

RC47

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Members,

In the recent years we have experienced the lowest numbers of fish returning to the Mat-Su drainage on record. Sports fishermen have given up and have quit buying fishing licenses and the result has been the lowest number angler days in Northern Cook Inlet in over 35 years. The result is a serious negative impact to our community.

The very low numbers of fish returning to the Mat-Su is a very serious issue economically locally, and since 7 of the 11 Stocks of Concern are present in the Mat-Su Drainage it is a serious issue for the State of Alaska.

We have fished in the Mat-Su for over 40 years and have personally witnessed the drastic decline of fish returning. I have personally witnessed the devastation of rivers like the Lewis River and Alexander Creek.

Please hear the plea of our volunteer board of fish experts, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission. They are not radicals but share a common concern for the deterioration of the fish returns here.

They ask that the commercial fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet be managed more like the world's most successful salmon fishery, Bristol Bay. They ask that an adequate number of northern-bound fish be allowed to pass by the commercial nets.

I wholly support our Fish Commission's list of recommendations.

Once the wild salmon runs are gone we will all suffer!

Thank you for working toward the sustainability of salmon for ALL Alaskans.

Thank you,

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