercial fleet during peak times until the Kenai Kings can recover and start to exceed their goals for escapement. Please help these fish recover by enacting common sense limits on the commercial industry and the sport fishing community so that some day I can return to the river with my son and still have an opportunity to fish for a mighty Kenai King salmon.

Thank you for your time and attention

Terry Umatum

