

Proposal 163

Madam Chair and members of the Board.

I would like to address proposal 163 and clarify a few points the author had stated.

First the author stated, PU participants do not pay for management. This is to the contrary, Alaskan residents have to be in possession of a sport fishing license to participate in a PU fishery. PU fishers also buy gear which has D.J. excise tax collected. Division of Fish uses the funds collected from sport fishing license sales to get the D.J. match to manage fisheries in the state.

Secondly the author states: "Personal use fisheries have been entirely to give residents an opportunity to participate in subsistence style fisheries, feeding their families despite living in a non subsistence zone,". The author must not have any knowledge of the McDowell, Alaska Supreme Court decision. All Alaskans are eligible to participate in subsistence opportunities no matter where a person domicile. Also, there are no restrictions on persons living in a non-subsistence area, from living a subsistence life style. In fact many resident that reside in non-subsistence areas and harvest their wild resources needs, with in that area, are living a subsistence life style.

Lastly, I do not support this proposal. I do use a transporter to access the resource to fulfill my families wild fish needs. Without that service, it would be much more difficult or near impossible to access the resource, due to the limit fishing spots available. Thus, not having a transporter would create crowding and competition on those limited access points to the fishery.

I also do not support taxing or enacting a fee on transporters. This tax or fee would just be passed on to the user. I am sure all transporters have a current sport fishing license, which contributes also to the funding of fish management.

Do not support.

Al Barrette