

To: **THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISH IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSAL 103**

Date: January, 2014

The undersigned, all residents of the Old Believer Village of Nikolaevsk, Alaska, respectfully submit this letter, opposing proposal 103 submitted by the Kenai River Sport fishing Association (KRSA). Our small village is a community of fishing families that rely heavily on the Cook Inlet Salmon Drift Fishery. Our lives and culture are intricately entwined and dependent on it. We oppose proposal 103 for the following reasons.

WE OPPOSE PROPOSAL 103 FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. 103 forces restrictions on the Alaska department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) that unnecessarily and unreasonably interfere with its ability to effectively manage mixed stock fisheries.
2. 103 will undermine ADF&G's ability to manage for abundance and sustained yield.
3. 103 is weak stock management that will reduce some already healthy stocks to weak stock status as a consequence of over escapement.
4. 103 would cause waste and threatens the harvest of the surplus salmon, which will result in over escapement. This in turn results in diminished future returns which all results in extreme loss in economic value and the eventual demise of a sustainable and viable commercial Drift Fisheries.
5. 103 distracts from the real serious and growing problem regarding reduced in- river production problems. This problem is in large part the results of increasing encroachment on crucial in- river habitat due to recreational and other demands on salmon producing habitats by the concentrated and growing populations of urban Alaska. Other problems, such as predation by foreign species like northern pike contribute as well. These problems will only be made worse by the elimination of the Drift Fleet or the continuation of certain unnecessary and unreasonable restrictions on it.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

We Oppose Proposal 103 because it would undermine ADF&G's ability to effectively manage and cause waste of surplus fish. It would cause over escapement which causes reduced future returns and threatens sustainable yield. 103 would bankrupt the commercial drift fleet and by this process of elimination would create special privilege to other user groups. This is prohibited by Article VIII of Alaska's Constitution which clearly establishes that the salmon resources of the state should be developed in ways that are not wasteful, biologically exhaustive, rooted in special privilege, narrowly selfish or contrary to the rights of others and to the larger public interest.

Finally, we oppose 103 on the grounds of what we consider good healthy skepticism. 103 is a proposal submitted by the Kenai River Sports Association which is closely aligned in both leadership and purpose with the recently founded Alaska Fisheries Conservation Alliance. This group is attempting to have commercial set netting banned (eliminated) in Cook Inlet based on

weak stock management, the same management scheme proposed by KRSA in proposal 103. We are skeptical that 103's real purpose may be aimed at the elimination of the Drift Fleet and eventually all commercial fishing in Alaska, a purpose that we oppose whole heartedly.

We encourage the Board to take the necessary time to address these issues in-depth at the upcoming meeting so that we can work together to resolve the problems threatening Cook Inlet Salmon, our Drift fishery and our way of life.

Sincerely,

The Residents of the Fishing Village of Nikolaevsk

Name:	Date:	
STASHA KALUGIN <i>Stasha Kalugin</i>	1-24-2014	President of Nikolaevsk Community
KARSON DORAN <i>Karson Doran</i>	1-24-14	SECRETARY NIKOLAEVSK COMM
Ben F Holub <i>Ben F Holub</i>	1/27/14	Member Nikolaevsk Comm. Counc.
Fr. Nikolai P <i>Fr. Nikolai P</i>	1-24-14	— permit holder
Mat Mashashev <i>Mat Mashashev</i>	1-24-14	— permit holder
Ivan Mandrieff <i>Ivan Mandrieff</i>	1-24-14	fisherman
Gary <i>Gary</i>	1-24-14	— fisherman
Yakov <i>Yakov</i>	1-24-14	fisherman wife
Mylen <i>Mylen</i>	1-24-14	permit holder
Anna <i>Anna</i>	1-24-14	RESIDENT
Alley <i>Alley</i>	1-24-14	Permit holder
Ray <i>Ray</i>	1-24-14	resident
Anna <i>Anna</i>	1-24-14	commercial fisherman
Christina <i>Christina</i>	1-24-14	deck hand
Natasha <i>Natasha</i>	1-24-14	boat owner
Sira <i>Sira</i>	1/24/14	BOAT OWNER

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Name:	Date:	
Christopher Kallous a lumpy	1-24-14	fisherman
Kareya Kallous	1/24/14	Permit holder
Matt J. Smith	1/24/14	boat owner
Lure J. Smith	1/24/14	Boat owner
Vasily A. Yakovlev	1/24/14	Boat owner/permit holder
Victor Yakovlev	1-25-14	boat owner Permit holder
Steve Fefelov	1-25-14	Boat Owner Permit
Vitaly Fefelov	1-25-14	Crew
MARC Fefelov	1-25-14	Crew
Anatoli Fefelov	1-25-14	Crew
Jim Engbretsen	1-25-14	Permit holder boat
Alex Savitski	1-25-14	Crew
Dominik Marushev	1-25-14	Permit Holder
Kenny Fefelov	1-25-14	Crew
Christine Weir	1-25-14	Personal Use
Joe	1-25-14	fisherman
Matt J.	1-25-14	fisherwoman/Net Hanger
Matt Panerat	Matt Panerat 1-25-14	Permit/Boat owner Professional Network
Michelle	Martin Elbert 1-25-14	Fisherman
Carole L. Silva	ERNEST K SILVA 1-27-14	Sport Fisherman
Carole L. Silva	CAROL L. SILVA 1/27/14	Sport fisherwoman
Neil Gordeev	1-27-14	Cook Inlet Crew member

Name: *[Handwritten signature]*

Date: *1-27-14*

DIMITRY MELKONYAN PLATONNER PERMIT HOLDER
MARKELL MELKONYAN CREW - PERMIT HOLDER