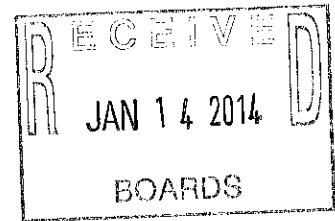


Steve O'Hara
7001 Crooked Tree Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

January 8, 2014



RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows. I am a part of Alaska and enjoy the benefits of working here through the tough winters for the privilege to fish. I use the fish for my family and health as a natural resource that was provided. I do not depend on this natural resource for a income or make a profit of it but rather spend thousands of dollars in our community to fish - go fishing and try to catch fish.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

I support proposals:

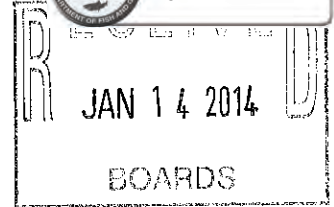
#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting) households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3



- #161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River
- #112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing
- #156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing
- #248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes
- #126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits
- #139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

I have traveled to Kenai, Valdez and many other parts where the fish have ran heavy to provide for my family only to be ruined or pushed out by commercial fisheries set netting on the beach, seiners taking every living thing in the water and having no regard to the public. People who live in Alaska and try to use the resource for their own source should and will always support the local economy then a fishery selling the resource and spending the dollars outside of Alaska. Many of the fishing boats are parked all winter and many of these owners work where in the winter months? I work and stay here. The local people deserve a privilege of their resource over commercial fisheries and out of state permits. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. As you consider the many proposals, remember - Long Live the Kings!
Sincerely,

Steve O'Hara

Steve, O'Hara
7001 Crooked Tree Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

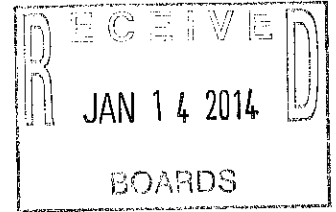
Email address: halibuteye@gmail.com
Phone number: 907-952-4964
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen

Michael Hale
553 beluga ave
Jber, AK 99505

January 8, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai River king salmon are world famous - but today they face an uncertain future. I urge you to take responsible action to help return these giants to a healthy population. At the upcoming Board of Fisheries for Upper Cook Inlet, I ask that you to take a serious look at king salmon conservation. These are some thoughts about issues you will consider.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye



Thank you for your service to responsible fisheries management in Alaska. I can think of no higher priority than to deal successfully and in a forthright manner with the crisis we are now facing with the Kenai River king salmon. Their future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Michael Hale

Michael hHale
553 beluga ave
Jber, AK 99505



Email address: itsmemikehale@yahoo.com

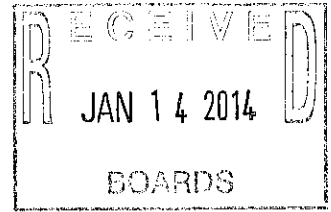
Phone number: (530) 329-6519

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen

Andrew Jorgenson
2000 Banbury Cir
Anchorage, AK 99504

January 9, 2014



RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet will be critical for the sustainability of Kenai River king salmon and all other kings in Cook Inlet, many of which are stocks of concern. The abrupt fall in numbers of kings in the Inlet should be a red flag to all concerned parties. I urge you to action to deal with the conservation of kings at your upcoming meeting. My views on certain proposals are as follows.

My name is Andy Jorgenson. I have been an Alaskan since the 1970's and have very much enjoyed fishing here. I am very concerned about the fisheries decline in general.

It is an injustice to manage important Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries for the yield interests of commercial fisheries instead of maximum sustained returns that would benefit all user groups. Such management shortchanges everyone by reducing future returns and invites overfishing. It is vital to have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits



#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kaslof sockeye

This is very important to me in order to keep our fisheries great and to do as much as we can to stop their decline. I believe restrictions should be proportionate to the percentage of fish different groups pull. That means commercial fishing should also take on a large burden of the restrictions. I understand this is hard because they are so large and care about their jobs, but the bigger picture is to save our fisheries.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries faces an urgent responsibility to give clear direction on how best to mitigate the king salmon disaster occurring in Cook Inlet and on the Kenai River. Simply lowering escapement numbers and then maintaining status quo management is not a recipe for long-term success. I urge you to take the necessary time to fully work through the king salmon conservation and management issues at your next meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. There is no higher priority than this.

Sincerely,

Andy Jorgenson

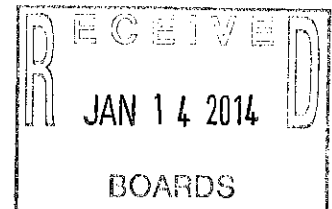
Andrew Jorgenson
2000 Banbury Cir
Anchorage, AK 99504

Email address: jorgenson1@alaska.com

Phone number: 9073334609

Additional information about me:

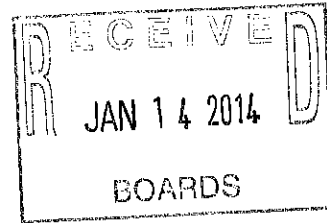
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Darrel VandeWeg
PO Box 55381
North Pole, AK 99705

January 9, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. Angler hours have dropped by 80 percent and harvest rates are 95 percent less than a decade ago. We are barely, if at all, making minimum escapements for kings on the Kenai and many other rivers in Cook Inlet. Although king salmon declines are a statewide issue, it is an emergency situation here. For your next meeting, I will share with you a couple of important ideas for your consideration.

I live in Salcha, and have family in North Pole, Anchorage and Sterling. We love dip netting and love the time that this sport brings us together as a family. Why are the few fish that my family takes more detrimental to the king run than the commercial fisheries who take huge swaths at a time? Last year, while we were fishing the Kenai River, we could tell when the commercial fisheries opened. We went from catching some fish to there being absolutely nothing in the water. We were all very disappointed in the Alaska Board of Fisheries who had decided that commercial fishing was more important than the residents of the state of Alaska.

King salmon are a sport fish priority in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Sport fisheries benefit more from greater abundances of fish, not less. We benefit from managing Kenai River king salmon fisheries for maximum sustained return, not minimum escapement goals. Making sure we have healthy escapements to deliver larger returns of kings is critical.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

In these times of historic low returns of king salmon to Cook Inlet and especially to the Kenai River, all user groups must share equitably in the burden of conservation. Sport anglers have seen harvest rates on the Kenai River for king salmon decline by 95 percent, while personal use (dipnetters) have foregone any harvest opportunity for Kenai kings the last two years. Meanwhile, in 2013, despite record-low numbers of king salmon, a severely restricted sport fishery and escapement goals barely being met, commercial set net sockeye fishermen were granted significant net-in-the-water time until near the end of the season.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I support increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal use (dipnetting) fishing in Cook Inlet. Alaskans greatly depend upon the fish harvested in these fisheries. The social, recreational, cultural and economic values generated in these fisheries are much greater in value than those generated in the area's commercial salmon fisheries. As a public resource, it makes most sense to manage Cook Inlet



salmon resources for the greatest number of Alaskans - those that fish and harvest in the sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

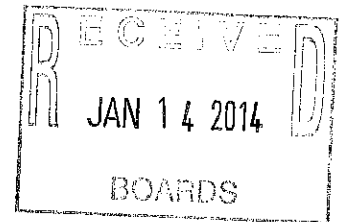
My family uses the fish we catch as a staple for our diet. The loss of the sport fisheries due to Alaska Board of Fisheries sanctioned commercial over-fishing is surprising to me. I thought the purpose of the board was to make sure that ALL users get a fair shake, not just the commercial users. It makes me wonder if the Alaska Board of Fisheries is getting a little extra "thank you" from the commercial fisheries industry to keep allowing them to over fish OUR waters, while screwing the rest of Alaskan sports fisherman!!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. As you consider the many proposals, remember - Long Live the Kings!

Sincerely,

Darrel VandeWeg

Darrel VandeWeg
PO Box 55381
North Pole, AK 99705



Email address: Darrel@freemanfirearms.com

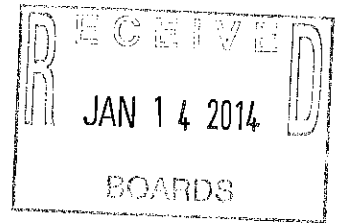
Phone number: 907-322-9884

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen

Matt Wymer
151 Shelly Marie Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

January 9, 2014



RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I enjoy fishing in Alaska. It is resource that residents, visitors, and commercial fishermen must all be able to access. I am willing to have short term impacts on ALL groups in order to build a sustainable future. Please ensure that ALL groups face restrictions and not just sportsmen. Fish are a vital part of Alaska's economy and must be carefully managed.

As ocean productivity seems to be in a general statewide decline for king salmon, I think it is a mistake to lower escapement goals as a management response. Fewer spawners seem to bear fewer fish and it can be a reinforcing downward cycle. We must have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon in our rivers. This will maximize the overall size of the returns. Larger returns greatly reduce our risks for overfishing this invaluable resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries faces an urgent responsibility to give clear direction on how best to mitigate the king salmon disaster occurring in Cook Inlet and on the Kenai River. Simply lowering escapement numbers and then maintaining status quo management is not a recipe for long-term success. I urge you to take the necessary time to fully work through the king salmon conservation and management issues at your next meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. There is no higher priority than this.

Sincerely,
Matt Wymer

Matt Wymer



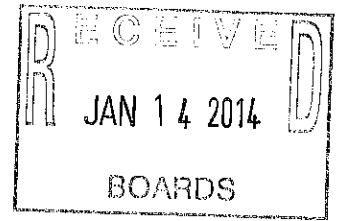
151 Shelly Marie Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

Email address: mattwymer@yahoo.com

Phone number: 9074402489

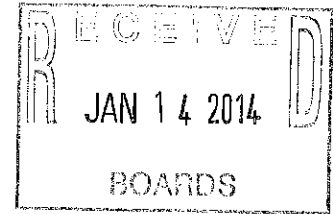
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen



Adam Davis-Turak
PO BOX 2163
Valdez, AK 99686

January 10, 2014



RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet will be critical for the sustainability of Kenai River king salmon and all other kings in Cook Inlet, many of which are stocks of concern. The abrupt fall in numbers of kings in the Inlet should be a red flag to all concerned parties. I urge you to action to deal with the conservation of kings at your upcoming meeting. My views on certain proposals are as follows.

I am an environmental scientist and biologist in Alaska, and I support the following proposals. The approach of the Board of Fisheries to support one user group over another, is not based on sound science by any means, and has no justification other than political motivations. The current management is not sustainable and will lead to a truly unfortunate and preventable demise in our great king salmon fishery, which is a natural resource that needs to be managed according to science, and not emotion or politics. Equal opportunity needs to be given to sport fishermen on the Kenai river and other Cook Inlet rivers compared to commercial fishing operations which truly limit the number of King salmon both for spawning and sportfishing.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy directs that the burden of conservation will be applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock. Where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measureable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource. All user groups need to bear in the burden of conservation of Kenai River king salmon in an equitable manner.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai

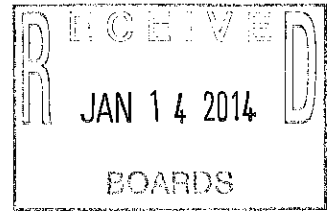


River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Adam Davis-Turak

Adam Davis-Turak
PO BOX 2163
Valdez, AK 99686



Email address: adamdt.uo@gmail.com

Phone number: 907-230-2998

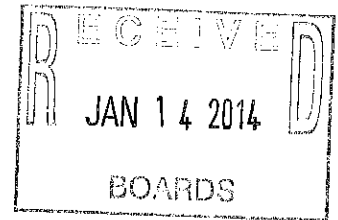
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen

Garry Kelley
510 East Mountain Ash Loop
Wasilla, AK 99654

January 10, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am very concerned about the decline of king salmon in Cook Inlet, especially on the Kenai River. Kenai kings are important and must not be ignored. The health of king salmon is now threatened. When you consider actions at your next meeting, please keep these ideas in mind.

Garry Kelley, resident, avid fisher and dip netter.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

Sport, personal use and commercial set net fisheries can all fish but must share equitably in the burden of king salmon conservation. To assure future sustainable and healthy king salmon returns to the Kenai River, everyone must be held accountable for their harvest and mortality of kings. Without accountability for all user groups, there will be no conservation success stories for king salmon.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting) households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

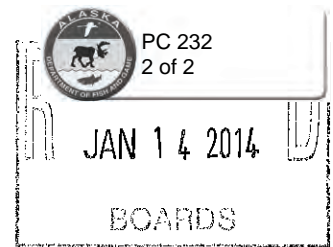
I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing



#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Drastic measures need to be taken now to protect King Salmon

The Alaska Board of Fisheries faces an urgent responsibility to give clear direction on how best to mitigate the king salmon disaster occurring in Cook Inlet and on the Kenai River. Simply lowering escapement numbers and then maintaining status quo management is not a recipe for long-term success. I urge you to take the necessary time to fully work through the king salmon conservation and management issues at your next meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. There is no higher priority than this.

Sincerely,

Garry Kelley

Garry

510 East Mountain Ash Loop

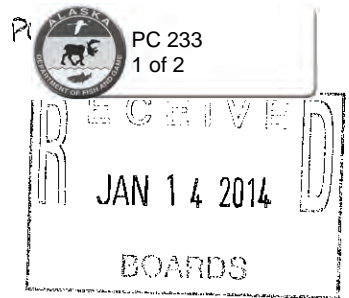
Wasilla, AK 99654

Email address: garrydkelley@gmail.com

Phone number: 907-357-0620

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



Rick Erkeneff
33566 Seawind Court
Dana Point, CA 92629
January 10, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

In areas like the Kenai River, many people feel like I do that king salmon are more important as a sport fishery than as a commercial fishery. In my mind, the obvious decline in the number of king salmon returning to the Kenai demands your attention. When returns, catch rates, and angler hours all drop by three quarters in less than a decade, something is wrong and business as usual is no longer acceptable. At the fast approaching Board of Fisheries meetings for Cook Inlet, please make king salmon management a priority consideration.

I have traveled to the Kenai River every year at least once for the last 10 years. The King salmon fishing in river was the draw but now have come to LOVE all the species that live in the ecosystem that surrounds the mighty Kenai.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

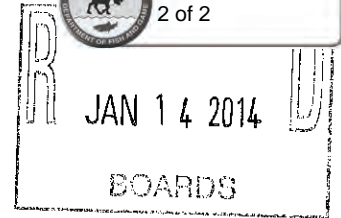
The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting) households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing



- #156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing
- #248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes
- #126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits
- #139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

The balanced unbiased management is critical for the future of the in river fishing resource. Please don't allow for short sided special interest to influence long term management and the future runs of species! Thank you for listening to my views on these subjects. Together we can all make a lasting difference in the long term health of our fishery resources. I trust you will do the right thing when considering how best to conserve and restore once healthy salmon runs to their former glory.

Sincerely,

Rick Erkeneff

Rick Erkeneff
33566 Seawind Court
Dana Point, CA 92629

Email address: rickerk@cox.net
Phone number: 949 231 9673
Additional information about me:
I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler

Scott Fischer
11850 portage Cir
Anchorage, AK 99515

January 10, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I am a sport fisher and a dipnetter I believe the only way to make sure the kings get strong runs is for everybody to sacrifice a piece of the pie! If that means closers or more restrictions for sport, Commercial and dipnetting that's the way it needs to be. If we do not do something these fish will be gone forever! Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

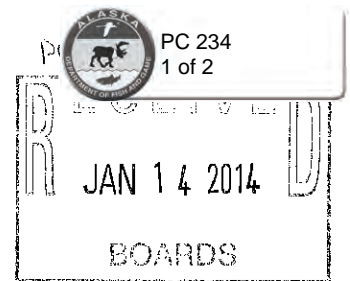
Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

Sport, personal use and commercial set net fisheries can all fish but must share equitably in the burden of king salmon conservation. To assure future sustainable and healthy king salmon returns to the Kenai River, everyone must be held accountable for their harvest and mortality of kings. Without accountability for all user groups, there will be no conservation success stories for king salmon.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I support putting Alaskan residents first in the management of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Many people harvest fish to feed our families and share with friends. Access to fish is one of the primary reasons Alaskans value living in Alaska. When fishery managers puts the needs of Alaskan residents behind the needs of national and global fish markets, people are justifiably resentful. Cook Inlet supports Alaska's largest sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries. The needs of Alaskan residents must be a top priority in Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to





open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

I would like to see these fish be around for future generations!

The Alaska Board of Fisheries faces an urgent responsibility to give clear direction on how best to mitigate the king salmon disaster occurring in Cook Inlet and on the Kenai River. Simply lowering escapement numbers and then maintaining status quo management is not a recipe for long-term success. I urge you to take the necessary time to fully work through the king salmon conservation and management issues at your next meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. There is no higher priority than this.

Sincerely,

Scott Fischer

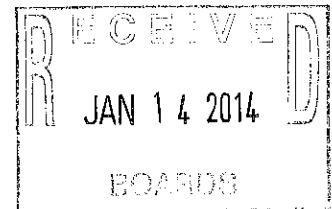
Scott Fischer
11850 portage Cir
Anchorage, AK 99515

Email address: fischead@gci.net

Phone number: 907-360-8158

Additional information about me:

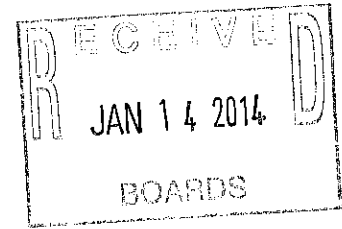
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter



Eric Taylor
12299 laurel chase drive
Riverton, UT 84065

January 10, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet will be critical for the sustainability of Kenai River king salmon and all other kings in Cook Inlet, many of which are stocks of concern. The abrupt fall in numbers of kings in the Inlet should be a red flag to all concerned parties. I urge you to action to deal with the conservation of kings at your upcoming meeting. My views on certain proposals are as follows.

Having fished the kenai for several years it is a appearant that the late curt gowdy has become a prophet. While a young guy growing up in utah I avidly dreamwd of taking the holy trip to the kenai. I remember one episode of the american sportsmen where he said that if one wanted to catch a monster from the kenai, to do it soon because they would be gone forever at some point. Please take the necessary action so when I do come back again and again as I have there will still be the experience. King salmon are a sport fish priority in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Sport fisheries benefit more from greater abundances of fish, not less. We benefit from managing Kenai River king salmon fisheries for maximum sustained return, not minimum escapement goals. Making sure we have healthy escapements to deliver larger returns of kings is critical.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

I support proposals:

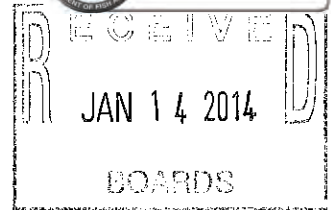
#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal use (dipnetting) fishing in Cook Inlet. Alaskans greatly depend upon the fish harvested in these fisheries. The social, recreational, cultural and economic values generated in these fisheries are much greater in value than those generated in the area's commercial salmon fisheries. As a public resource, it makes most sense to manage Cook Inlet salmon resources for the greatest number of Alaskans - those that fish and harvest in the sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3



- #161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River
- #112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing
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- #139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

As above

Kenai River king salmon have a special place in my heart - I care deeply about them. All the best as you work towards effective solutions in ensuring their sustainability as one of the world's greatest sport fisheries. Fish On!

Sincerely,

Eric Taylor

Eric Taylor
12299 laurel chase drive
Riverton, UT 84065

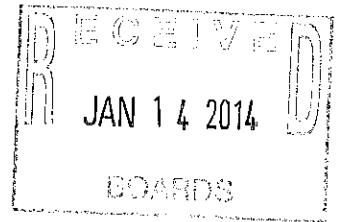
Email address: petstopofutah@yahoo.com

Phone number: 801-654-2580

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler

Peter Maus
2421 West 70th Circle
Anchorage, AK 99502



January 10, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I have had a harder and harder time catching salmon out of the Kenai. I remember when there were so many coming up the river that people fishing were smiling from ear to ear with excitement. No all I see is frustration on the face of fellow anglers on the banks of the Kenai and sad story after sad story of fruitless trips to the Kenai River. You've got to do something to bring back the fish population.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I support increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal use (dipnetting) fishing in Cook Inlet. Alaskans greatly depend upon the fish harvested in these fisheries. The social, recreational, cultural and economic values generated in these fisheries are much greater in value than those generated in the area's commercial salmon fisheries. As a public resource, it makes most sense to manage Cook Inlet salmon resources for the greatest number of Alaskans - those that fish and harvest in the sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes,



proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. I'm almost 50 and I was born and raised in the State of Alaska. I know the 50 year trend of the Kenai, not just the last 10 years and I like my Smoke Salmon. There is a serious problem on the Kenai and if you do nothing to protect the fish count, and increase the fish count, then you don't really care about the natural resource and you will have doomed the Kenai to a "KINGLESS" river.

Thank you for listening to my views on these subjects. Together we can all make a lasting difference in the long term health of our fishery resources. I trust you will do the right thing when considering how best to conserve and restore once healthy salmon runs to their former glory.

Sincerely,

Peter Maus

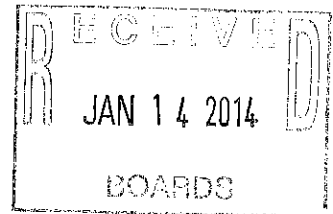
Peter Maus
2421 West 70th Circle
Anchorage, AK 99502

Email address: peatmoss1@hotmail.com

Phone number: 9074415164

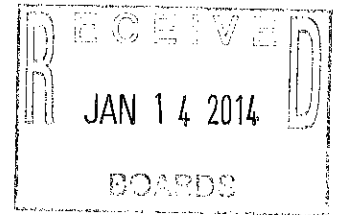
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Virgil Owen
320 E. Dowling Road apt 7
Anchorage, AK 99518

January 10, 2014



RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to. Please manage our fishery based on saving our salmon fishery and not on whether commercial fisherman and tourist will agree.

Managing for the low end of the escapement goal for Kenai River king salmon is not good public policy. We need more kings in the river to spawn, not less. More fish in future years means everyone benefits. I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support putting Alaskan residents first in the management of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Many people harvest fish to feed our families and share with friends. Access to fish is one of the primary reasons Alaskans value living in Alaska. When fishery managers puts the needs of Alaskan residents behind the needs of national and global fish markets, people are justifiably resentful. Cook Inlet supports Alaska's largest sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries. The needs of Alaskan residents must be a top priority in Cook Inlet.

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#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

No more set net fishing

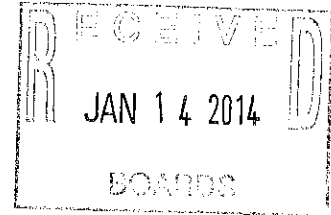


Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. As you consider the many proposals, remember - Long Live the Kings!
Sincerely,

Virgil Owen

Virgil Owen
320 E. Dowling Road apt 7
Anchorage, AK 99518

Email address: virgilowen@gmail.com
Phone number: 9073993720
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Eric Quint
11765 Wilderness Drive
Anchorage, AK 99518

January 10, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. Angler hours have dropped by 80 percent and harvest rates are 95 percent less than a decade ago. We are barely, if at all, making minimum escapements for kings on the Kenai and many other rivers in Cook Inlet. Although king salmon declines are a statewide issue, it is an emergency situation here. For your next meeting, I will share with you a couple of important ideas for your consideration.

I am a 47 year old Food Service Director living in Anchorage who at one point loved to spend each available weekend in Soldotna fishing. I would spend thousands of dollars each year through the local community maintaining my boat, buying gear, food, restaurants etc.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

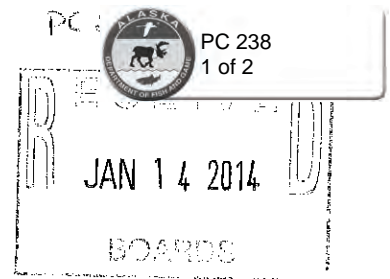
Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.





My family moved to Alaska, Soldotna, when i was just a freshman in highschool 1980. My summers for the past 30 plus years have been spent doing what I love the most, sport fishing. I remember my first king ever on the Kenai as if it was yesterday, 1986 June 20th when I landed a 72# king. Fishing the river back then, my mind would run wild with hopes of catching the first 100# king. Today, sadly, I just hope my son now, 13 will be able to share this river with his son or daughter. I cringe at the aspect this may be all take n away, that he and our future generations could lose our resource. As I have witnessed over the past 30 years it seems to always be the sportfisherman that is severely restricted. I have willingly participated with regulations, and changes to protect this fishery but feel more needs to be done. Your work on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is important. Alaska is known for its sustainable fisheries management. The crisis in low numbers of Kenai kings is a significant challenge. No other sport fishery in Alaska is as well-known as the Kenai. Your actions will shape the health of the fish and the viability of this fishery for years to come.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Quint

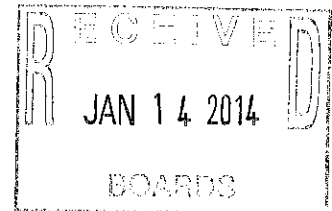
Eric Quint
11765 Wilderness Drive
Anchorage, AK 99518

Email address: eric.quint@nmsusa.com

Phone number: 907-230-3894

Additional information about me:

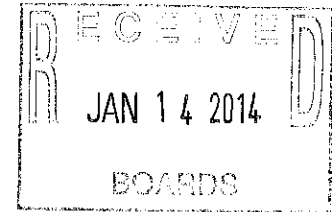
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Jay Runyan
11614 Hebron dr
Eagle River, AK 99577

January 10, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet will be critical for the sustainability of Kenai River king salmon and all other kings in Cook Inlet, many of which are stocks of concern. The abrupt fall in numbers of kings in the Inlet should be a red flag to all concerned parties. I urge you to action to deal with the conservation of kings at your upcoming meeting. My views on certain proposals are as follows.

Something needs to be done to restore the Kenai King fishery. If that entails a shut down for a few years so be it. That includes all Groups including Sport Fishermen, Commercial permits and Subsistence Users. It's time to act on this issue.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes,



proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

I am an Alaska Resident, I fish to feed my family. No user groups should have a priority over another.

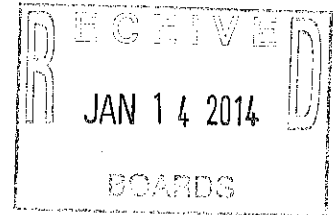
The by-catch of some of these commercial users is a waste of a valuable resource.

Kenai River king salmon have a special place in my heart - I care deeply about them. All the best as you work towards effective solutions in ensuring their sustainability as one of the world's greatest sport fisheries. Fish On!

Sincerely,

Jay Runyan

Jay Runyan
11614 Hebron dr
Eagle River, AK 99577



Email address: jayrunyan@yahoo.com

Phone number: 907-223-9006

Additional information about me:

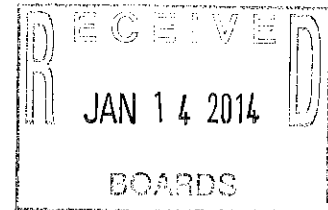
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen

Heather Ann Heusser
7362 W Parks Hwy #312
Wasilla, AK 99623

January 11, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows. My family came to Alaska in 1991 when I was just 6 years old and Ive been in love ever since. Fishing and hunting were an important part of our lives for both enjoyment and food on the table. Now as a married adult fishing and hunting are still an integral part of my life for the same reasons. Alaskas resources are important to all Alaskans new and old and not to be taken for granted. I want to see a healthy local sport and subsistence fishing industry for decades to come. In order to see that happen we all need to make sacrifices, including commercial fishing. If changes arent made to all fishing, including commercial, our fisheries will be devastated. Even commercial fishing will come to an end, an industry this state cannot afford to loose.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

Sport, personal use and commercial set net fisheries can all fish but must share equitably in the burden of king salmon conservation. To assure future sustainable and healthy king salmon returns to the Kenai River, everyone must be held accountable for their harvest and mortality of kings. Without accountability for all user groups, there will be no conservation success stories for king salmon.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary



location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

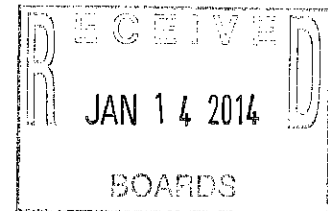
Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. Like many Alaskans I want our state to prosper. I want to see a strong economy and growing industries. Most important I want these resources here for a long time.

Thank you for listening to my views on these subjects. Together we can all make a lasting difference in the long term health of our fishery resources. I trust you will do the right thing when considering how best to conserve and restore once healthy salmon runs to their former glory.

Sincerely,

Heather Ann Heusser

Heather Ann Heusser
7362 W Parks Hwy #312
Wasilla, AK 99623



Email address: akchevygirl@mtaonline.net

Phone number: 907-576-4540

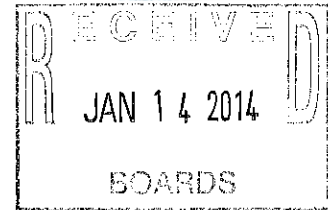
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



David Orr
PO Box 21
Sterling, AK 99672

January 11, 2014



RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am very concerned about the decline of king salmon in Cook Inlet, especially on the Kenai River. Kenai kings are important and must not be ignored. The health of king salmon is now threatened. When you consider actions at your next meeting, please keep these ideas in mind.

If the kings are not there shut the kings down to fishing. This includes both the river and salt water. Catch and release dose nor work. I sit on the bank and watch kings slowly being brought in only to have the line released so it can be played longer. I'm sure they drown. A fishing guid in Alaska should be a resident just like hunting.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for



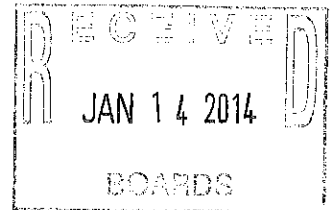
Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

I am grateful for the chance to let you know how concerned I am about the dire situation facing our Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries. Kings are very important to me as well as to my family and friends. Your decisions will greatly impact the direction and health of these king salmon runs for many years to come. The time is now to act on this most important resource.

Sincerely,

David Orr

David Orr
PO Box 21
Sterling, AK 99672

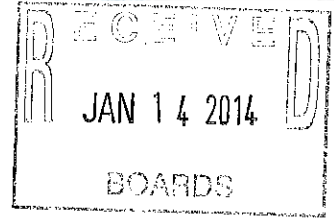


Email address: akntuf@aol.com

Phone number: 907 227-8182

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



Kelly Droop
1639 Sunrise Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

January 11, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

In areas like the Kenai River, many people feel like I do that king salmon are more important as a sport fishery than as a commercial fishery. In my mind, the obvious decline in the number of king salmon returning to the Kenai demands your attention. When returns, catch rates, and angler hours all drop by three quarters in less than a decade, something is wrong and business as usual is no longer acceptable. At the fast approaching Board of Fisheries meetings for Cook Inlet, please make king salmon management a priority consideration.

I am born and raised in Alaska. Fishing on the Kenai Peninsula and on the Kenai River in particular is a tradition my family has enjoyed since the 1960's. We are deeply saddened by declining returns and many days on the river with no fish for our family freezer. My two daughters, ages 10 and 11, have never experienced the absolute thrill of catching a Kenai King. I hope that they someday will, but it is not going to happen without an IMMEDIATE and new approach to our fisheries management.

Managing for the low end of the escapement goal for Kenai River king salmon is not good public policy. We need more kings in the river to spawn, not less. More fish in future years means everyone benefits. Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy directs that the burden of conservation will be applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock. Where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measureable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource. All user groups need to bear in the burden of conservation of Kenai River king salmon in an equitable manner.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for

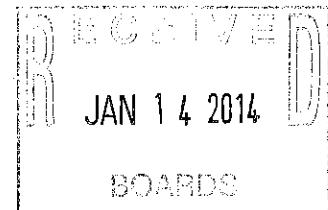


Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. I want to enjoy the Kenai sports fisheries with my children, and someday, their children. Managing escapement and balancing the needs of personal and commercial fisheries are critical to Southcentral Alaska's future - our ability to sustain both a reasonable commercial harvest and importantly sustain the Alaskan tradition of fishing for your own table, and the thrill that brings to our state's visitors every year. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. As you consider the many proposals, remember - Long Live the Kings!
Sincerely,

Kelly Droop

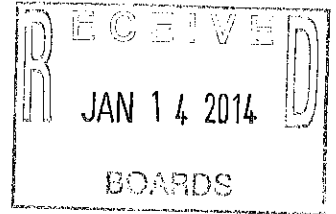
Kelly Droop
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Phone number: 907-529-9310
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Sport Angler



Ral West
107A Toivo Circle
Sitka, AK 99835

January 11, 2014



RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to. I have been an Alaska Resident for nearly 34 years, and I fully appreciate how important the Kenai salmon fishing is to Alaska, to the residents and visitors alike. We own a motel and RV Park in Anchorage. Our business benefits from the people visiting Alaska to fish the Kenai. If that fishing opportunity disappears, our business will be adversely affected.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I feel it is important to conserve, protect, and grow this valuable asset for the future enjoyment of visitors and residents, and the subsistence needs of Alaskans. We must be prudent and wise, but we also need to be fair about the access afforded to each group wanting to take advantage of this fishery. Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Ral West



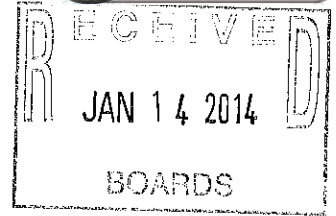
Ral West
107A Toivo Circle
Sitka, AK 99835

Email address: ralwest@me.com

Phone number: (907) 7384656

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident I don't fish but receive fish from others, Concerned Citizen

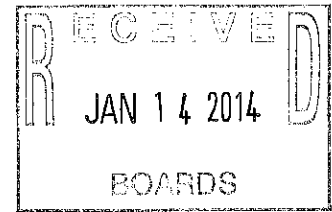


Steve Deliman
6524 Spruce St
Anchorage, AK 99507

January 11, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about fish issues in Cook Inlet. I am very worried about the lack of king salmon. The Board of Fisheries must deal with the scarcity of kings in Cook Inlet at the next board meeting in Anchorage. There are many proposals to consider, but I want to talk about a few that are important to me.

I have lived in Alaska for about 43 years. I grew up first watching my dad and then my older brothers fish to help feed our family. Then I became old enough to fish and it became one of the greatest ways we bonded as a family - we traveled together, fished together, then cleaned and processed the fish together, and finally ate our catch together. We, like most Alaskan sport fishermen, did not waste our fish. We did not over fish - we stopped when we had enough, whether that was the limit or whether it was fewer fish than the limit. Between working full time now and attending school full time, I have usually only had the opportunity to go dipnetting the last few years (except for years when I was unable to due to injuries).

As ocean productivity seems to be in a general statewide decline for king salmon, I think it is a mistake to lower escapement goals as a management response. Fewer spawners seem to bear fewer fish and it can be a reinforcing downward cycle. We must have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon in our rivers. This will maximize the overall size of the returns. Larger returns greatly reduce our risks for overfishing this invaluable resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

Sport, personal use and commercial set net fisheries can all fish but must share equitably in the burden of king salmon conservation. To assure future sustainable and healthy king salmon returns to the Kenai River, everyone must be held accountable for their harvest and mortality of kings. Without accountability for all user groups, there will be no conservation success stories for king salmon.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I support increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal use (dipnetting) fishing in Cook Inlet. Alaskans greatly depend upon the fish harvested in these fisheries. The social, recreational, cultural and economic values generated in these fisheries are much greater in value than those generated in the area's commercial salmon fisheries. As a public resource, it makes most sense to manage Cook Inlet salmon resources for the greatest number of Alaskans - those that fish and harvest in the sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries.



Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

If I remember correctly, the resources of the state are to be shared equally among user groups - or at least they are assured equal opportunity. However the way the fishery has been managed, the commercial fishery has been granted much more opportunity to catch Cook Inlet salmon while resident rod and reel and dipnetters and non-residents traveling to Alaska are penalized. It is common sense that a commercial fishing vessel will catch many more times fish than anglers and dipnetters.

Commercial fishers though are only interested in how much money they make and are not concerned with making sure there are adequate fish returning to maintain the fishery. They complain about not being able to make their payments, etc. but in every other industry that I know of, if you can't make a living, you find other work. Thousands of loggers, farmers, etc. are no longer logging, farming, etc. because they couldn't make a living in their work. They didn't keep cutting down trees until there were no more, clearing and planting land until there was no more land available to plant, and so on. I believe if the escapement is met, it shouldn't be a maximum escapement but instead should be a minimum escapement only. The rivers and fish took care of themselves for thousands of years before man came along and decided to change things. If too many fish come in one year, that only means higher returns in later years - not only fish but also residents and tourists contributing thousands of dollars into the Alaska economy. And, any economist will tell you the rule of capitalism - the more supply, the lower the prices commercial fisherman will get per pound. The less the supply is, the higher the price. Anyone with common sense only has to walk into any store with a surplus of an item and witness the sale prices to get rid of stock. Things that are not in abundance do not generally get marked down.

Kenai River king salmon have a special place in my heart - I care deeply about them. All the best as you work towards effective solutions in ensuring their sustainability as one of the world's greatest sport fisheries. Fish On!

Sincerely,

Steve Deliman

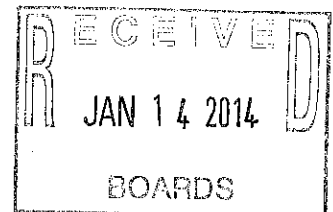
Steve Deliman
6524 Spruce St
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Phone number: 907-240-4622

Additional information about me:

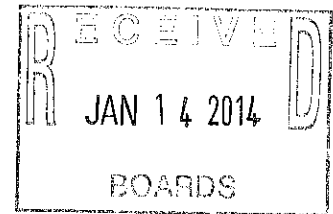
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



James Burd
13201 Badger Lane
Anchorage, AK 99516

January 12, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows. I have fished for king salmon on the Kenai River less and less over the last ten years due to having smaller chance of harvesting anything. Also, the crowding on the river makes it very stressful and not worth the effort. I follow the escapement of the kings though and find it very doubtful that after a dismal run last year, after the season was over that all of the sudden a large number of kings made the escapement up the Kenai River. Thereby, making the minimum escapement and keeping mandatory future restrictions from being implemented.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

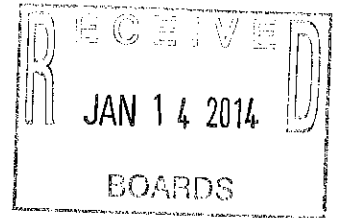
I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting) households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

I support proposals:



- #169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3
- #161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River
- #112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing
- #156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing
- #248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes
- #126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits
- #139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

These issues are very important to me because I use sockeye salmon to feed my family through the year and also enjoy sport fishing as a wholesome sport for the family. I believe the fish and game should manage the escapement allowing fish to enter the river throughout the run not just the first couple days and then allowing the commercial fleet unlimited access to the sockeye run to effectively shut off the run into the river. It is my opinion that different schools of fish spawn in different areas of the Kenai river drainage and by allowing huge slugs out of one school to escape overpopulates one area of the Kenai River and results in large areas of the Kenai to have little escapement. Case in point the late run into the Russian River.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries faces an urgent responsibility to give clear direction on how best to mitigate the king salmon disaster occurring in Cook Inlet and on the Kenai River. Simply lowering escapement numbers and then maintaining status quo management is not a recipe for long-term success. I urge you to take the necessary time to fully work through the king salmon conservation and management issues at your next meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. There is no higher priority than this. Sincerely,

James Burd

James Burd
13201 Badger Lane
Anchorage, AK 99516

Email address: burdhse@me.com

Phone number: 907-632-4877

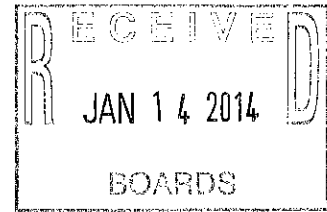
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter

Victoria Hampton
PO Box 333
Sterling, AK 00672

January 12, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am very concerned about the decline of king salmon in Cook Inlet, especially on the Kenai River. Kenai kings are important and must not be ignored. The health of king salmon is now threatened. When you consider actions at your next meeting, please keep these ideas in mind.

My husband and I have a home on the Kenai River. Normally, we fished for king salmon and we would harvest one between us each year. Over recent years, we have become concerned about the small numbers of king salmon returning to the river each year. We believe this problem belongs to all types of fishing in the Kenai River and Cook Inlet. Our personal conservation plan is not fishing for kings and we have practiced it for the past two years.

It is an injustice to manage important Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries for the yield interests of commercial fisheries instead of maximum sustained returns that would benefit all user groups. Such management shortchanges everyone by reducing future returns and invites overfishing. It is vital to have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

In these times of historic low returns of king salmon to Cook Inlet and especially to the Kenai River, all user groups must share equitably in the burden of conservation. Sport anglers have seen harvest rates on the Kenai River for king salmon decline by 95 percent, while personal use (dipnetters) have foregone any harvest opportunity for Kenai kings the last two years. Meanwhile, in 2013, despite record-low numbers of king salmon, a severely restricted sport fishery and escapement goals barely being met, commercial set net sockeye fishermen were granted significant net-in-the-water time until near the end of the season.

I support proposals:

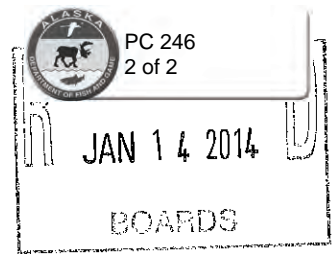
#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support putting Alaskan residents first in the management of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Many people harvest fish to feed our families and share with friends. Access to fish is one of the primary reasons Alaskans value living in Alaska. When fishery managers put the needs of Alaskan residents behind the needs of national and global fish markets, people are justifiably resentful. Cook Inlet supports Alaska's largest sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries. The needs of Alaskan residents must be a top priority in Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3



- #161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River
- #112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing
- #156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing
- #248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes
- #126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits
- #139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

If we do not take action immediately, there will no longer be king salmon available in Cook Inlet, rivers flowing into Cook Inlet and especially the beautiful kings that go up the Kenai River. I support closure of king salmon fishing for sports anglers and, especially, set net closure during the month of July. These actions are painful for all Alaska residents and businesses that rely on fishing for food and/or earning a living. But they are necessary and it is up to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to make some hard and not so popular policies that will restrict fishing for everyone that will save our Kenai River Kings.

Thank you for your service to responsible fisheries management in Alaska. I can think of no higher priority than to deal successfully and in a forthright manner with the crisis we are now facing with the Kenai River king salmon. Their future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Victoria Hampton

Victoria Hampton
PO Box 333
Sterling, AK 00672

Email address: dollar-mae@gci.net

Phone number: 907-306-9126

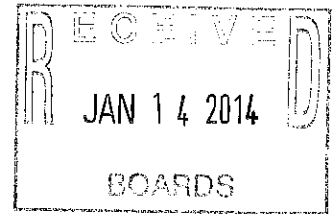
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen

Fred Larson
9200 GlennHaven F5
Anchorage, AK 99502

January 11, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about fish issues in Cook Inlet. I am very worried about the lack of king salmon. The Board of Fisheries must deal with the scarcity of kings in Cook Inlet at the next board meeting in Anchorage. There are many proposals to consider, but I want to talk about a few that are important to me.

King salmon are a sport fish priority in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Sport fisheries benefit more from greater abundances of fish, not less. We benefit from managing Kenai River king salmon fisheries for maximum sustained return, not minimum escapement goals. Making sure we have healthy escapements to deliver larger returns of kings is critical.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

Your work on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is important. Alaska is known for its sustainable fisheries management. The crisis in low numbers of Kenai kings is a significant challenge. No other sport fishery in Alaska is as well-known as the Kenai. Your actions will shape the health of the fish and the viability of this fishery for years to come.

Sincerely,



Fred Larson

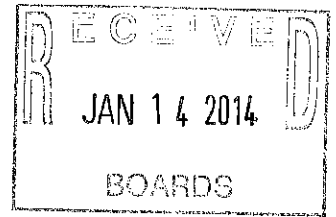
Fred Larson
9200 GlennHaven F5
Anchorage, AK 99502

Email address: fclarson@msn.com

Phone number: 907-250-2497

Additional information about me:

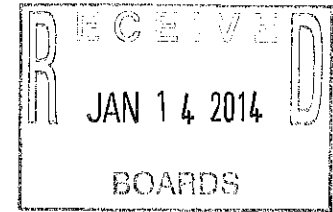
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



Rick Scott
22706 Old Glenn Hwy
Chugiak, AK 99567

January 13, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to. I am a life long Alaskan that was born in Fairbanks nearly 60 years ago. I am very frustrated with the way Alaska has changed so much over the years. I want more fish in our rivers and not the commercial fishermen's nets.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for



Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. I also fish the Little Susitna River and King fishing there is dismal. Stop letting our fish go to the commercial fisherman

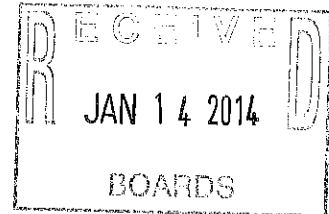
Thank you for your service to responsible fisheries management in Alaska. I can think of no higher priority than to deal successfully and in a forthright manner with the crisis we are now facing with the Kenai River king salmon. Their future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Rick E. Scott

Rick Scott
22706 Old Glenn Hwy
Chugiak, AK 99567

Email address: scottydc8@msn.com
Phone number: 907-223-2686
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen





Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

I support Proposal # 286 and I agree with what the Proposal states on the Issue, what would happen if nothing is Done.

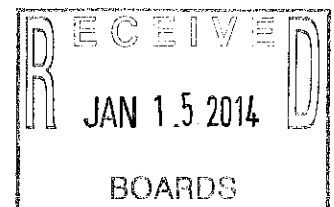
I have watched large pieces of my bank and vegetation leaving the bank, from the boat wakes or waves. My neighbors have also had damage done to their banks.

When the tide is high, the river almost stops moving, but the boat Wakes and Waves pound the bank. The river does not damage the bank, however the Waves and Wakes that come from the Dip Netters boats during Personal Use Salmon Fishery does.

Sincerely, *Rainie Pontius*

Date: *1/12/13*

Address: *35995 Kobuk St
Soldotna, AK 99669*





Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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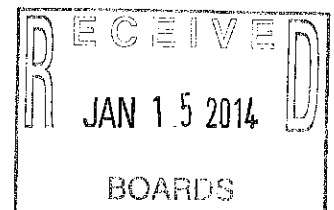
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When the tide is high, the river almost stops moving, but the boat Wakes and Waves pound the bank. The river does not damage the bank, however the Waves and Wakes that come from the Dip Netters boats during Personal Use Salmon Fishery does.

Sincerely, *Ben Pontius*

Date: *1/12/14*

Address: *35995 Kobuk St
Seldatan AK 99869*



Ben Pontius (J.)

Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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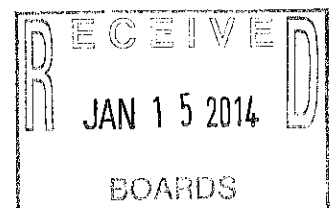
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Sincerely, *Douglas Chapman*
Douglas Chapman

Date:
Jan. 11, 2014

Address:
610 Set Net Dr.
Kenai AK. 99611





Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

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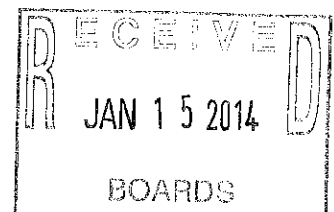
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Sincerely, *Jill A Chapman*
Jill A Chapman

Date: *1-11-14*

Address: *610 Set Net Drive*
Kenai Alaska





Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

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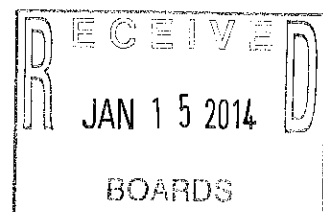
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Sincerely,

Chad Every

Date:

JAN, 06, 2014



Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

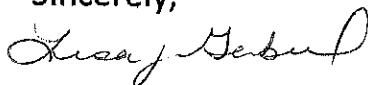
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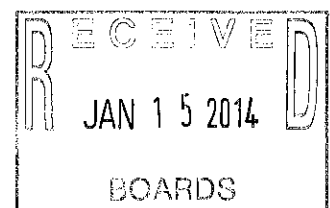
Sincerely,



Date:

1/6/2014

Lisa J. Gabriel





Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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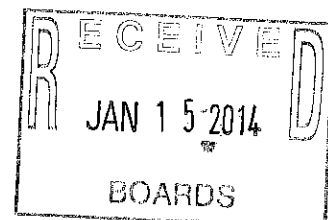
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Sincerely, *Marian F. Van Hoene*
Marian Van Hoene

Date: *1/10/14*

Address: *2505 Watengate Way*
Kenai AK 99611





Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

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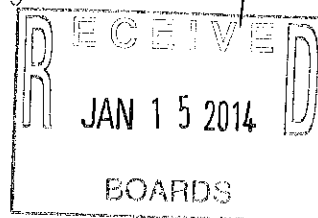
IRVING G Smith

Date:

1/11/14

Address:

2675 Water Gateway Kenai



99611



Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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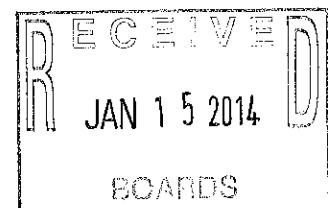
Gwen J Thomas
Gwen J. THOMAS

Date:

Jan 10, 2014

Address:

2545 WATERGATE WAY
KENAI AK 99611





Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

I support Proposal # 286 and I agree with what the Proposal states on the Issue, what would happen if nothing is Done.

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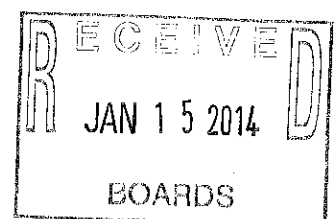
When the tide is high, the river almost stops moving, but the boat Wakes and Waves pound the bank. The river does not damage the bank, however the Waves and Wakes that come from the Dip Netters boats during Personal Use Salmon Fishery does.

Sincerely, *Lewis H. Frey*
Lewis H. Frey

Date: *Jan. 10, 2014*

Address: *2615 Watergate Way*
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Phone *907-252-8698*





Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

I support Proposal # 286 and I agree with what the Proposal states on the Issue, what would happen if nothing is Done.

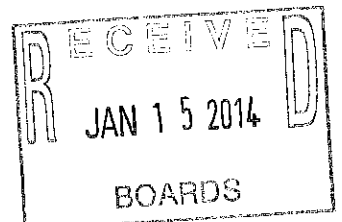
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Sincerely, *Gene Darby*
Gene Darby

Date: *1-10-14*

Address: *2555 Watergate Way*
Kenai, Ak 99611





January 14, 2014

Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

ATTN: BOF Comments

Dear Board Members,

I have lived and worked in Alaska for 35 years. In the first 25 years of residence, I was involved in the timber industry which is a renewable resource like the fishing industry. I am a former member of the Alaska Forest Association, Women In Timber and the Resource Development Council. The main theme to all of these organizations was to take responsibility in renewing the natural resources we were using.

I was a partner in a corporation that selectively logged beetle killed spruce for wood chip export. We felt a responsibility to replant seedlings in many of our harvested areas even though the areas had been selectively harvested. To protect the fish habitat, we abided by strict regulations, with permitting and buffer zones when we harvested near waterways or having to cross the streams. Once again, we took responsibility to be good stewards for the forest and the waters.

The Proposal 310 – 5 AAC 60.122, by the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, is absolutely absurd. The impact of the low return does not begin at the end of the run where the fish attempt to spawn but rather at sea where they are captured before they even have a chance to return to spawn. As suggested, in this proposal to close fishing on the weekends, Mondays and Fridays along with one possession of one King per year has no merit and is a ridiculous idea. I, as many who work and live in Alaska, do not have the luxury of taking time off during the work week to take our families fishing. We also depend on our catch to supply our households with food and we have that right as Alaskans. Additionally, this proposal will greatly impact our tourism industry. The United Cook Inlet Drift Association fails to acknowledge that the low salmon return in the Mat-Su rivers is a result of over harvest in the Cook Inlet. Pointing the finger or attempting to make the residents and tourists their scapegoats is not an acceptable solution to their problem.

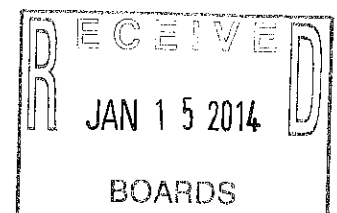
This proposal only benefits the United Cook Inlet Drift Association and their bank accounts.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan C. Nininger".

Joan C. Nininger
P.O. Box 877944
Wasilla, AK. 99687
nininger@alaska.net





Seattle Office
801 S. Fidalgo St, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98108
Tel (206) 768-8979
Fax (206) 768-8985

Kenai Office
P.O. Box 190
Kenai, AK 99611
Tel (907) 283-7787
Fax (907) 283-9485

Tuesday January 14, 2014

Mr. Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Fax: 907 465 6094

ATTN: Board of Fish – Comments for Upper Cook Inlet Finfish

Dear Mr. Haight.

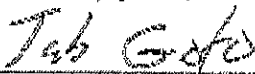
Pacific Star Seafoods Inc. and Salamatof Fisheries are two seafood processing plants located on the Kenai River. Commercial fish processing facilities have operated on the Kenai River for over a hundred years. These plants provide a market for a significant number of the set net and drift fishermen in the Upper Cook Inlet fisheries. And the plants depend on the salmon caught by these fishermen to operate.

It is important to the fisherman and the plants to have regulatory stability in the commercial fisheries. We understand and accept the biological risk of a larger or smaller salmon runs. The uncertainty regarding the allocation of fish, opportunity for the commercial set and drift fishermen to harvest fish is an unnecessary risk to the operation of the business. The management of the fisheries by the Department of Fish and Game needs to be based on the best available science.

Regulatory stability in commercial fisheries is important for our business planning. This equates to stability in fishery allocations and we support the maintenance of status quo in the Cook Inlet commercial sockeye salmon fishery.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these matters.

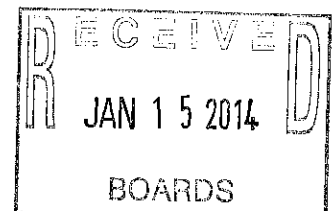
Sincerely yours,



Tab Goto – Owner



Randy Patrick – Owner





January 12, 2014

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board of Fisheries members.

My name is Greg Acord, my family and I have owned and operated a sport fishing charter service in the Mat-Su Valley since 1992. A significant portion of our income relies heavily on healthy Salmon returns to upper Cook Inlet. We also rely on Salmon as a major source of protein to sustain our family each year.

We are commenting in support of Central District Drift Management Plan Proposals 138,139,142,143 and 144. The Mat- Su Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee is also in support of these proposals.

Please consider the following comments when reviewing these proposals.

Thank you.

- The Current Plan, despite stated intent, does NOT (1) ensure adequate escapement of salmon into Northern District drainages, and does NOT (2) provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest Northern coho salmon over the entire run.
- In order to reasonably ensure adequate escapement of salmon into Northern District drainages and provide reasonable salmon harvest opportunities for all other user groups most, if not all, drift gillnet fishing targeting abundant Kenai and / or Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks should occur in more discreet terminal harvest area(s) like the Board created at the 2011 Upper Cook Inlet meeting (Expanded Kasiloff and Expand Kenai Sections).
- Drift gillnet harvest in the Conservation Corridor (the mixed stock migration area west of the Expanded Kasilof and Expanded Kenai Sections) should be limited and only occur when mid-goal Northern escapement projections can reasonably be made for all Northern sockeye and coho stocks with established goal ranges.
- Without at least goal mid-point spawning escapements for Northern District salmon stocks on an average basis, there can be no reasonable harvest opportunity for all Northern District user groups.
- Currently Susitna sockeye have already been Board designated as a Stock of Yield Concern as measured by lost yield in the Northern District set net fishery, and at the 2014 Upper Cook Inlet meeting the Board should also be considering Little Susitna River coho salmon (which was below escapement goal 4 consecutive years) for stock of concern designation.
- Without changes in Central District drift fishery management neither of these Stock of Concern issues can be adequately addressed to: 1. boost spawning escapements to established goal levels and 2. Provide a reasonable amount of yield for all Northern District user groups.
- Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon management should be more like Bristol Bay -- where the world's best discrete stock management of a wild salmon fishery occurs.

Sincerely,

Greg Acord



**The Nininger Family**

PO Box 877944

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Phone: 907-357-1606

nininger@alaska.net

January 14, 2014

Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

ATTN: BOF Comments

Dear Board Members,

As a longtime Alaskan, (35 years) and a personal use and sports fisherman I appreciate the opportunity to comment on a few of the proposals for this 2014 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting. I will address the proposals in numerical order as they appear in the Proposal Book.

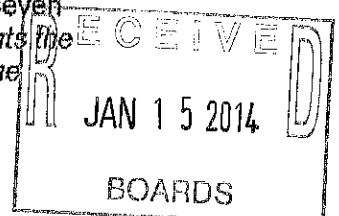
Proposals #138, #139, & #143: 5 AAC 21.353): Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan: I support both of these proposals. As a long time resident of the Mat-Su Valley I have watched the decline of in-river Coho & Sockeye salmon over the last 10 years. My family relies on salmon to compliment our commercially purchased groceries. It is important to us that the freezer get filled each summer to keep our household food bills down. Particularly in the last 4 years, salmon has been harder and harder to catch with rod & reel.

I believe that the current plan for the driftnet fishery does not insure adequate escapement of salmon into Northern District drainages, and further, does not allow sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to catch salmon here in the Valley.

Furthermore, I believe that Cook Inlet Driftnetters need to be contained as much as possible in the Expanded Kenai & Kaslof Sections (Discreet Terminal Harvest Areas) and spend less time in the Conservation Corridor. This will insure adequate returns of salmon to the Mat-Su Valley streams while still allowing sufficient catch for Kenai & Kaslof fish in the Expanded Sections.

Particularly disturbing is to see the drift fleet propose almost 50 proposals that either lessen the requirements for the drift fleet or increase restrictions for anglers in the Mat-Su Valley. Please note, per AAC 39.220 (Policy for the management of mixed stock salmon fisheries), Article 2, paragraph (b) *"the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in the close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern"*.

Lastly, I'd like to reference the BOF Allocation Criteria, as reflected in the Alaska Supreme Court decision (1991) as it pertains to AS 16.05.251: of the specific seven criteria identified, Item #3 *"The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption"* and Item #7 *"The*





importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for resident and nonresidents"

As the State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Sport Fishing Division, has failed to be more proactive in addressing salmon issues in the Mat-Su Valley rivers and streams it is incumbent on the Board of Fish to act on these issues.

Proposal #301: 5 AAC 21.XXX New Section and 5 AAC.XXX New Section: Adopt a Sustainable escapement goal (SEG) established by the department or establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for the Kashwitna River king salmon.

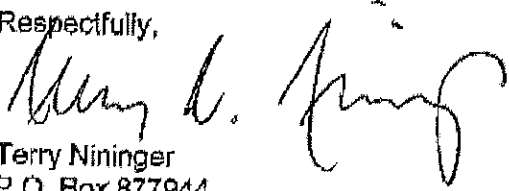
I support this proposal. As a regular angler of the Kashwitna River, both at Susitna Landing and points upstream, I have seen a substantial increase in angler activity over the last several years. There is a lack of an escapement goal and as in-river activity continues to increase there needs to be an established goal(s) to insure sustaining returning spawning fish. Note that the Kashwitna River is the largest tributary of the Susitna River on the road system between Willow and Talkeetna.

Proposal # 313: 5 AAC21.XXX New Section and 5 AAC 60.XXX New Section and Proposal # 315 5 AAC 21.XXX and 5 AAC 60.XXX New Section: I support both of these proposals and would like to include Coho salmon in establishment of escapement goals, SEG or OEG, for the Little Susitna River. For all the reasons referenced in responses to Proposals # 138, # 139, & #143 above, it is apparent that new criteria needs to be available to insure returning runs of Sockeye's, Coho's and chums to the Little Su.

Proposal # 323: 5 AAC 60.120: Create a youth-only fishery in the Ekultna Tailrace (Knik River) for king salmon *and a companion proposal for a youth-only fishery for Coho salmon at the Ekultna Tailrace (that was not listed in the Proposal Book)*; I support these proposals. The Ekultna Tailrace affords an excellent opportunity for fishing with easy access and supervision for young people to begin their salmon fishing experiences. Unfortunately, due to the immediate proximity of the road this area is typically swamped with Valley and Anchorage anglers. This will afford youngsters a chance to fish without having to fight the crowds. This restriction for general anglers is only for 2 days (one for king's one for Coho's) during the regular fishing season.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposals listed above. It is my sincere hope the Board will consider my comments when acting on these proposals.

Respectfully,


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