

March 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5524

Attn: Art Nelson, Executive Director

Chairperson Carlson-Van Dort and Members of the Board of Fisheries,

Our names are Karen and Richard McGahan and Leah and Tony Jackson. We setnet in the Kenai District on the Eastside of Upper Cook Inlet. We support finding an **Emergency** on RC3, RC4 and RC33 Emergency Petitions that were submitted for consideration at this Statewide meeting. Each one of these RC's offers possible relief for the Eastside Setnet fishery the 2023 season. Each one has merit.

We are in support of the Alaska Board of Fish finding an emergency on RC 3, RC 4 and RC 33 based on the cycle change of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Upper Cook Inlet fisheries being delayed due to COVID 19.

Emergency Order (EO #2S-1-23) was issued last week officially closing the Eastside Setnet before the 2023 salmon season begins. With no chance to defend the unattainable OEG for Late Run Kenai River Chinook Salmon that was adopted by the Board in 2020, due process has been denied our fishing families because our meeting cycle has been delayed by a year. We are left with no way to request relief from this Board other than the emergency petition process.

5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy. In (d) it states : **The public has come to rely on this regular participatory process as the basis for changing fish and game regulations. Commercial fishermen, processors, guides, trappers, hunters, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, and others plan business and recreational ventures around the outcome of these public meetings.**

We feel that an emergency indeed exists based on the regulatory relief that our fishery has been denied. The board could not have foreseen or expected that a pandemic that would require a drastic change in the schedule that our commercial fishing families have come to rely on with our regular board cycle. We believe that this delay will threaten a fish and game resource, potentially resulting in large sockeye over-escapement into the Kenai and Kasilof rivers as was the case in the 2021 and 2022 seasons.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important request.

Karen and Richard McGahan and Leah and Tony Jackson

Kenai, Alaska