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**Alaska Salmon Alliance Testimony to The Alaska Board of Fisheries
 on Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Fisheries
 Arni Thomson Executive Director
 February 1, 2014**

Good day Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Fisheries, my name is Arni Thomson, I am Executive Director of the Alaska Salmon Alliance with offices in Kenai and Anchorage, Alaska. The Alaska Salmon Alliance (ASA) represents Snug Harbor Sfds., Pacific Star Seafoods, Icicle Seafoods, Great Pacific Seafoods, Inlet Processors and Fishhawk Seafoods, all registered Alaskan corporations with plants and operations throughout the Kenai Peninsula. ASA is also comprised of numerous fishermen supporters that reside on the Peninsula. Our companies and fishermen have for decades been economically dependent on the sockeye salmon production of drift net boats and shorebased set net independent family owned businesses on the Kenai Peninsula, as the main stay product that supports our operations. **The commercial sockeye salmon fishery is the core fishery that is responsible for us being able to maintain plant operations on the Peninsula, and to attract halibut, black cod, and Pacific cod from this region, and to also attract salmon species from other regions, including Bristol Bay, the Yukon River, Kotzebue and Prince William Sound.** We depend on regulatory stability and we have a pressing need for an orderly harvest spread out over an extended period of time to insure premium product quality and to maintain a stable labor force.

The ASA has submitted two on time public comments, PC 198 and 199, RC 79 and 87. PC 198 is a list of 239 persons and their contact information who responded to an ASA web site request for persons who wished their names to be counted as supporters of an ASA Save Our Kings request to the Board of Fisheries "to take decisive and immediate action to protect spawning king salmon and their freshwater spawning and rearing habitat within the Kenai River."

PC 199 is an anthology of 25 published articles about the Cook Inlet and Kenai River salmon fisheries conflict. The purpose of the submission is to assist Board of Fisheries members and the public in recalling the numerous newsworthy events involving the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries over the last twelve months. Included in the selection are numerous articles that have been authored by the commercial fishermen and representatives recommending mutual respect, sharing of the harvest, cooperation and dialogue to seek common ground in an open public process that will lead to an increase in abundance of Cook Inlet salmon resources.

Finally RC 79 is an economic summary of the significance of Kenai Peninsula salmon and other fisheries. This illustrates that Cook Inlet salmon fisheries are a huge economic driver for the region, with an economic footprint of \$350 million which includes an annual payroll over \$100 million for 5,000 persons directly employed in the industry.