



Submitted By
Gerard Brell
Submitted On
1/14/2014 11:00:29 AM
Affiliation
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Gerard W. Brell
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To the Board of Fisheries:

I am an Alaskan who has fished the upper Cook Inlet salmon resource for many years as a sportsman, taken part in the personal use fishery and bought property on the Kenai River to enhance my fishing enjoyment. After reviewing the Fishery Board proposals for the upcoming 2014 meeting, I'm alarmed at the vile and vitriol that is displayed by the commercial organizations regarding the Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) fisheries toward the sport fishing and personal use section of our population. It seems that the few want more at the expense of the many. The fish resource that by State Constitution is guaranteed to be shared equally by all Alaskans seems to be single out as belonging to only a selected few. Just the sheer volume of proposals that enhance the drift and set net user groups at the expense of the rest of the users is readily recognizable. The Upper Cook Inlet is home to 60-65% of Alaska's population with at least 250,000 or more anglers/ personal use people taking part in the Inlet and its drainages compared to the few thousands that are in the commercial industry. I propose to the Board the following:

1. Follow the Kenai River Salmon Management Plan so that the Chinook salmon resource has a chance to return to past numbers. To say that catch and release for sport fisherman is the same as keeping netted set net kings for sale is totally erroneous. Equal treatment should be shared by all groups so when one group cannot keep fish, all other must follow suit. This is sharing the resource and responsibility equally. Sport fishermen already have bag limits and other restrictions imposed on their activities to limit the amount of catch. Further restrictions may be needed to save the stock but it must be shared by all equally groups.
2. The answer to better salmon escapement is not to lower the bottom number of returnees but rather increase that lower number to give the species a chance to return and proliferate.
3. Please take note of the makeup of local advisory Boards and their proposals. Distinct groups control certain Boards and the proposals that are forwarded by them are basically biased toward their financial interests.
4. Make sure that drift gillnet harvest in the Conservation Corridor west of the expanded Kasilof and Kenai sections be regulated so that the revival and use of the mixed fish stock for the Susitna drainages to includes Sockeye and Coho salmon be limited until Northern Escapement projections can be reasonably made.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Gloria Shriver
Submitted On
1/11/2014 8:54:15 AM
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The salmon sport fishery of the Northern Cook Inlet must be protected. The Board of Fish has the duty to ensure adequate escapement of all salmon species for the Deshka, Clear Creek and the balance of the West Side of the Cook Inlet and especially the Susitna Drainage.

Excessive commercial fishing is stealing our grandchildren's fish.

Enough is enough, allow more fish to enter the northern streams.



Submitted By
Israel Payton
Submitted On
1/9/2014 10:06:01 PM
Affiliation

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Chairman Johnstone,

I am in strong support of proposal 307 Upper Yentna River Subsistence Salmon Fishery. This proposal would extend the fishery for 3 more days. I have participated in this fishery for the past 18 years since its inception in 1996. Our family built the first Fish Wheel in 1996 and currently own one of the two Fish Wheels that operate in this fishery. My father taught me how to build, maintain, and run the wheel and I am teaching that to my daughter who loves "fish wheel time". In the last few years there has been river flooding and fish run timing issues that have made it increasingly difficult to fill the modest limit of salmon (25 per head of house and 10 for each member). The salmon have been showing up late and adding the 3 days on the end of the season would help. These 2 wheels are shared by the community and bring people together. The proposal lists the reasons why the 3 extra days are needed and I fully concur with the proposal.

I also support proposals 138, 139, 142, 143, and 144. These proposals address the Central District Drift Fishery Management Plan. I support them because they would allow for more conservation of Northern bound salmon stocks. Currently Susitna River Coho and Sockeye are consistently missing escapement goals and a new way to manage is needed. Susitna Sockeye are a designated Stock of Concern and Coho on the Little Susitna river have missed the escapement goals 4 consecutive years and should be a Stock of Concern.

I was born and raised in the Mat-Su Valley and I am very concerned for the conservation of future salmon runs.

Thank you,

Israel Payton



Submitted By
Jan Kornstad
Submitted On
1/14/2014 8:24:43 PM
Affiliation

PROPOSAL 219 - Of all the many proposal submitted, I stand in full and enthusiastic support of this one. The practice of allowing unrestricted fishing on and around known spawning areas is irresponsible at best. I have loved fishing on the Kenai River in the past and would like to see the King runs revived to good health. In-river issues must be addressed immediately regardless of what other actions may be taken surrounding the commercial fishery.



Submitted By
Jan Kornstad
Submitted On
1/14/2014 8:10:56 PM
Affiliation

POPOSAL 103 - I strongly oppose this proposal. Eliminating "in-river goal" from escapement goals takes away an important management tool and allocates more sockeye to one user group. This allocation would also increase the pressure on river habitats that are already showing the effects of years of abuse and over-use.

The second part of Proposal 103 which seeks to prioritize the lower end of all escapement goals over exceeding the upper end of all escapement goals is not sound management for any fishery. Do not try to limit the Commissioner's Emergency Order Authority. The balancing of these goals is the job of the ADFG and you have given them adequate tools to accomplish their job. These management tools are already in place and can serve all user groups well if allowed to function the way that the Board of Fisheries originally intended them to function.



Submitted By
Jan Kornstad
Submitted On
1/14/2014 7:54:11 PM
Affiliation

PROPOSAL 209 - I am strongly opposed to this proposal. When "paired restrictions" are imposed it is logical to suppose that the consequences of these restrictions would produce paired outcomes. This is absolutely not the case in the suggested pairings of this proposal. I will refrain from taking each item step by step as I assume that each member of the Board of Fish can extrapolate those consequences for themselves. In addition, at this time there is no proven scientific basis for the pairings proposed. Let us not engage in experimental management. Let us use the very good management plan that is already in place in the way that it was intended to be used.



Submitted By
Jan Kornstad
Submitted On
1/14/2014 8:34:13 PM
Affiliation

PROPOSAL 236 - I strongly support this proposal. This is an area of indictment upon the ADFG. There is a Riparian Habitat Fishery Management Plan in place that requires regular assessments. Net loss or gain cannot be addressed if no assessment is made. If these assessments have been made, where are they? The rivers of the Kenai Peninsula and Upper Cook Inlet and some of their salmon stocks are in distress in many areas. Let's demand and/or put regulation in place that produces regular assessments.



Submitted By
Jim Nabulsi
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:05:26 AM
Affiliation

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To The Alaska Board of Fish and Game,

My name is Jim Nabulsi. I live in Eagle River Alaska. I have been fishing the Kenai River for over 20 years. I have seen the ups and downs and know firsthand that we have a very serious problem. I was a guide on the upper 1/2 for a few years, mostly concentrating on rainbow trout. I have also fished in boats up and down the river from Skilak to the Ocean. But my most memorable fishing experience is fishing on the banks of Centennial Park. It started my first year in AK and to this day is something myself, my wife, and my kids love to do. I make it a point to spend 2-3 weeks a year camped in Centennial Park and fishing for king salmon.

Over the past 5 years I have seen various proposals that will change how and where we will have the opportunity to fish. I am writing this letter today to help you understand where, how, and the impact of this group on the Kenai River King Salmon. I, along with about 20-30 people fish at Centennial Park for king salmon. On average, 20-25 kings are caught a year. Most days you will not even see a fish. Of the kings that are caught less than one is harvested. I know every one that fishes for kings in this capacity. I can speak for all of them as to the extent of our footprint. I have many friends and family that have never hooked or landed a fish. They still try and enjoy the atmosphere along with the camaraderie. Reviewing calculations over the past 10 years of fishing I have concluded that we affect less than one tenth of one percent of King Salmon in the Kenai River. I have reviewed proposals which would impact, limit, or completely close this 1/4 mile of river. I, along with all the other letters I have gathered from concerned fisherman hope that you can see what minimal impact we have on king salmon. Though the economical impact is high as we have friends from around the world which drive, and fly, to the banks of Centennial Park and spend tens of thousands of dollars each and every year.

I understand that this issue is of great concern to anyone and everyone that sport fishes, commercial fishes, dip nets, and guides. I also know that if the resource goes away or is managed to unsustainable levels nobody wins. I hear everyone saying stop the set netters, stop the drift netters, stop dip netting, stop guides, and stop sport fishing. Every group is pointing the finger at everyone else. Take the paper written by Ronald Maw, who holds a doctorate in forestry and wildlife management, he published a paper which says 50% of kings that are caught and released die. This study is published by the Executive Director of the United Cook Inlet Drift Association? Not sure he is not bias when it comes to sport fishing. I would totally discount his findings just because of his position. Actually, I have caught the same fish more than one time on several different occasions. Most fish have some distinguishing markings or colors and you notice once you land and release a fish. I have witnessed this over and over up and down the Kenai. Now I would argue that the percentage is 80-90% morality rate. I have records. Another example is the lack of King Salmon during a opening for netters. Everyone sports fisherman on the river knows when the nets are out. It does not only slow down red fishing but it also slows/stops king fishing. That can only mean one thing; kings are being caught in the nets. It's that simple.

Then there is the economic factor. Who is getting paid? Well after researching this topic I would say it is clear as mud. If you ask about economic impact to Soldotna and surrounding areas due to sport fishing it is in the millions, if you ask about commercial fisheries it is in the millions. I cannot speak to the economic impact, I know you folks at the Fish and Game dept have hard #'s for each and will review this data. The only thing I can add is when you look at the commercial fishing industry totals (billions), sport fishing industry (millions), I ask you to think about who gets the money. Not sure how they divvy up commercial earnings. I assure everyone it is advantageous to the State. But look at what sport fisherman bring to the table as well. It is hard to account for all revenue that sport fisherman provide as they purchase gear, hotels, rentals, food, throughout Alaska before arriving to let's say Soldotna. I'm trying to ask how you account for the gas bought by a fisherman driving to Alaska that purchases gas in Tok? That gas station will be affected as well when the fish are not managed properly. Most friends I bring to AK arrive in Anchorage, go to Sportsman's in Anchorage, but 100's in gear, stop at Carr's and buy food and so on. How is the money spent at Carr's in Eagle River accounted for as revenue for sports fisherman as opposed to someone taking a trip to Denali to see the mountains? Does Alaska Airlines publish something that distinguishes fisherman from tourists? I do not think so. Last point on the economic factor, if you add up all Small Business that benefit, or solely depend on sports fisherman, and the number of commercial fisherman or businesses that benefit from commercial fishing I think you would see a huge disparity between the two groups. I venture to say that there are 5-10 times more businesses that benefit from sports fisherman than commercial fisherman.

So how do we manage this Alaskan resource? It is not beneficial to just point fingers back and forth without offering some solutions. The solution, if it were easy would already be in place and everyone would be happy. I have seen 100s of proposals which range from stopping global warming to taking the Kenai River and moving it to Canada. So I guess my only option is to offer my opinion. I suggest regulation on set and drift netters; they should not have the ability to fish until a proper escapement of king salmon has been established. Nets should be regulated; the depth I hear is a big factor and could ease the by-catch of kings if adjusted. Fisherman, no fishing until a proper amount of kings has passed the weir. Once opened to fisherman, the river (until #'s increase), would be deemed a trophy river (catch and release) for king salmon. Contrary to popular belief, folks would pay good money to catch and release a 70 pound king salmon. This system has

worked all over the country in different rivers. The fish levels in these pre designated rivers are thriving with no f
I can provide examples on request. Close the upper ½ of the river starting 1 July from Moose to Skilak for spaw
Soldotna bridge to Skilak 15 July for spawning kings (as submitted by another group here in Alaska) .



PC 383
2 of 2

I never claim to be an expert on fisheries, nets, distribution allowances, escapement, and so forth. I am just a concerned citizen who wants his kids to enjoy fishing for king salmon, on the banks of Centennial Park, like their dad did, and they did as kids. My goal would be to have a grandson/granddaughter catch their first fish where I did 20 years ago. It gives me no joy to be writing this letter as it is sad that we are trying to save something that is truly an Alaska treasure.

Sincerely

Jim Nabulsi

(907) 230-5130, Eagle River, AK



Submitted By
JoAnn Wichers
Submitted On
1/17/2014 2:59:56 PM
Affiliation

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Alaska Board of Fish Members:

First, I would like to thank you for your time and considerations of my comments. My name is JoAnn Wichers, my family and I have setnet in Cook Inlet for 28 years. We fish north of the Blanchard line on Kalifornsky beach. It is not easy work, but it is a lifestyle that we love and have invested greatly in and would like to pass down to our two sons and their families.

We have seen a lot of changes with regards to setnet fishing in our area, over the years. For the first ten years we fished an average of 23.4 periods (or days) a year. Many of these were 24 hour openers (fishing around the clock), over the past 5 years our beach has fished an average of only 6.6 periods a year. In 2012, we fished only 3 periods total, one day in July and 2 days in August. This is extremely difficult to bear at times, when you see other user groups allowed so much more fishing time than your historical fishery. I fish in a skiff every period right along side of my husband, my son and our deck hands, and I am extremely passionate about our fishing industry. I support proposals that would help to strengthen the in-river habitat and give our fishing area additional opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon.

I support proposals: 186, 187, 219, 165, 166, 167, 133, 236, 116, 115 & 118.

I oppose proposals: 103, 207, 208, and proposals 209 & 190 & others like it.

In particular I would like to comment on the proposal # 126, Permit Stacking. I oppose the proposal to take away permit stacking. Our oldest son joined the military and when he is done with his service he wants to continue setnet fishing in Cook Inlet. These are not new permits but ones that have been in our family for years. We will not retire the permits if the permit stacking is eliminated. But we will have to incur the cost to transfer the permits and lease sites and the stress of deciding how and who to transfer the permits to until our son returns from the military.

I fully support proposal 116, over the years we have had good fishing periods in August, unfortunately many set netters have stopped fishing by this time, and so the one percent rule can be extremely difficult to reach due to less fisherman fishing. For north of the line fisherman who have less opportunity for fishing time due to the late start of our season and the many restrictions which are currently in place in July, passing proposal 116 would allow us the opportunity on years of abundance to fish for sockeye and pink salmon during August.

I will not bother you with commenting on every proposal that affects my fishery, but please consider when you vote on these proposals, they are life changing for many of us, not just the fisherman but all involved from the cannery worker, to the consumers of our Cook Inlet sockeye everywhere. The king salmon is a valuable treasure, but so is the sustainability of our other valued resource the sockeye salmon. Just like the North of the line fisherman, which has come under increased pressure from many new user groups recently, don't let sockeye returns decrease as much as our production has.

Thank you again for your time,

Sincerely,





Submitted By
Joey McGhee
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:35:27 AM
Affiliation

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

My name is Joe McGhee, I currently live in Anchorage Alaska and have been fishing on the Kenai River now for over 15 years. I have seen a dramatic decrease in number of Kings running through the river in this short period of time and I am very concerned. With that being said I want to applaud the Alaska Fish and Game for acknowledging this decline and trying to do something about it before Alaska's most coveted Fish is gone and trophy Kings no longer exist. I fully support the decision Fish and Game made to cease fishing for Kings over the last two years in attempt to make our numbers increase. However, I understand it is the intent of many to close Centennial Park as a sanctuary for spawning Kings this coming year. This 1/2 of river that is in question for closing is where I grew up fishing for the last 15 years and frankly I'm frustrated with this idea. Myself and the handful of people fishing this bank for Kings are not catching spawning salmon, rather fresh Kings that are passing through. The majority of Kings that are caught look as if they were just pulled out of the ocean and never do we find the same King caught twice! To close Centennial Park as a sanctuary to me seems pointless, given the fact that only a small number of people have the capability and equipment to catch Kings from this bank. Which means the amount of Kings actually harvested from Centennial is dismal in comparison to the rest of the river. As stated earlier I grew up fishing at Centennial Park catching my first King there at 10 years old. Now 25, I have a newborn daughter that I want to take with down to the river and have her develop the same memories and friendship that I've gained over the years. I would like to ask Fish and Game to look into alternative options in managing our King salmon. I know there is a lot of pointing fingers as to who is to blame for the declining number of salmon in the Kenai however, it seems evident to me that must restrict the amount of boats at the mouth of the river. How do we expect large numbers of fish to make it to their spawning grounds with the mouth of river covered with nets from bank to bank? These commercial fishermen have catch more King salmon in one day than what my household has brought home in the last 15 years combined. Let's give the fish a chance, limit the amount of boats or hours they are allowed to commercial fish, enabling the far majority of Alaskan to enjoy its resources and keep tourism alive in our state.

Respectfully,

Joe McGhee



Submitted By
John Carr
Submitted On
1/13/2014 8:57:42 AM
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Please be advised I am in favor of a management approach to our fisheries that will give more fish made available for sport fishermen.

Thank you,



Submitted By
Joseph
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:14:10 AM
Affiliation

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The decline of the king salmon is the result of a series of events some of which are out of your control. I am concerned only with the events that are under your control and would benefit the king population.

As you know there are several groups of fishermen that fish for kings. Some fish for profit, some fish supposedly to subsist and some just for the love of the sport. Since the king is a designated sports fish it is wrong to discriminate against the sportsman.

As a result of tradition, politics and a previous abundance of fish, you are now in the unenviable position of trying to preserve a resource that you are in affect compensating people to deplete. In short if you want more kings you will have to stop the killing of so many kings. If you are able to put politics aside and do what is best for the kings while treating each group fairly and equitably, you will at least maintain their respect.

Perhaps there is an economic solution. Suppose every time a set netter killed a king he would have to put \$100.00 tag on it. How long would it take him to figure out how to kill less kings? Suppose every time a subsistence fisherman didn't release a king it would cost him \$100.00. Suppose every time a guide caught a king he would have to charge his client another \$100.00. The same thing would apply to sport fisherman.

Personally, I prefer the low impact sport fishing we do from the bank and would hate very much to see Centennial closed down. In fact I think it would be substantial benefit to the state to open more areas to this type of low impact fishing.

Another policy which I consider counter productive is that of allowing unlimited number of boats to fish the tideline, when waves of fish are attempting to enter the river. Many boats drift through this concentration of fish several times during the tide. These fish should be allowed to enter the river and disperse before being targeted. And, as I have suggested, more of the river should be opened to king fishermen to provide a more positive fishing experience and have less impact on the population of kings.

To recap my thoughts:

1. Treat the king salmon as a game fish.
2. Fair and equal treatments of all groups
3. Stop the rewards for killing kings
4. Promote low impact high quality fishing
5. Allow kings to enter and disperse in the river
6. Open up more of the river to low impact fishing



Sincerely

Joe Dietrich



Submitted By
Joseph
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:17:58 AM
Affiliation

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Letter #2 Using my Soldotna Address

The decline of the king salmon is the result of a series of events some of which are out of your control. I am concerned only with the events that are under your control and would benefit the king population.

As you know there are several groups of fishermen that fish for kings. Some fish for profit, some fish supposedly to subsist and some just for the love of the sport. Since the king is a designated sports fish it is wrong to discriminate against the sportsman.

As a result of tradition, politics and a previous abundance of fish, you are now in the unenviable positions of trying to preserve a resource that you are in affect compensating people to deplete. In short if you want more kings you will have to stop the killing of so many kings. If you are able to put politics aside and do what is best for the kings while treating each group fairly and equitably, you will at least maintain their respect.

I know you think letting the commercial fishermen kill kings is good for the economy. Actually it is not as good as you may think. When a commercial fisherman kills a king he may put a few extra dollars a pound into the economy. In 2004 I became interested in fishing for kings from the bank at Centennial Park. Since then I have spent 5 months each year in Alaska. I own a home in Soldotna and register and insure several vehicles in Alaska. Every year I buy licenses and stamps. Even though I am over 65 yrs old, I get no breaks. Each year I have out of state visitors that put a substantial amount of money in the economy and I personally spend in excess of \$6000 per month when I am in Alaska. This amounts to putting over \$1000.00 per pound into your economy for every pound of king I harvest.

Perhaps there is an economic solution. Suppose every time a set netter killed a king he would have to put \$100.00 tag on it. How long would it take him to figure out how to kill less kings? Suppose every time a subsistence fisherman didn't release a king it would cost him \$100.00. Suppose every time a guide caught a king he would have to charge his client another \$100.00. The same thing would apply to sport fisherman.

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1. Treat the king salmon as a game fish.
2. Fair and equal treatments of all groups
3. Stop the rewards for killing kings
4. Promote low impact high quality fishing
5. Allow kings to enter and disperse in the river
6. Open up more of the river to low impact fishing



Sincerely

Joe Dietrich



Submitted By
Judd Sturgeon
Submitted On
1/17/2014 8:37:28 AM
Affiliation

I was a set netter on the Kaslof river in the summers of 1991-93. We harvested many king salmon that were never counted due to the owner wanting them for personal use. I suspect many other set netters did the same. I believe fish and game really have no way of knowing how many king salmon commercial fisherman really harvest. Many of the king salmon that were caught were beach set nets and out to 1/2 mile. My recommendation would allow the commercial fisherman to continue to fish for salmon during the peak of the period although restricting them to farther waters (3/4-1 1/2) miles. I believe this would help allow more king salmon escape into the Kenai river.



Submitted By
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1/17/2014 9:24:37 AM
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To the board of fish and game

We fish in Alaska on the Kenai river and have done so for the last ten years coming up. We would be totally devastated if the King salmon fishing was closed to bank fishers especially at the Centennial Park area of the King Salmon steps and along this portion 100 metres away from the bridge. There is approx 20 fishers that come to the river from throughout USA and local, mainly the last 2 weeks of July and maybe 6-8 are there at the same time over 24hrs. This also includes fishing for sockeye.

It has been a meeting spot for many fishers over a number of years. We ourselves travel around 15000 kms each year from New Zealand, to enjoy the escape from our winter and what Soldotna and the Kenai have to offer.

Our flights are approx \$7000 return, \$1000 on fishing gear each year, fuel \$2000 , \$1000 per week food and living expenses we stay on average up to 6 weeks. We have purchased a fifth for accommodation to spend the time socializing and fishing. We had stayed at Centennial park in a motorhome for several years prior to this purchase. There are still a number of New Zealand fisherman who return to the Kenai and other rivers each season to take a break from NZ winters and hire motor homes and travel throughout the land injecting money into the tourism industry. These amounts of money would be depleted if we were not able to return to our favourite spot in Alaska each year due to the king salmon fishing.

We understood that Centennial park was gifted to the public for general use, so it is not clear why it is the intention of some to have the sport of fishing deleted.

Thanks

Julie Cridge

NZ



Submitted By
Justin McGee
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:10:02 AM
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This letter is for Alaska Department of Fish and Game along with anyone that might play a hand in the management of one of the most coveted Alaska resources. The Kenai River King.

My name is Justin McGee, I have been fishing in Alaska at Centennial Park for the past 16 years. I have seen a major decline in kings year after year and frankly it is frightening and so I have to ask what are you planning on doing about this? I have heard some of your proposed plans to close bank fishing near spawning grounds like Centennial Park. Is your argument really that the massive decline in reproduction of king Salmon because of sport fisherman like us? I can tell you there is no one more concerned about preserving and respecting the Kenai Kings then the men and women who fish the small section at Centennial Park. We are a group that fishes with a very unique and difficult style from the bank which cannot be done anywhere else. The small section at the first two set of stairs in Centennial Park where this type of fishing can be done; I personally know and have developed relationships with every person that fishes for kings and I have yet to see someone actually keep and kill a king in the last 10 years or more. Instead of accusing bank fisherman like us that have no effect towards the decline of reproduction of kings, I would encourage you to set better regulations and focus more of your attention towards the commercial fisherman and guide boats at the mouth of the river. If you don't start focusing on the real problem, it doesn't matter where you regulate where people can and cannot fish, there will be nothing left in the river to fish for!

I live in Anchorage and I spend annually just in the month of July approximately three to four thousand dollars every year for camping, fishing equipment, travel cost, lodging. This does not include food, drinks and other necessities I'll grab at Trustworthy, Cars, Fred Meyers or other local shops and restaurants. This is not just me only. there are about 20 to 30 of us that spend about the same or more and if you take our right to fish for kings at Centennial Park away none of us will continue to return.

Some ideas I have that would actually benefit the task of increasing the king population would be primarily regulating much less commercial netting and limiting how many kings they can keep, decreasing guide hours, and allow for catch and release only for all guides and sport fisherman alike for as long as it takes to rehabilitate the waters. It is my deepest hope you take this letter into consideration, I would love to be able to take my kids and grandkids fishing one day.

McGee

Justin



Submitted By
Karen S. McGahan
Submitted On
12/28/2013 6:13:52 PM
Affiliation

Proposal #237

Adding another drift only day on the Kenai River

I support proposal #237

There are so many obvious benefits from having another drift only day on the Kenai River. The most obvious one is to make fishing a more pleasant experience for bank fishermen and others. Also to reduce the pollution and erosion on the river.



Submitted By
Karen S. McGahan
Submitted On
12/18/2013 3:53:34 PM
Affiliation

Proposal 219

I support proposal 219. In fact, for many years I have expected the Dept. of Fish and Game to put forward a proposal of this nature. I have spoken with local sport biologists who also think this is needed.



Submitted By
Karen S. McGahan
Submitted On
12/28/2013 6:17:09 PM
Affiliation

PROPOSAL #238

Adding another drift only day on the Kenai River

There are so many obvious benefits from having another drift only day on the Kenai River. The most obvious one is to make fishing a more pleasant experience for bank fishermen and others. Also to reduce the pollution, safety problems, fishing pressure and erosion on the river.



Submitted By
Kathryn Folsom
Submitted On
1/11/2014 8:35:30 AM
Affiliation

I am in favor of action taken to bring fish back into the North Cook Inlet District



Submitted By
Kathy Toms
Submitted On
1/17/2014 3:14:10 PM
Affiliation
Aurora Taxes

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PO Box 664
Anchor Point, Alaska 99556

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.

Former sport fishing captain & lodge owner. Tax accountant by trade. Owner of Aurora Taxes & Accounting, Inc.

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

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

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.

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 seen the decline of the fisheries since 1985. I have several commercial fishing clients. They all know it is the draggers that are doing the majority of the damage. They admit that the setnetters also catch a lot of them. When I first moved up here I helped a setnetter for one tide. I helped pull in two nets. BOTH had one dead king in them. BOTH HAD ONE DEAD KING!!! So I have seen what is happening. Please stop it before they are all gone. The Kenai peninsula is a ghost town except the two weeks the sockeye run. Anchor Point is dying because there are NO kings. The campgrounds are empty. Please stop the killing of the Kings and Halibut by the Pollack & draggers fishermen.

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,

Kathy Toms



Submitted By
Ken Coleman
Submitted On
1/17/2014 10:05:57 AM
Affiliation
ESSN

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Kenai, Alaska 99611

Dear Fish Board Members,

I speak for all permit members in our family(myself,Victoria and Bryon). we are in favor of Proposal 117 which would eliminate the 1% rule as presently constituted.This rule was promulgated after one subpar coho season....all subsequent years have been more than adequate.

Should the Board not entertain elimination, then we would request serious consideration of Proposal 119. 119 would FAIRLY distribute catches between beaches which are now divided by time and regulatory boundries. Such a change would greatly help the Kenai/East Forelands section with harvest late in the season. Please remember that the Kenai/EF section begins its season 13 to 20 days later than the Kasilof section, thus later fishing is a huge monetary issue for the Kenai/EF fishers!

Respectfully suibmitted, Ken Coleman



Submitted By
Ken Coleman
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:46:09 AM
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Dear Fish Board Members,

I speak for all permit holders in my family(myself,Victoria and Bryon) in opposition to Proposal 126. Permit stacking has positively affected our business in that it allows our various work schedules to flex with the infrequent open fish periods. Additionally, since we cannot all be present, it allows for the hiring of more crew members which in turn benefits the local economy.

Should the board decide to eliminate stacking in Cook Inlet, we would respectfully request that a sunset period of time be considered so that we may "put our affairs in order".

Sincerely, Ken Coleman



Submitted By
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1/17/2014 10:37:23 AM
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Dear Fish Board Members,

I speak for all permit holders in our family(myself,Victoria and Bryon), we support Proposal 118. 118 proposes that a couple of fish periods be afforded to the North Kalifonsky Beach with the restriction than the fish period be approximatly held during the ebb tide and no longer than 8 hours in duration. Those of us in that area(244-32) tradionally fished and harvested Kasilof sockeye for generations until a regulatory change occured in1997. Please keep in mind that when we used to harvest during that time period we had regularly scheduled periods that encompassed both flood/ebb tides, again we are only requesting limited harvest capabilites with 29 mesh gear.

FURTHERMORE, SPEAKING FOR MY FAMILY, THOUGH THER ARE MANY OTHER FISHERS IN OUR GENERAL AREA WHO FEEL LIKEWISE, WE WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO CONSIDER FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO OUR AREA DURING THIS CHINOOK LOW ABUNDANCE PERIOD. WE WOULD ENTERTAIN SERIOUS MITIGATION EFFORTS SUCH AS, 29 MESH GEAR(and or less nets per permit), SUSPENTION OF REGULAR PERIODS AND FISHING ON ABUNDANT SOCKEYE BEING PRESENT ON THE BEACH.

Recognizing the need for our industry to do "do our part" we would request that restrictions would only apply during times of low abundance. We feel confidant that a plan could be worked through by the affected parties during committee meetings at the BOF hearing.

Respectfully Submitted, Ken Coleman



Submitted By
Ken Hepner
Submitted On
12/2/2013 8:33:06 AM
Affiliation
none

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I wish to inform you of my desire to support two upcoming regulation petitions.

First, is the petition asking for protection of king salmon spawning beds in the Kenai River. It is essential, with the number of King Salmon drastically declining that we do all we can to protect those Kings that are left. Protecting spawning beds appears to be one of the simplest and most effective means to ensure that the remaining few Kings are allowed to spawn without disturbance. Please respond positively to all petitions concerning the protection of King Salmon spawning beds on the Kenai River.

Second, is a petition asking for a second drift boat day on the Kenai River. The Board of Fisheries has lately been supporting one segment of the fishing community and that is commercial guides on the Kenai River. This is not wise policy in my mind. This commercial group has consistently worked to defeat any additional proposals to increase drift boat days. An additional day of quiet and less confusion on the river will go a long ways to enable King Salmon to spawn, to escape and to provide a peaceful and quiet fishing experience for all fishers. Please give this proposal the positive hearing it requires.

Thank you.

Ken Hepner



Submitted By
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:41:09 PM
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January 17, 2014

State of Alaska
Department of Fish & Game
Board Support Section
Chairman Karl Johnstone
Attn: BOF Comments
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Chairman Johnstone,

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA) has been a commercial fishing advocacy group since 1954. We are a non-profit 501(c) (6). We are primarily comprised of setnet salmon limited entry permit holders and in addition, we include other Cook Inlet gear types, crewmembers, fish processors, local businesses and other general interest in our membership. We primarily represent salmon set net permit holders from Kachemak Bay to the Susitna River, from the West Side of Cook Inlet to East Side of the Cook Inlet. We are comprised of generations of set net fishing families holding 736 Cook Inlet setnet permits. 82% of those permit holders are residents of the State of Alaska.

KPFA's mission is **"Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources."** Our goal is to continue to strengthen our fishing community and to promote the economic stability of the fishery.

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association is insistent that the principles of high sustained yield with strong guidelines to maintain environmental standards, should be the first rule in Cook Inlet fisheries management. Departments should actively seek guidance from stakeholders on how best to manage the fishery resources. They should engage the users to be realistic in their approach to maintain the goals. The public should support reasonable achievable expectations within a fully allocated resource.

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association Directors, members and associates will be available to Board of Fisheries board members throughout the regulatory meeting. We are interested in discussing all the fisheries issues with you. Attached you find a copy of our comments for Committees 1,2,3,5 6, A, B, C, and E regarding the proposals being deliberated in said committees at the 2014 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meetings in Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Robert Williams, President

Committee 1					
PROPOSAL					



PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
103	Amend management plan to drop inriver goals from list of escapement goals, prioritize achieving the lower end over exceeding the upper end of an escapement goal, and require the department to utilize all prescriptive elements found in codified plans before going outside of codified plans to achieve established escapement goals.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	Support ADF&G and biological escapement goal management. Dropping inriver goal is allocative. Requiring department to stick to plan does not allow for adaptive or abundance based management.		X

Committee 2

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
207	Establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 20,000–40,000 Kenai River late-run king salmon.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	ADFG report shows that MSY is 13.5-29K. Proposal is allocative and will cause undue hardship to other fisheries in the middle of their seasons. Support ADFG and biological management.		X
209	Establish paired restrictions in sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries to meet sustainable escapement goal (SEG) and modify sport fishing liberalizations when goal is projected to be exceeded.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	Goal has never not been met . Does not take sockeye/king yield tradeoffs into account. Restricts all fisheries, only liberalizes sport fish ery. Board already considered this and chose not to pair restrictions. Restricts ADFG's ability for adaptive management.		X
	Establish certain set gillnet gear	Kenai River	No definitive proof this will reduce King harvest, but it will undoubtedly		



211	restrictions implemented by department to meet escapement goal.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	undoubtedly reduce sockeye harvest effectiveness. Prohibitively expensive gear change.		X
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Committee 3

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
190	Revise the management plan with measures that stabilize fisheries during low-run years, increase opportunities during large-run years, and eliminate the "slot limit" for king salmon.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	Forecast = We oppose binding language in management plan. Eliminating slot limit would increase fishing pressure on these fish which need more protection.		X

Committee 5

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
113	Change the estimated number of sockeye salmon in the Kasilof River from 50,000 to 60,000, which allows the department to open the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict to set gillnetting on or after June 25.	Kenai River Professional Guide Association	We support ADFG and BEG Kasilof Sockeye management. Kasilof was overescaped last year, and has seen high escapements for many years now. This is allocative.		X
115	Change when the set gillnet fishery opens in the Kenai and East Forelands sections of the Upper Subdistrict from July 8 to July 1 and remove the reference that closes the fishery by emergency order (EO) under the "one-percent rule".	Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association		X	
126	Prohibit permit stacking in the commercial set and drift gillnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	There aren't a lot of latent permits in UCI. Many permits fished but not delivered on.		X
	Amend management plan to include a biological escapement goal (BEG) of	Kenai	Current language does not refer to the		



148	160,000–340,000 sockeye salmon and clarify intent of provision regarding meeting lower end of optimum escapement goal (OEG) over exceeding upper end of OEG.	Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association	BEG, which was intended to be managed to unless there was low Kenai sockeye abundance.	X	
154	Amend management plan to open the set gillnet fishery in the South K-Beach statistical area (244-10) when the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is opened.	South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (SOK-I)	This proposal is allocative within the fishery and has no proven conservation value.		X

Committee 5 (Cont.)

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
156	Establish an additional 24-hour window in the Kasilof area prior to July 7, limit extra fishing periods in the Kasilof area after July 7 when the Kenai area is closed, and limit use of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area, as follows:	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	No data to show any problem with Kasilof Kings. Kasilof has sanctuary above bridge, no fishing from boat on spawning beds from Aug 1-15th, & drift only till July 31st, and limits on number of guided trips per week. There already are limitations in place.		X
159	Modify management plan to change optimum escapement goal (OEG), inriver goals, and run-strength trigger points for late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon; and modify restrictions on the sport fishery when run strength is below 2,000,000 sockeye salmon.	United Cook Inlet Drift Association		X	
161	Amend management plan to change the upper end of the three inriver goals (tiers) for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon to 1,500,000.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	Goal already too high - this is allocative. Goals and inriver allocation should not be raised in the face of substantial questions about inriver habitat.		X
165	Amend management plan to allow the 24-hour closure period (or "window") to be scheduled at any time during the week, and change the 36-hour closure period to 24 hours and allow it to be scheduled between 7:00	Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association	Closure windows inhibit abundance-based adaptive management, and have no proven conservation value	X	



	p.m. Thursday and 11:59 p.m. Sunday.		conservation value.		
Committee 5 (Cont.)					
PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
167	Remove 24- and 36-hour closure periods ("windows") in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery after July 31.	South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Association (SOKI)	Closure windows inhibit abundance-based adaptive management, and have no proven conservation value.	X	
168	Liberalize the Kenai River sockeye salmon bag and possession limit when the run is forecasted to exceed 2.3 million fish.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	May is changed to shall. Forecast=shall is binding language. Sport harvest estimates are already weak - this would be dangerous. Also, it doesn't take commercial harvest into account. REQUIRING liberalization based on a forecast is a terrible idea.		X
Committee 6					
PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
117	Remove provision where the set gillnet fishery in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections of the Upper Subdistrict will close after July if less than one percent of the total season's sockeye is harvested in two consecutive fishing periods ("one-percent rule"); end fishing season on August 15; and allow regular fishing periods only from August 11-15.	Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association	1% rule has no biological basis. It inhibits adaptive, abundance based management and eliminates harvest opportunity when goals have likely been met.	X	
119	Change how the department determines if less than one percent of the season's total sockeye salmon harvest has been taken in the Upper Subdistrict.	North K-Beach Fishermen	Better than current rule, but ideally this rule should be eliminated.	X	
	Allow weekly fishing periods for the drift gillnet fishery in the				



122	Central District to be moved up to 36 hours when the NOAA forecast for Area 140, Cook Inlet north of Kamishak Bay and English Bay, is calling for winds above 23 knots, including small craft advisory, and gale or storm force winds.	United Cook Inlet Drift Association	Department already has this authority. Keep it simple.		X
127	Allow one individual to hold two limited entry drift gillnet permits and fish both at the same time from the same vessel.	United Cook Inlet Drift Association		X	
176	Amend fishing seasons and management plan to remove restrictions on set gillnet fishing in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections of the Upper Subdistrict in August, and change mesh size from four and three-quarters inches to four and seven-eighths inches when fishing for pink salmon.	Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association	Current pink plan not workable. Works to utilize an under harvested resource.	X	

Committee 6 (Cont.)

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
177	Remove provisions restricting harvest of pink salmon in Upper Cook Inlet and add language to allow harvest of pink salmon from August 1–15 during even-numbered years, with mesh-size restrictions of five inches or less; no restrictions on area of operation relative to shore; and manage pink salmon based on harvest or escapement goals.	South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Association (SOKI)	Current pink plan not workable. Works to utilize an under harvested resource.	X	
248	Start the three coho salmon bag limit on the Kenai River two weeks earlier on August 15.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association	Department already has authority to liberalize sport fishery. Takes management authority away from ADFG. We support the department's inseason management authority - to manage for abundance		X

Committee A

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
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172	Close the Kenai River personal use fishery when it is announced the sockeye salmon optimal escapement goal (OEG) may not be met.	Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association	Common sense. Burden sharing. Escapement goal management	X	
271	Direct department to provide permit holder information to enforcement officials if permit holder fails to return their permit.	Margie Anderson	We support an orderly fishery and proper data and record keeping. This shouldn't have to be a proposal.	X	
284	Establish harvest allocations for the Kenai River personal use fishery based upon Kenai River sockeye salmon run size.	South K-Beach Independent Fishermen	Support in principle.		

Committee B

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
133	Require the number of commercially-harvested king salmon to be recorded by length (under 20" and over 20") on fish tickets.	Todd Smith, Megan Smith, Amber Every, Travis Every	Apples to apples. More accurate data. Could go 750mm. ADFG does not currently counting small fish in 2013 escapements.	X	

Committee C

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
236	Require submission of findings and proposals if the Kenai River riparian habitat assessment demonstrates a loss of riparian habitat.	Todd Smith, Megan Smith, Amber Every, Travis Every	Healthy habitat is key to a healthy river.	X	
268	Placeholder proposal to allow stakeholders, department, and board to discuss proposed regulatory action based on results of 2012 Kenai River Freshwater Logbook data.	Todd Smith, Megan Smith, Amber Every, Travis Every	Support the concept and opportunity for discussion	X	

Committee E

PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL/AREA/SUBJECT	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
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185	Require daily reporting of all salmon harvested in Upper Cook Inlet salmon fisheries by all user groups.	Todd Smith, Megan Smith, Amber Every, Travis Every	Lower Cook Inlet should also be included.	X	
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Submitted By
Kenneth Bingaman
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:57:36 AM
Affiliation

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PUBLIC COMMENT on Proposals Submitted

to

The Alaska Board of Fisheries 2013/2014

First I would like to make an additional comment on Proposal 263. This is the only Proposal I submitted to the BOF for review during this current cycle. I just wanted to stress the importance that should be established, that all fishery decisions and uses should be slanted toward the People of the Great State of Alaska. We live here 12 months out of each year and the Residents of this State should come first in all area's related to harvest of this States fishery resources, every time period.

With regards to my Proposal 263, as an Alaskan Resident since the 1970's, Memorial Day in May has always been the traditional kickoff day to Alaskan Residents of the beginning of Summer and the first opportunity to fully partake in getting that first fresh Salmon for eating. That is why this Monday has always been for the Residents of Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula. That is why Guided Sportsfishing from a registered Guide Boat has always been allowed on this same Monday. Many of our fellow Alaskan Resident Citizens do not have a boat or if they do, they have not had the time to get it out of winter storage to be ready to participate in this early spring fishery. This is the only Monday of the Summer that Guides are allowed to sport fish on the Kenai River.

As Memorial Day Monday has always been the traditional kick off of Summer in Alaska, Labor Day Monday has always been the signal Alaskan Residents recognize as the last day of the Summer season. Many Alaskan Residents have by that time returned their boats to storage for the upcoming winter. There are few Non-Residents that are on the Kenai Peninsula that early or that late to participate in any sports fishery. These two dates are truly Alaskan Resident Holidays.

My Proposal, #263, is a request to allow Guide Boats to guide sportsfishermen for Silver Salmon fishing on Labor Day Monday. I am submitted this proposal because of many of my Alaskan Clients that requested me to do this. They have for many years asked me why they cannot fish with me one last time of that year for that one last salmon to eat.

Most of these are Residents who do have their own boats. But they have typically put them in storage for the winter months by this date. The prohibitive cost to drag a boat from Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley or Fairbanks this late in the summer season, pay another boat launch fee, gas, endure all the rigors of launching and recovery and operating their boats during periods of often low water make it public relative to allow them to fish from a Guide Boat on this last Monday of the Summer season to get that last fresh Salmon for their dinner tables.

There is no conflict as to King Salmon in the Kenai River at this time of year. With up to 2 months of fishing opportunity taken from the Kenai River Guiding community as well as the Alaskan Resident due to "catch and release" and "complete fishery closures" on the Kenai River the last 2 years, giving back this one day is not to much of a request. Please take all the information and my statements contained in this email into consideration when placing your vote.



(2), As to Proposals 237, 238 and 239. These proposals ask for another Drift Boat Only Day, (Thursday) on the Kenai River. I OPPOSE these proposal requests. This is a continuing issue with just a few people that do not know how to fish from a boat over the last 10 years. I have fished from a Drift Boat on Drift Boat Only Mondays. Let me tell you what it is like. First, many who participate in this fishery do not know how or are unable to manage a Drift Boat properly on the Kenai River which is a huge water way for a Drift Boat. Thus there is much anchoring in prime fishing holes. It is illegal to anchor in fishing holes according to ADF&G regulation, but it is a constant on drift boat Mondays.

This fishery is also a King Salmon Slaughter. With no power boats on the river, the King Salmon in the Kenai River, calm down, relax, display no stress and that makes them real suckers for any type of bait or lure. Anglers are killing more King Salmon on Drift Boat Mondays than any other day of the week. It is a slaughter! And there appears that Law Enforcement is not on the river on Mondays. That makes for lots of illegal fishing taking place.

Drift Boat Mondays also takes our aging population out of the equation. Many people that are in their 40's, 50's, 60's and older are not physically able to run or fish from a Drift Boat. Therefore they are shut out of this fishery. That is unfair and bias. Most are Alaskan Residents. I have heard them bitterly complain about the fact that they spend their entire life here paying for property taxes, sales taxes, ect and that they are rewarded with a basically closed fishery for them. Consider that.

(3), As to all proposals that reduce, take away from or limit in any way our Personal Use Dip Net fishery on both the Kasilof or the Kenai Rivers, I OPPOSE all of these. These fisheries are for the RESIDENTS OF ALASKA ONLY! This is how the RESIDENTS of ALASKA attain their fish for food during the long months of winter when no such fish is available. The RESIDENTS OF ALASKA should always come first and foremost with regards to any fish or game resource. There is no money to be made from this fishery. It is in it's simplest form, a gathering of important food. Leave it alone, it is for us the RESIDENTS OF ALASKA.

(4), All new catch and release proposals are brash and unsupported by sound biologic science. None of these should be made into law. They are brought forth by self-serving individuals who are not knowledgeable of the Kenai River fishery. I OPPOSE all of these proposals that deal with this subject.

(5), I feel that the BOF need to implement a Proposal Limit by an individual or entity. I cannot believe some of these people and the way that they are abusing this system. One individual put forth over 20 proposals, (McCombs). This needs to be addressed.

Thank You for your time and service in all these matters,

Kenneth Bingaman

40yr Resident of Alaska.



Submitted By
Lance Alldrin
Submitted On
1/9/2014 4:32:08 PM
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CI drift fisherman

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Once again we find ourselves in a "war" between user groups. This war has been waged on faulty data when it comes to counting king salmon. As an 8yr setnetter and now drift netter, there is a huge inconsistency in how king salmon are counted. ANY king caught by a commercial fisherman is counted on their fish ticket as a king, regardless of size. For the in-river fisherman, only kings greater than 26" have to be reported as a king. How, in a politically unstable playing field such as king salmon management, can we allow this to happen? Lives, jobs, revenue etc are on the table for potential cuts based on faulty data!! In 2012 I caught 3 king salmon on my set net sites on the East Forelands point. Two were under 26" (jacks) and one over 26". All three had to be reported as kings. If I were an in river fisherman, I'd only have had to report the larger one. So, if we look at the total number of king salmon caught by commercial fisherman, maybe we need to reduce the total by 30-60% to accurately reflect the same number of fish reported in the in river fishery. Or to be truly fair, have commercial fisherman only have to report on their fish tickets the number of "true kings", those over 26".



Submitted By
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Submitted On
1/11/2014 11:39:46 AM
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Any collective fishery regulations designed to limit the catch ratio of salmon (or halibut) stock should be shouldered equally by sport fisherman and commercial fishing interests. To regulate one group and not the other in catch limitations should not be implemented.

-Larry Weihs



Submitted By
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Submitted On
12/18/2013 12:18:31 PM
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Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Proposals 237 and 238

SUPPORT

Right after "too many guides," the most common complaint I hear about king salmon fishing on the lower Kenai River is that it's "too crowded."

Other than having a poor run of kings, the only way to reduce crowding is to allow fewer boats on the lower river in July, when use is heaviest.

The number of boats could be controlled by requiring a permit to fish from a boat. It wouldn't be the first time permits were used to control boat traffic. Part of Oregon's popular Rogue River has been regulated by federal permit for years, with lottery winners getting the permits. The part of the upper Kenai River that runs through federal land is currently regulated by federal permit, the purpose of which is to limit commercial use, including fishing guides. To date, the feds haven't required non-commercial users to have permits, but it could happen.

However, requiring a permit to fish from a boat for Kenai kings would be a major inconvenience for users. If a healthy run of kings came in one year, permits would be greatly in demand the next. Competition for permits would be fierce. If you wanted to take Uncle Joe fishing on the Kenai when he comes to visit next summer, you might end up having to take him elsewhere.

A less onerous way to reduce crowding on the Kenai would be to add another day of non-motorized fishing to the existing "drift-only" Mondays in May, June and July. Anyone who is on or near the Kenai on Mondays during these months will attest that the river is definitely different on the days when fishing from motorized boats isn't allowed. The river is far less crowded. Other benefits are that boat wakes, boat traffic, engine noise and water pollution are reduced. When sockeyes are running, some motorized traffic occurs on Mondays, but it's nothing compared to the other six days of the week.

Proposal 237 by the City of Kenai and Proposal 238 by the Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition propose like solutions to the issues of turbidity, erosion, safety and fishing pressure on the Kenai. Although guided fishing from boats isn't allowed on "drift-only" Mondays, both proposals would allow it on "drift-only" Thursdays.

I heartily support adding another "drift-only" day. In the interest of full disclosure, I don't own a drift boat, and I fish from one only on rare occasions. I'd likely be one of the people who don't fish fish for kings on "drift-only" days.

We're loving the Kenai to death. Giving it a rest from motor-powered fishing would be a good way to show it some respect. Adding another day of "drift-only" fishing would be a healthy step in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Les Palmer

Sterling, Alaska



Submitted By
Loren Flagg
Submitted On
1/14/2014 7:33:58 PM
Affiliation
K.A.F.C.

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PROPOSAL 219. SUPPORT. *Early run Kenai River king salmon have been in decline for several years now. While ocean survival likely plays a role, as it has in other Alaska king salmon returns, inriver practices have certainly added stress to this run. For many years now excessive fishing pressure has occurred on this relatively small run and much of that pressure has taken place on actual spawning as well as pre-spawn holding and ripening areas. These fish are begging for protection and ADF&G has recognized this in some cases by implementing in-season Emergency Order closures in spawning and holding areas. Proposal 219, by establishing two permanent Spawning Conservation Areas, would put these closures into regulation thus providing more certainty to management of the fishery and to the survival of future returns.*

Proposal 238. SUPPORT. *No one questions the fact that there is over-crowding on the Kenai River. Boat counts by ADF&G often exceed 500 and at peak times 600. The vast majority are power boats and many users have described their experience and situation on the lower river akin to a ZOO. There are no limits to the number of guides operating on the river nor are there limits to private anglers. This will have to come in the future if we are to see this river survive as a valuable resource, but in the meantime a few changes can be made to make not only the experience better but also the river healthier (on several occasions state turbidity standards have been exceeded on the lower river due to the operations of large number of power boats.) Proposal 238 would provide users with one more "sane" day on the river by implementing an additional drift boat only day. Guides would be allowed to fish, their clients and private anglers would enjoy some peace and quite and a more enjoyable fishing experience. But most of all, the river habitat and the salmon resource would benefit well into the future from the additional protection provided.*



Submitted By
Lori Every
Submitted On
1/16/2014 9:37:43 AM
Affiliation

Board of Fisheries

Below are my comments on proposals for the 2014 Upper Cook Inlet

Proposal 133: I support proposal 133 we should require the number of commercially harvested King Salmon to be recorded by length thus providing very useful data.

Proposal 172: I support proposal 172

Proposal 185 : I support proposal 185 and believe that all users should report their catch on a daily basis, This will provide prompt data.

Proposal 200: I support proposal 200 and believe that catch and release of Kings should be prohibited

Proposal 271: I support proposal 271 and feel that enforcement of this PU fishery is terrible. I would like to see enforcement of this fishery stepped up. Funds should be appropriated to set up check stations in specific areas (Summer hires could be used for this position). Upon leaving the check station you would have to report your catch along with your permit number, if you have obtained your limit, at this time you would turn in your permit. The Summer hire could then take the catch and permit information back to ADFG and enter into a database thus keeping more people honest along with having daily catch data.

Proposal 274: I support online permitting for PU fishery and reducing household limit to 15 per head and 5 for ea additional member. This fishery is out of control and growing at an overwhelming rate. It is destructive to habitat and the waste to our natural resource is of an unbelievable epidemic proportion. Really should people be able to leave fish with enough meat on them to make several meals laying to rot because they either do not know how to take care of a fish once it is caught or have no skills to fillet the fish properly? WASTE WASTE WASTE. The garbage, fish waste along with human waste that litters the Kenai is incredible. What started out as a positive idea has turned into an atrocity.

Proposal 284 I support proposal 284 and believe limits should placed on the PU fishery based on the run size.

Proposal 277: I support proposal 277 and agree that dipnetting should be opened after escapement needs have been met

Proposal 267 I support proposal 267 and believe the guides should be limited.



Submitted By
Mandi Patrick
Submitted On
12/28/2013 3:24:41 PM
Affiliation
none

Mandi Patrick

Support for Proposal #278

Hello, my name is Mandi Patrick and I am writing in to support the Proposal #278 submitted by Linda Lemanski. I am a resident of Cannery Road and every year during dipnet season we get bombarded with people coming down our road to fish. During that time of the year I have to block off part of my driveway to discourage people from using it as a turnaround or a parking lot. I have to make sure that none of my pets or children are anywhere near my driveway or front yard so that they do not get stolen or hit by cars speeding through our property. I have to make sure my "No Trespassing" signs are up and clearly visible to prevent people from actively trying to camp in my yard, (yes, they really do that), and to keep them from driving their four wheelers and dirt bikes through the yard. And even after dipnet season is over we also spend a lot of time having to pick up the garbage that the litterbugs leave behind. My neighbors and I are constantly fighting a battle to prevent people from speeding, stealing, littering, destroying property and partying in this area during dipnet season. The local law enforcement officers do their best to keep things orderly, but it is just too many people, in too small of an area, and in competition with each other. This creates a very noisy and dangerous environment. We are working hard to try to reach a compromise with the people who come to fish, and to put in place laws and structures to keep everyone safer, but the emergency openings create 24 hours of chaos that test the limits of what the state can police, and definitely strain the patience of the residents who are just trying to protect their loved ones, properties, and get a good night's sleep. Please consider extending limits versus extending hours. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mandi Patrick and Family



Submitted By
Marshall Webb
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:30:12 AM
Affiliation

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Address
JBER
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

This letter is for Alaska Department of Fish and Game along with anyone that might play a hand in the management of one of the most coveted Alaska resources. The Kenai River King.

My name is Marshall Webb and I've been fishing in Alaska since 1981. I am concerned with the decline of King Salmon since I first started fishing here. I realize that there are many factors that affect the numbers of fish returning to Alaska waters each year, (predators, commercial fishing beyond the three mile limit and possibly climate change). Laws/controls passed by Alaskan officials do not seem to prevent decline of our only renewable resource i.e. (fishing quotas for commercial fishermen, native netting rights to preserve a way of life and educate the youth) do not help prevent decline in species of fish. I find it humorous when comments are made that "we do not target King salmon with our nets". I have yet to see a net that was designed with an automatic King Salmon release. I understand the ADF&G is meeting this month and I'm especially concerned when I hear that restricting fishing at areas like Centennial Park to reduce the pressure on King Salmon. I do not fish every year for King Salmon because the numbers are low and fishing at Centennial Park is not a productive area that renders large amounts of catch. That being said it is a very popular area among long time Alaskans and tourist from around the world. A decision to restrict fishing in Centennial Park or any of the other areas around the Kenai River will not do anything to increase the amount of fish in the river. It will however have a huge impact on visitors to that area of the Kenai and the amount of money derived from the same will reduce portion ally.

Consideration should be given to exactly how many Kings are taken each year by sport fisherman compared to those of Commercial Fisherman and Native associations. The number alone will dictate where restrictions and cuts (if required) should be made. During my visits to Centennial Camp ground I have not seen an enormous amount of Kings being caught. As I said previously Centennial Park is not an easy are to fish and when you watch the amount of fish caught and compare to the number of Motor Homes and personal vehicles it is immediately apparent that large numbers of fish are not leaving in the hands of private fishermen.

I would recommend that ADF&G think more out of the box and consider areas like reduced commercial limits, reduced hours of operation for guides on the river, reduce the time natives organizations can place nets to coincide with more productive runs of salmon, increasing fishing restrictions on portions of the river with less fishing pressure due to location. This list is not inclusive but just some suggestions.

As a long time Alaskan I realize protecting our natural resources is necessary and hard decisions must be made, but in the 30 + years I have lived here private fisherman have received more restrictions on how, when, where and how much we can fish. It's time for increased fairness in decisions and for all parties to share restrictions equally.



Submitted By
Martin L. Meigs
Submitted On
1/16/2014 7:54:44 PM
Affiliation
Ak Sport Fishing Association

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ALASKA SPORT FISHING ASSOCIATION

1-17-2014

Statement from Alaska Sport Fishing Association

The Alaska Sport Fishing Association represents the fishing community in Alaska that does not sell or trade their catch for anything other than subsistence foodstuffs. To elaborate a bit, ASFA represents subsistence users whether you call them sport fishermen, dip netters, village fishermen trying to feed their families fish, or any other group of personal use fishermen who are the consumptive users of the resource the Constitution of Alaska reserved for the people of Alaska..

This might seem to put this group at odds with those who catch fish to sell: commonly referred to as "commercial" fishermen. In reality it does not – these people, too, fish for subsistence via another economic system. ASFA is all for the commercial fishing industry catching every single fish that is not needed for personal use and reproduction. Commercial fishermen feed a lot of others in addition to themselves with the Mother Nature's bounty! Ultimately, both groups will benefit if we can increase the numbers of fish.

The problem we are all dealing with here in Upper Cook Inlet is that there are not enough fish to meet the demands of all the users. The population of Alaska has grown by seven times since WW II and a major part of that population growth is centered in this area. Demand has greatly increased but the supply of fish has not.

I personally have great sympathy, as do we all, for those who have "traditionally" commercially fished for a living, or a part of their living, sometimes for more than one generation, but commercial fishing in Upper Cook cannot continue. The fact is that there is not, nor has there been an excess fish bounty in Upper Cook Inlet for quite a number of years but commercial fishing still occurs here. It should not. Yes, some commercial fishermen who will not adapt will be "hurt" if they are forced to stop fishing but when there is no excess bounty, the economic needs of the commercial fisherman must be met in other ways. Since the average annual fishing income (gross) in Upper Cook Inlet is only about \$25,000 with a net income much less than that, that lost income can be readily replaced. There are many ways to support oneself, particularly here in the economic center of the State, but the fish cannot be readily replaced.

Fish & Game has done a heroic job of managing the resource, all things considered, but they cannot effectively deal with this situation because their hands are tied. Today this Board can untie those hands.

Change is the only Universal Truth. If humanity did not change, we would not exist today. Permanent change has occurred – there are more people and fewer fish! If we don't change our rules today, the fish won't exist tomorrow! If we cannot deal with reality, all will suffer. If the Board acts now the multitudes that subsistence fish need not be totally deprived of this constitutionally guaranteed resource. The intent of the State Constitution was to reserve the fish for all Alaskans. When someone (particularly a non-resident) deprives those who fish for subsistence, they are violating the intent of our constitution.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Per Capita Real Gross Domestic Product was \$63,424.00 in 2010. The population of the Borough was 55,400 as of the 2010 census. This means the greatly exaggerated economic and human impact of the loss of this fishery amounts to less than 3 tenths of 1 % (.03%) of the economy of the area and affects less than 1% (.8%) of the population! The economic and human cost of the permanent closure of the set gillnet Fishery pales into insignificance when compared to the loss of the Kings in the Kenai and the rest of Upper Cook Inlet! http://bea.gov/scb/pdf/2011/07%20July/0711_gdp-state.pdf



ASFA, with great sorrow and empathy for those who will suffer, respectfully recommends to this Board that all co Cook Inlet and in those areas that would substantially diminish the flow of fish to this area be terminated. There is no other rational option.

Alaska Sport Fishing Association

Phil Cutler, President, ASFA

Martin Meigs, V.P., ASFA

attachments:

1.Commercial salmon fishermen income analysis

20 year Permits, Harvest and
Income, Cook Inlet

COOK INLET	Year	Resident	Nonres	Total	Total Fished	Total lbs	Avg lbs	Total Earnings	Avg Earnings
DRIFT GILLNET	1993	400	183	583	580	16,815,486	28,992	\$16,537,133	\$28,512
DRIFT GILLNET	1994	394	189	583	569	16,289,701	28,629	\$18,766,136	\$32,981
DRIFT GILLNET	1995	393	189	582	577	15,485,598	26,838	\$13,912,083	\$24,111
DRIFT GILLNET	1996	396	187	583	560	16,874,926	30,134	\$17,736,374	\$31,672
DRIFT GILLNET	1997	395	187	582	572	16,021,059	28,009	\$17,448,194	\$30,504
DRIFT GILLNET	1998	395	186	581	528	5,406,367	10,239	\$4,303,378	\$8,150
DRIFT GILLNET	1999	391	185	576	487	10,395,737	21,346	\$12,134,809	\$24,917
DRIFT GILLNET	2000	391	186	577	513	6,414,163	12,503	\$4,438,593	\$8,652
DRIFT GILLNET	2001	395	179	574	467	6,256,255	13,397	\$3,711,269	\$7,947
DRIFT GILLNET	2002	394	178	572	409	12,635,440	30,893	\$5,686,049	\$13,902
DRIFT GILLNET	2003	396	176	572	418	10,891,761	26,057	\$6,329,162	\$15,142
DRIFT GILLNET	2004	400	171	571	440	19,336,476	43,947	\$11,798,178	\$26,814
DRIFT GILLNET	2005	405	166	571	471	17,142,608	36,396	\$15,251,702	\$32,382
DRIFT GILLNET	2006	400	170	570	396	6,125,229	15,468	\$5,159,160	\$13,028
DRIFT GILLNET	2007	401	170	571	417	13,409,028	32,156	\$12,759,634	\$30,599
DRIFT GILLNET	2008	409	162	571	426	7,577,541	17,788	\$7,823,008	\$18,364
DRIFT GILLNET	2009	404	166	570	404	7,758,421	19,204	\$8,202,181	\$20,302
DRIFT GILLNET	2010	406	163	569	378	12,896,974	34,119	\$19,300,530	\$51,060
DRIFT GILLNET	2011	409	160	569	462	21,982,454	47,581	\$30,378,044	\$65,753
DRIFT GILLNET	2012	413	156	569	496	23,684,009	47,750	\$30,546,478	\$61,586

\$546,378

Avg Gross \$27,319

Average Net Income is considerably less than the Gross due to high fuel prices.



SET GILLNET 1993	638	107	745	641	14,671,119	22,888		
SET GILLNET 1994	628	117	745	617	13,162,797	21,334		
SET GILLNET 1995	626	119	745	625	9,131,234	14,610		
SET GILLNET 1996	620	125	745	604	12,716,723	21,054	\$13,570,507	\$22,468
SET GILLNET 1997	622	123	745	603	14,316,576	23,742	\$15,637,913	\$25,934
SET GILLNET 1998	620	125	745	559	5,670,497	10,144	\$4,351,636	\$7,785
SET GILLNET 1999	618	127	745	556	7,809,505	14,046	\$9,993,704	\$17,974
SET GILLNET 2000	622	123	745	533	5,490,871	10,302	\$4,319,800	\$8,105
SET GILLNET 2001	623	121	744	505	6,608,371	13,086	\$4,081,429	\$8,082
SET GILLNET 2002	620	123	743	496	10,987,787	22,153	\$5,547,596	\$11,185
SET GILLNET 2003	618	124	742	472	12,119,220	25,676	\$8,086,607	\$17,133
SET GILLNET 2004	621	118	739	481	15,504,196	32,233	\$11,120,261	\$23,119
SET GILLNET 2005	615	122	737	499	16,625,895	33,318	\$15,406,920	\$30,876
SET GILLNET 2006	616	122	738	482	8,935,533	18,538	\$8,591,257	\$17,824
SET GILLNET 2007	618	120	738	483	10,258,292	21,239	\$10,181,085	\$21,079
SET GILLNET 2008	613	125	738	484	9,242,351	19,096	\$11,368,513	\$23,489
SET GILLNET 2009	608	130	738	472	7,382,198	15,640	\$8,963,165	\$18,990
SET GILLNET 2010	608	128	736	488	9,000,915	18,444	\$14,160,033	\$29,016
SET GILLNET 2011	606	130	736	543	14,089,410	25,947	\$20,116,813	\$37,048
SET GILLNET 2012	619	117	736	456	2,335,327	5,121	\$2,536,346	\$5,562

\$387,057

Avg Gross \$19,353

Average Net Income is considerably less than the Gross due to high fuel prices.

10
years Upper
Cook Inlet
Set Gillnet
Earnings
(Adjusted
Gross \$)

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2013-2014/uci/cfec_uci_report.pdf

Year	Permits Fished	Earnings		
2003	448	\$6,948,416		
2004	463	\$13,362,511		
2005	484	\$17,975,564		
2006	460	\$9,558,285		
2007	470	\$11,008,434		
2008	470	\$11,659,302		
2009	454	\$9,236,506		
2010	468	\$14,749,895		
2011	491	\$20,222,655		
2012	408	\$2,428,818		
Avg	461.6	\$11,715,038	\$25,379	Avg / Permit

According to the BEA, http://bea.gov/scb/pdf/2011/07%20July/0711_gdp-state.pdf, Per Capita Real Gross Domestic Product was \$63,424.00 in 2010. The population of the Borough was 55,400 as of the 2010 census. This means the greatly exaggerated economic and human impact of the loss of this fishery amounts to less than 3 tenths of 1 % of the economy of the area and affects less than 1% (.8%) of the population! The economic and human cost of the permanent closure of the set gillnet Fishery pales into insignificance when compared to the loss of the Kings in the Kenai and the rest of Upper Cook Inlet!



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ASFA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation



Submitted By
Marty Van Diest
Submitted On
1/11/2014 11:12:50 AM
Affiliation

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All salmon streams should be managed alike so that they each have their escapement goals. If escapement is not met and there is indication that the fish are being intercepted lower in the inlet then fishing in the lower inlet should be restricted to areas close to the mouth of those streams in the lower inlet.



Submitted By
Matthew
Submitted On
1/13/2014 11:05:54 AM
Affiliation
Subsistence fishery user

Phone
907-982-5898

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Akrid89@yahoo.com

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3875 n. Red fox cir.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

As a user of this fishery I support proposal 307-5 AAC 01.593. Upper Yentna River Subsistence Salmon Fishery. The more opportunities to harvest the better.



Submitted By
Matthew Fagnani
Submitted On
1/13/2014 1:55:44 PM
Affiliation

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January 13, 2014

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

As the Board of Fish gets ready to meet in January, I am compelled to write and voice my support for the survival and conservation of the Kenai River King Salmon fishery.

For many years now, the returning King Salmon have been very close to an in-river collapse. We have a crisis in the making that affects multiple users groups; Sport Fisherman, Commercial, Commercial Set Netters, and Subsistence users groups. The low numbers of returning King Salmon puts the Kenai River in "critical condition status" to sustain the King Salmon population. The low number of spawning King Salmon, that are allowed to enter the river, is not sufficient enough to sustain the fish population itself or the Kenai river user groups.

Considering, the numbers of returning Kings to the river, they are not in adequate numbers for sustainable spawning to occur.

We know that by-catch or "unintentionally caught salmon," is a controllable variable for any sustainable fish policy.

It's simple- when the commercial set nets are out in the Cook Inlet, fewer fish make it or there are too many, make it to the river. The Kenai River King Salmon issues is not about sport fisherman vs. commercial fisherman, it's about a healthy returning of King Salmon to preserve the future runs for the future generations.

I own property on the Kenai River and fish the middle river from mile 44 to the outlet of Skilak Lake. This area is already been severely restricted and carries the burden of being tagged the nursery of the King Salmon industry. In result, we get more restrictions and more closures than the lower river. We have been fishing in this area for more than 40 years. My family, neighbors, and friends on the middle river can no longer fish for Kings in an effort to preserve the Kings Salmon reaching the lower Kiley River and other spawning areas. This is in essence about 10 miles of the river which has already been closed to preserve the Kings Salmon spawning grounds. For me, the rules must be fair and balanced.

The real disappointing fact is my children have grown up fishing in the Kenai and they have never caught a King much less fished for them. It is a shame that we have allowed the number of returning Kings to be intercepted (by-catch) rather than allowed them to get into the river system.

We as Alaskans can and must restore the King Salmon populations so that all user groups can benefit. I feel that I am doing my part. For me, the issue is we need a completely healthy river system, with a comprehensive commercial fishing regulations in the Cook Inlet that puts the resource into the hands of all users. We must sustain the in-river fish and allow the Kenai Kings to reach the spawning grounds. Mother Nature determined that in order to sustain a healthy fish population, the fish have to make it to the river to spawn. When no fish make it to the river, there is then no spawning fish for any of the user groups.

The King Salmon fishery is a world class premier fishery on the Peninsula and one that is recognized as the bell weather of the economy and the popularity of the Kenai River. Kenai and South-Central Alaska have high numbers of tourism related businesses interconnected to healthy returns of early and late run Kings, Sockeye, and Silver salmon. To put this into perspective, sport fishing generates \$800 million dollars annually from the Cook Inlet sport fisheries. This is an important and significant aspect to the tourism economy. Not to mention the additional business that benefits from the tourist.

So as we break this issues down, it is truly about sustainable fish stocks, healthy fish returns, and healthy economies. I prefer that we make

the tough decision now to save our King Salmon. There is no reason to accept any decline in fish populations from the Kenai River. We owe it to the river system to see that there is no decline in fish and that the fish returns are healthy year after year.



Therefore be it known that I support:

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

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

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

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

#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 don't act now to preserve sustainable fish goals then someday soon there will not be a fisheries to maintain, and we all lose food, income and business. Is that the Alaska you want the future generations to know?

Regards,

Matthew Fagnani

Kenai home owner and sport fisherman

29087 COHOE CT.

Sterling, Alaska 99672

Or

Mailing address

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Anchorage, Alaska 99517

mattfagnani@gmail.com

907-250-2313



Submitted By
Michael
Submitted On
1/11/2014 12:43:11 PM
Affiliation

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907-376-3465

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Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Please address the Upper Cook Inlet Sport Fishery. This area has been badly damaged by commercial interception of the fish destined for these waters.



Submitted By
Mike Coons
Submitted On
1/11/2014 9:12:06 AM
Affiliation

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9077456779

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Palmer, Alaska 99645

By the time Salmon of all species get into the streams they have been gone after by the Russians, Chinese and other Pacific nations in the open ocean, then by the Commercial Fishing Trollers in the State/US territorial waters of the ocean, then by the gill netters and commercial fishermen at the mouths of the rivers. Although fish biologists can't seem to be definitive on why the numbers making it to the river is so low, and there may be other issues, the fact of the matter is the numbers of returning salmon are, have been and for the foreseeable future will continue to be low and getting lower. The high seas is the responsibility of the US Congress and the State Department, which we know are worthless at this time. However, the State of Alaska does have jurisdiction in our waters and can do something.

I am demanding, this is way beyond asking, the Board of Fish to put restriction on commercial fishing, and I can live with the restrictions we as sports fishermen now until the numbers of returned, not just "returning", salmon are back to solid and sustainable healthy numbers. This includes subsistence fishing as well for all of us are or have had impact on these returns, not to mention flooding, low water and other natural events which impact returns, spawning and the viability of the fry to get to the oceans.

Mike Coons



Submitted By
Mike Mellor
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:21:20 AM
Affiliation

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This letter is intended for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other groups influencing the ability to fish from the shore at Centennial Park in Soldotna Alaska for Chinook salmon.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Michael Mellor and I have lived in Alaska starting in 1988 with my wife and we are both avid fishermen. My entire extended family in Alaska grew up around the Chinook salmon fishing in the Kenai River. I have personally witnessed the decline of the Chinook salmon over the past years and I am very concerned. I am also very concerned about the trend that seems to be building which is trying to ban sport fishing from the shores of the Kenai River. I drive from Anchorage to Soldotna and stay at Centennial specifically for the opportunity to catch a Kenai River King. Not having a boat or the dollars it takes to hire a guide, this is the only opportunity that I and my family have a chance to catch that sport fish. I spend thousands of dollars a year in camping, fishing equipment, licenses, food and fuel. Fishing from that ½ mile shore area in Centennial Park is my only real opportunity to even get a chance at the Chinook. Even just hooking one is a thrill as that landing one is almost impossible. In all of the years that I have been fishing there, I have only witnessed a few Chinooks actually being landed. My other concern is the overall management of the guide services and the set netting going on that in my opinion is really affecting the Kenai River sport fishery. Civilians have claim to that river as well and from my perspective, but we are steadily getting pushed out! Why is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game not looking at the real problems on the Kenai - the commercial industry - and fixing that? It would seem that limiting the amount of commercial guide licenses and getting the set netters pushed back from the mouth of the river would sure help the lack of Chinook salmon in the Kenai River. I would be curious to know as to how many Chinook salmon are by-catch with the set nets? I know that during Sockeye season and dip netting, when the set nets are out there are no fish coming into the river. That seems like a huge indicator as to how much just that one action affects the entire Kenai River so quickly would also effect the Chinook population.



Submitted By
nancy Taylor
Submitted On
1/17/2014 11:00:24 AM
Affiliation
east side setnetter

Dear Board Members

I strongly support Proposal 219.

Rarely do we hear any discussion of possible negative impact on the King return as a result of sport fishing on the spawning bed. However, over the past many years of fishing these beds, there has to have had a negative effect on King return. Please give this proposal very serious consideration. It seems like a win win as future Kenai River Chinook production will be greatly improved and no one would seriously suffer.



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Submitted On
9/24/2013 4:14:22 PM
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As an introduction – my name is Nathan Hoff. This past spring I acquired two Cook Inlet set net permits and the title to two State Leases from Bob and Lee Barnes, long-time Cook Inlet set-netters.

I decided to settle myself near the Kenai River after having fished seasons in Bristol Bay, Kodiak and the Alaskan Peninsula. I had never before fished the Eastside of the Cook Inlet. My decision to settle here was made predominantly with the hope of establishing a family by whom I can stay near rather than removing myself for long stretches of the summer to fish remotely.

Bob and Lee were seeking to retire from the fishery, and I was able, with my life's investment to meet their asking price and allow them to tie up every loose end in their life's work in order to retire to the State of Washington.

The privileges of living on the Kenai Peninsula surrounded by other people's talent and enterprise- theater, church, restaurants, etc. are many. Of course, as a commercial fisherman, this larger population also requires a special challenge in advancing coherent regulation amongst so many, many different desires.

It should be noted that the many different proposals listed here represent only a fraction of the opinions out there, and the proposals, organized as they are, begin to form the outline of but one of the multiple paths the fishery could take.

I recognize that when the Board of Fish meets together, they are looking to follow a schedule of priorities based upon Allocation Criteria, Mixed Stock Policy, Sustainable Salmon Policy, etc. My hope and encouragement is that the Members of the Board exact a child-like simplicity and wisdom in the face of carefully constructed arguments.

I will give several examples of what I am encouraging the Board Members to refresh themselves with. The first is the story of the 'Emperor's New Clothing', in which a young girl finally breaks through the populace's stupor and the emperor's arrogance when she applies the verdict, "But he has nothing on!"

The second example is of King Solomon's wisdom found in the 1 Kings Chapter 3 of the Bible. Here wisdom determines true love and commitment, and exposes the liar.

The last example is a story I acquired in my own travels, while vacationing in Belize. One of the beautiful parts of a country like Belize is its smallness – the adage, small is beautiful, can sometimes apply to the social and political aspects of the peoples' lives as the following story demonstrates.

There was a rather successful businessman who had made his fortune in the production of paper product, including toilet paper. He was being interviewed on a radio program that invited phone callers. One woman called and demanded to know why the price of toilet paper had risen so much over the past year. The businessman launched into a lengthy apology of his position that included certain international market conditions, etc. At the end of this all, there was a pause until the woman again spoke, saying, 'Yes, sir, but I am holding a roll of your product from last year, and one I recently purchased, and the new product is significantly smaller in size as well.'

The businessman was effectually silenced. It was clear to every listener that there was some subterfuge being carried out. Despite the businessman's rather dire reports of his business success, that same year he started the construction of a massive home, which the locals, understanding the source of the great wealth which went into the building of this home, called, 'The Toilet Paper Palace'.



You all have a difficult job. I hope that there are those among you who are humble enough to pray to God for His aid to make our decisions, I hope there might come to light simple truth that will protect your decisions from the designs of crafty men or others who care for the truth will ask the simple but more pertinent questions that bring to light a stronger ray of the truth.

Our fisheries policy has to absolutely have a “head” or vision to direct the body of people. Our regulations could be viewed as the spine or skeletal structure on which the body is to move. If bad regulations exist, it will make it harder for the body to move (think a malformed foot – or hunchbacked spine).

There has always been talk of totally rewriting the IRS rules; but no one is willing- likely in part because so many individuals have found a helpful niche, often in some decadent additional appendage (expanded skeletal structure) by which to eke out some small reward.

I am going to proceed with my comments starting with what I consider to be the most important of all, safety of our fishing fleet. I am somewhat of a child among you, and I readily confess that there are many proposals to the Cook Inlet that I do not comprehend. I also confess to only paying much heed to those proposals that seemed to directly influence me. I know that this is not necessarily very wise, because what is given up by one group of participants in the fishery will be asked for by another, etc. I just lack knowledge to take this all in!

However, my newness also comes with its benefits that I would like to somehow share with you. I am just starting my career as a setnetter, and where others have resorted to entrenched warfare, I may bring a whole new perspective and great source of creativity and I am willing to work through and for changes.

I maintain that small is beautiful. If this is not so, than there is absolutely no purpose or meaning in my writing this letter.

At the end of the meetings in Anchorage, I would hope that in addition to hard regulation which time may be now at hand, the board also be able to provide some over-arching policy suggestions for the upcoming years that will help to inform my future decisions and what I try to work out with my Kenai and Alaska neighbors.

Examples of this may be to ask users to consider buy-backs of commercial fishing permits. I believe a buy-back program, if appropriate, could be carried out by creative proposals that include different user groups. Ask me! I have some creative ideas! Guides may be asked to adopt a system of limited-entry permits just like any other viable commercial fishing enterprise in Alaska. So in addition to actual regulation, I would ask that the Board provide an outline for the future by which I might strive to orientate my efforts.

Proposal 122 – Very Strongly support.

This proposal mirrors my greatest concern and opinion after having fished my first season on the Cook Inlet. A fishing season on Kodiak could last several months; in any season, there were always several storms in which we would not have dared venture on the water to fish. In truth, do to the nature of the Kodiak fishery our nets would likely still have been set, and we would still be provided an income, without personal danger.

I fished only 7 periods on my sites this summer. Over 75% of my season’s total catch came in one (!) good day of fishing. Thankfully, this occurred on a calm day.

I believe this Proposal in some form HAS to be placed into regulation. As things are now configured, the fishery is approaching very close to the halibut derby of by-gone days, which everyone recognized as dangerous and of producing poor quality fish. It may be implied, but I would like the proposal to of course include the set-net fleet.

Proposal 114 – Very Strongly support; amend if necessary.

I would strongly support this Proposal also – although my reasons are not aimed as strongly at an inequity of fishing time as they are at safety and fish quality. There are plenty of amendments voicing strong concerns about inequity of fishing time. I, however, am chiefly concerned with having to set my nets and to pull them again within such a small timeframe.

I wish people here had the ability to fish my sites for a day. Suffice it to say that the weather and the tidal currents DO NOT fit within an arbitrary 12- hour period. For roughly half of an incoming or outgoing tide, the nets are completely unworkable. Three strong men, with mechanical aid from a pulley, etc. stand no chance of raising the nets over the bow of the boat, even on a flat, calm day!

This means of course, that when there is any doubt as to whether I will be able to safely release gear, I must pull some nets closer to a slack in the tide, regardless of how much fishing time I may forfeit. Again, this loss of fishing time could be vitally important in a season

similar to this past year when I was only allowed to fish on only seven days.



I fear that 'fish wars' are making it possible for people to become callous or perhaps even brutal toward: encouragement ought to be given to Fish and Game to oversee the fishery in ways conducive to the safety of fishermen. Greenhorns are otherwise subject to the whims of an individual fisherman, and with such limited fishing time, who knows what poor decisions an individual might feel constrained to make? Proposal 122 has to pass and Proposal 114 should probably be right behind it. The one amendment that may be appropriate is that the length of the fishing period will close between 7 and 10 depending on the tidal flows; extending the period to 10 pm is somewhat arbitrary as the flood may have occurred at 8pm. Setnetters should NOT be waiting and calling to see if Fish and Game might throw them a scrap of an hour; this feels very wrong, callous, inhuman (lacks any love).

This is the case because all know in advance what the tides are doing, and I would amend the proposal to state that fishing will close for set-netters BETWEEN 7-10 pm, one hour AFTER flood or ebb if there is the need to placate individuals unhealthily consumed by the idea that setnetters are getting something unfairly in the additional fishing time.

Proposal 115 – Support

I would appreciate the additional fishing time; the training is not insignificant as with a July 8th start, I only had fished only two periods before the day on which 75% of my season was made, and my crewmen were not very well prepared for such a day.

Proposal 133 – Strongly support.

Conservation is important to me. Reporting requirements offer a no-nonsense, very practical addition to King management.

Proposal 81 – Support; amend as necessary

Meanwhile, I am not sure what to make of Proposal 81. I do not necessarily see that the proposal has scientific peer review, which would seem necessary to direct any policy. I am somewhat concerned by the fact that I encountered no recommendations from Fish and Game biologists (though this Proposal may be one). Perhaps a lack of input from fish biologists is a good thing, suggesting all is going decently? If this Proposal presents concerns that area fish biologists believe to be valid, I would support the proposal if amended to include Fish and Game's recommendation that this is an area that needs careful attention or funding or whatever.

As an aside, I wish the Board would encourage the proper procedures in formulating Proposals. If this proposal is a front-burning issue of area fish biologists, it would be much clearer to me that it is something I ought to support if it were a group of scientists making the Proposal. I do feel it is very important for biologists to have a clear and authoritative voice when it comes to stock issues. For instance, without Fish and Game monitoring overall catches and escapements, I would have no idea of the impact my fishing effort may have on the fish in any given year.

Policy recommendations are made then based upon our intended use of these fish. After all, conservation implies an end use, because if we didn't catch any, we wouldn't know the size of individual fish (for recreational purposes) or population sizes (for food), nor would we care! (Does a bear shit in the woods?...)

Policy recommendations are secondary to pure biology. However, biologists do not get to make policy because they also are mere men, subject to their own quirks; for instance, one well-intentioned animal lover may come to the conclusion that the acceptable exploitation rate is zero, and he would be mistaken.

Proposal 125 and Proposal 118 – Support

I find the Proposal interesting and wish Johnson luck in garnering the board's support to experiment with alternate fishing gear. His rationale for experimenting seems in keeping with long-range goals to maintain a successful commercial fishery while limiting the catches of king and coho.

Proposal 118 asks for additional fishing time in exchange for an alteration in gear. There has been the suggestion that shallower gear may result in the capture of fewer kings. Unfortunately, there is not any solid data, from what I have heard, to inform what could be an important management decision regarding gear in certain areas. As things now stand, many set-netters perceive the threat that they would have to alter their gear based upon a 'feel-good' move for the kings without clear evidence anything is being accomplished. In addition, many sites do not capture that many kings, nor as many sockeye and the restriction on gear would be unduly restrictive.

Mr. Hollier, as I understand it has the additional incentive of reducing his gear, because his sites are near a rock field. I am in a similar place. I would be willing to fish shallower gear for the additional fishing time / crew experience / and thus provide fish managers with what would hopefully prove to be some truly useful data.

Proposal 116, 117, 119, 176, et al. Very Strongly support a pink fishery.

I very strongly support measures to revise or abolish the 1% rule. As an incoming fisherman, I find the rule bizarre. Many suggestions simply to close the fishery by emergency order seem altogether sufficient; why the arbitrary rule? Given my early concerns with a malformed spine (regulatory structure) it may be more obvious why I am particularly offended by this rule.

There seem so many ways in which it is a poor rule, that I do not know where to begin. Many suggestions have been made to simply leave the season open until it is closed by emergency order. Certain fishermen make the case that applying a 1% rule broadly may limit sockeye fishing when the fish are on the beaches in abundance. However, given that these fish are more strongly contested, I will just forget all of that and choose to believe the 1% provides some useful regulatory structure beyond my understanding. If that is true, then I would suggest it keep the peace ONLY on odd years and be altered or set aside to allow for a pink fishery. As I understand the rule, fishing is likely to end right when pink fishing is getting good. This seems like a horrible waste!

Proposal 126. Oppose as presented. May support if amended.

Proposal 126 is particularly bothersome to me as presently worded. Because I will have to give it considerable effort, I have left it to the last. The proposal is emotional for me, because it seems to directly threaten my new business; however, if amended in some way, I may be in agreement with the proposal.

As I have related earlier, I settled upon the Cook Inlet because the fishery is less remote. I did not necessarily feel that I had all of the experience necessary to operate a fish camp in Kodiak. I definitely did not have enough money and would have had to rely quite heavily on owner financing. Moreover, Kodiak or Bristol Bay would pose additional challenges to the young family I hope to soon establish.

I located Bob and Lee Barnes by searching the Fish and Game directory of those permit holders who intended to transfer their permits. For whatever reasons... we just clicked. One of the main factors that we had going, was the fact that the Barnes' were willing to fund a portion of the cost which I could not provide. I say that 'we clicked' incidentally, but I want to make clear that it was a difficult thing for the Barnes to sell what had been a family operation for 30 years. It was difficult for me to completely invest myself in a fishery that has had some recent struggles and to trust that I was being treated fairly in a description of equipment, sight unseen.

However, we somehow accomplished the transfer of titles, leases, permits, equipment to the tune of my life's saving for their life's work – a fair trade.

From the beginning of our negotiations, I made it clear that I had 65K to offer and that was it. I made it clear to the Barnes that additional payments would have to be made to them out of future proceeds from the fishing operation. However, late in our negotiations, the Barnes had a change of heart. They abruptly lowered their asking price to provide an incentive for me to buy two permits and leases outright so that they would no longer hold any concern in the Cook Inlet and they could feel completely retired.

Rather last minute, I was able to secure a personal loan against the value of the outboard and skiff that I was buying from them, and though now leveraged with some debt, I was able to meet their buyout option.

I relate my account in detail because I find zero correlation between my experience and the account given in Proposal 126, which if passed as it is now worded could likely prove financially disastrous to me at a time when I would like to concentrate on starting a family.

I feel that the true intent of this proposal is not very clearly stated. Arguments are given to support the Proposals conclusions which have little in common with my experience, and thus objectively it lacks truth. Proposal 126 cites as the justification for dual permit status as to be to keep a permit in the family while an individual served in the military. If that is the reason, why was the law not made to specify this?

One of two things seems to be happening... either commercial interest groups have used some subterfuge to get what they wanted in the past (more fishing gear), or this group is enacting subterfuge to get what it wants. I can clearly state that I, with no military attachments, was clearly and legally made into a dual-permit holder.

At issue: The group asserts that "long-time latent permits will be brought back into a fully utilized, fully allocated fishery". Again my experience is that my permits/ leases have never been latent since the origin of the limited entry system. What is fully utilized and fully allocated? I believe this needs to be clarified and talked out a bit in the meetings as I have heard buy-back suggested from several quarters.



What will happen if nothing is done? "Permit stacking has increased the fishing power of the gear group where not sure that this is necessarily the case. Though in time I may end up fishing the two permits more effectively, I am currently fishing six nets out of one large skiff with one crew. I will not always set all six nets (two separate permit holders would ALWAYS fish a full complement of gear). In order to fish six nets legally, I am often pulling several nets much earlier than would occur if the gear were to be fished by two separate fishermen. Permit stacking aboard a drift boat also reduces the amount of gear fished. In addition, one engine malfunction sidelines two permit holders.

Who is likely to suffer? "Those individuals and groups intending to activate latent permits." No doubt this is true, and to keep them from suffering, maybe they ought to be bought out. But I also am suffering by experiencing confusion as to how to proceed with my business. I already was faced with low king numbers, etc. and now I need to worry, having been blind-sided by this unexpected twist. The State granted me two permits and two Leases in which I made a sizable investment. Will the State become schizophrenic and a mere 8 months into a 10 year Lease Agreement 'change its mind'? Will the State 'grandfather' dual permits in? If dual status is revoked, will I be able to fish the duration of my present Leases? Will I at least fish until another fisherman has bought one Permit/Lease and assumed financial responsibility for what I have in good faith invested myself in?

So I dislike pretty much every aspect of the proposal which seems completely disingenuous to me. If the group wants to argue dual-permit status, go ahead and do it. But don't pretend you are not going to badly upset people's lives by so doing or make some disingenuous referral to military personnel.

The Board of Fish will have to weigh dual permit holder status. If the status is best felt to be limited to an instance of active military personnel, then I hope that this is clarified. In the meantime, I am very adamant that it be recognized that any immediate change to the dual permit status will be immediately disruptive. I ask for considerations be given to how to fairly treat fisherman such as myself. Allowing me the ability to fish out the terms of my Lease or to fish until I find another buyer are realistic changes to the Proposal. Again, it should be reiterated that the introduction of another fisherman will most likely not lead to a reduction in fishing effort, so if that is the group's primary goal, it may wish to refocus its proposal.

If the real issue is a potential buy-back, than start talking about the real issue.

This issue is particularly confusing for me, because I have in the past been an opponent of dual-permit status. When I fished Kodiak, the dual permit status there had just been revoked. The family I fished for that summer was lamenting the loss of one such permit. They ran a large extended family operation with 5 permits holders and had recently been forced to sell a sixth. This fishing operation had become a miniature fishing empire. The patriarch had adopted a somewhat tyrannical sense of control over "his" fishing fiefdom, even though in my mind each of the other family members should have been equal and independent as a limited entry permit holder. The operation could easily catch a million pounds of fish in a single season. Meanwhile, a rather low percentage was offered the crew- arguably a fair wage, though hardly an invitation to invest into the fishery when a permit is on the market for \$80K.

I opposed dual status in Kodiak, because it seemed to me to be unnecessarily greedy. If the family I fished for had all acquired a second permit, they would have held 10 of the 180 permits on Kodiak, over 5% of the entire fishery!

The situation in the Cook Inlet is much different. The group making the Proposal is concerned with an opposite situation (latent permits) in what they deem a fully capitalized fishery. This would seem to be more of a buy-back issue than anything.

This issue is confusing to me because I do not know at what point I may become hypocritical. I can see how dual permit holders could consolidate power and thus promote greed in a person. As an incoming fisherman, I do want the Limited Entry System to make access available to new fisherman; for me the dual permit status would become unacceptable if it were to limit incoming fishermen. However, as an incoming fisherman, I did not find this to be the case. There are permits, and they are affordable.

Moreover the economics of fishing Kodiak and the Cook Inlet are definitely different. I purchased 2 permits, 2 Leases, a large skiff with a 90 HP outboard, nets, lines/ buoys, trailer and truck for about the same market value of one permit in Kodiak. I feel that Fish and Game may have gotten this issue right if one looks at it from an economics perspective. My two permit operation, receiving very high prices at the dock this year landed 21K and grossed \$52K earning my two fulltime crewmembers \$4550 and \$5610 which I thought was an overall reasonable business.

Proposal 127 asks for dual permit status in the drift fleet. I do not know if this is a good idea or not. The opportunity for two

fishermen to pool resources already seems like a good situation. If one is to look at economics again, the current permit (\$80K +) suggests that it may be consolidating too much control and power in one fisherman's hands and a LEP system would seek to promote.



There are other things I feel I could comment on – but I've already spent a full day! And you poor guys have to read all of this and who knows how many other accounts! I would appreciate a response informing me that you have received my letter. Any questions for clarification would also be appreciated.

Finally, I would like to know whether it is your opinion that my opinions are securely served by this letter, or whether it is still very important that I also attend the actual meetings in person.

Sincerely,

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The following are several practical proposals that the Board of Fish may wish to air over the course of the hearings in Anchorage. I should like to encourage a focus on small - relevant things people could do to make the 2014 season successful and enjoyable. I do not identify other proposals, because I do not intend for any of these to be dictated into 'law' but rather to invoke a feeling of self-governance amongst those affected. Different suggestions affect different people; I myself feel I would only be able to participate in either supplying fish to the dip-net population or in making a commitment to fish my commercial gear in ways that might minimize a harvest of king salmon.

Dipnetters

Problem 1: Fish and Game does not have adequate means to "chaperone" a large crowd.

Solution: "Deputized" volunteers receive specific training to fulfill the directives of Fish and Game. Volunteers should be thoroughly "pro dip net" so that they can enjoy the dip net scene. But a presence of the law in such matters as licensure, bag limits, litter should be felt by the dip net community taking the initiative to govern themselves a bit more carefully.

Problem 2: Dip-netters not able to fill their bag limits. Perhaps a job, distance, or commercial fishing effort keeps them from catching as many fish as they would like.

Solution: An exchange set up at processors facilities or brought down to the beach whereby the public could buy additional fish. If processors receive the fish, they would be able to harvest valuable roe, before selling the fish. Either way, the public might recognize greater access to salmon at a price competitive with what processors are paying commercial fishermen, either from area processors (price dependent on whether it be whole or processed) or directly from commercial fishermen.

Those affected negatively: Larger profits to fish processors, other out-of-state purchasers.

Positively: The public has a clearer perception of the commercial fishermen and processors as being capable of supplying them a relatively scarce commodity, which they cannot necessarily catch on their own.

Obtaining good fish at a good price may be a reason some people choose to visit the Kenai, not just those who choose to try to fill their own freezers as sport and dip net harvesters.

Problem of E. Coli in water, at one time attributed both to salmon processors, at other times to dip net crowds.

Solution: Different testers should be invited to run tests to determine possible pollution sources. Groups could develop their own test strategem and see how results compare. Various groups invited to test might be; Fish and Game, Processors, Private Enterprise in Waste Management, various College Departments, independent college students seeking additional experience.

Those affected: NO ONE. THOSE RESPONSIBLE SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT, and it shouldn't be rocket science to figure out responsibility after a few years of testing.



Problem: Commercial Harvest of King Salmon by Commercial Fishermen in Cycles of low return to the Kenai and Yukon Rivers.

Solution: A petition could originate within the Cook Inlet Set Net community. Signees would state that they record the size and # of kings captured, including those retained for personal use. In addition, the petition would provide a list of ways in which to potentially limit king harvest in cycles of low returns. Options may include; releasing all viable healthy fish, developing live wells out of accessible local materials to see if stunned fish might be revived, cutting some gear to a shallower depth to experiment with king passage versus sockeye harvest. *Individual permit holders would retain the autonomy to implement those proposals they felt could be effective in their operations. By committing to implementing this proposal or that, they would be encouraging other fishermen to experieiment in the same sort of ways.*

Finally, this petition could be forwarded to Kodiak, Chignik, the Aleutian and Bristol Bay fisheries. The release of viable kings in these fisheries could help improve returns on especially the Kenai and Yukon Rivers.

Those affected: NO ONE. ALL COMMERCIAL SALMON HARVESTERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERING THEIR CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THESE FISH AND BE CONSIDERING TAKING SOME ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND SELF-SACRIFICE. ALL DECISIONS VOLUNTARY.



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Proposal #126 I submitted earlier that I was in favor of this, but I meant I am in favor of permit stacking and so **I am not for proposal #126.**



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Proposal #118, I support this as I already fish shallow red gear, less than 29 mesh deep and have found they catch sockey just as well but hopefully allow Chinook to pass. I tested this through several seasons and found less Chinook catch and no noticable sockey change.

Proposale #119, I also support this as it just isn't fair to start the lower beach fishing in early June and the upper beach after July 9th, then lump us all together on the 1% rule after the bulk of the lower Kasilof run is already in river. This 1% rule should be figured by stat area.

Proposal #126, I support this also as this was original put in due to a distrested fishery. I concider UCI still in bad shape, due to 1 day fishery in 2012 & 6 days in 2013. Numbers will show that there are less permits in 2013 then 1990. I see no harm in permit stacking.

Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan This is the most important issue of concern! On low King Run years such as the last few and this comming season we simply need to do away with regular periods and fish on abundance of sockey. Stay with the stepdowns measures with sport and commercial, only cut back to reduced gear per permit or shallow gear, when in river goes to catch & release. I mentioned earlier that I fish near the mouth of the Kenai and have tested shallow gear for years. Fishing deaper nets next to shallow nets and counting catches. There appears to be no significant difference in sockey catch but less King catch. Any step downs will be much better then no fishing with 4 million harvestable sockey swimming by us.

Thanks,

Pat Zurfluh



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Please see my positions below and do your best when working these issues.

- **103** - Strongly Oppose- Prioritizes achieving lower goals over exceeding upper goals
- **207** - Strongly Oppose- King Salmon OEG
- **219** - Strongly Support- Spawning Bed Protection
- **166** - Support- Eliminating windows
- **236** - Support -Protecting In-River Habitat

Thanks for listening,

Pat Zurfluh



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For the last 60 years, my family and I would harvest salmon to help feed us thru the year. Now with the way salmon is being managed, our chances of filling our freezer is very rare. Why should the commercial fisherman from other states be allowed to come up and harvest the fish that we, as citizens of Alaska are entitled to?



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Proposal 267-5AAC57-140

It is obvious to all who utilize the Kenai R that there are far too many guide boats. Many non-guided anglers refuse to use this resource because of the overcrowding which leads to excessive water turbulence, turbidity, and unavailability of fishing spots. Some kind of limitations need to be enacted. Other big game guides are regulated and so should the Kenai guides. Some suggestions include a lottery system with names released each winter for the upcoming season or a rotation system whereby the guides would know which 200 or so would be eligible to fish the upcoming season. Thank you



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Proposal259-5AAC21.359

The writer makes reference to there being a need of "equity" between guided anglers and non-guided anglers! It should be obvious that the only similarity between the two groups is that they both use boats!"Mom and pop"anglers may kill 1-4 kings in a summer if they are lucky.They may utilize the Kenai a dozen times a summer if they are lucky. The guided industry on the other hand will utilize the Kenai 50 days each summer for 6 hr shifts with four rods out! One guide boat can kill 50 or so kings in a season! If a lodge owner employes 4 guides than that lodge owner has the ability to be responsible for killing 200 kings! There is no way guided professionals and "mom and pop" shoud be treated equally.

With over 400 guides each fishing 4 plugs for 6hours the effective terminal tackle in the water at any given time amounts to 9600 hooks hang time. That's as much hard wardward as exists in Cook Inlet!



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I am concerned that the use of the fishery is too heavily weighted in favor of commercial interests and inadequate weight given to the Alaskan resident. Last summer, all but one of my personal dipnetting acquaintances had a terrible year dipnetting and so have been left with inadequate numbers of salmon to feed their family until next season. I know one person that fished four tides and caught ONE red. I know that the commercial folks need to make a living (although a lot of them are not Alaskans), but it just isn't right when the commercial harvest is so large as to prevent the average Alaskan from having even moderate success at dipnetting.

In addition to monitoring the fish counts on the Kenai, biologists should do some surveying of the subsistence and sport fisherman before giving commercial interests carte blanche to harvest fish.



Submitted By
Preston and Jae Cluff
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:32:34 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-229-7161
Email
jnpcluff45@gci.net
Address
990 Amchitka Cir
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

This letter is for Alaska Department of Fish and Game, along with anyone that might play a hand in the management of one of the most coveted Alaska resources, the Kenai River king.

My name is Preston M. Cluff. I have been fishing in Alaska for 36 years. I have seen the decline of kings over the past years and, although I'm far from proficient at catching them, the lower numbers are certainly scary. I drive from Eagle River to Soldotna probably 10 or more times a year to fish for kings, as well as sockeye. I'm certain my wife and I spend in excess of \$3,000.00 a year with regard to camping, fishing equipment and food. I've spent countless hours – day in and day out – attempting to land a king from the bank out of Centennial Park...until 2012 that is. Although I've only banked two over numerous years, just having the opportunity to meet so many wonderful individuals from all parts of the world made this experience so rewarding. I am far from an expert, but I would venture to say my precautions and those of all the others I know has seen each king caught, to always be released in the safest and most humane manner possible.

Please, please think before you ban this type of king fishing this or any other year, ensure you realize first and foremost that no harm is being done, and catch and release from the bank of the Kenai in no way will negatively affect the king count in the foreseeable future.

Should you have any question of me, feel free to contact me telephonically (907-229-7161), via e-mail (jnpcluff45@gci.net), or in writing (9900 Amchitka Circle, Eagle River, AK 99577-8728). Thanking you in advance for your consideration in the matter,

PRESTON M. CLUFF



Submitted By
Preston Williams
Submitted On
1/11/2014 4:35:20 PM
Affiliation
None

Phone
(907) 283-0595
Email
Git@acsalaska.net
Address
2565 WaterGate Way
Kenai, Alaska 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. 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.

There are comments coming from Chris Every, Lisa Grabiell, Marian Van Horne, Gwen Thomas, Lewis Frey, Gene Darby, and Irving Smith. They all live on Watergate Way that starts at mile three to mile four and a half on the Kenai River. Their comments will be coming by mail.

Sincerely

Preston L. Williams

2565 WaterGate Way, Kenai AK

I am the sponsor of Proposal # 286.



Submitted By
Randy A Ruedrich
Submitted On
1/11/2014 8:41:37 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907 276-2693

Email
raraep@gci.net

Address
1515 W 13th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

I have fished the West side of the Cook Inlet & Susitna Basin for more than 20 years. The restoration of the king runs in the West side of the Cook Inlet & Susitna drainage is essential to sport fisherman like myself.

Allowing my grandchildren to have the opportunity to fish Clear Creek, the Deshka, the little Sue and Alexander Creek as well as other streams i have fished should be the mission of the Board of Fish.



Submitted By
Representative Shelley Hughes
Submitted On
1/17/2014 8:15:13 AM
Affiliation
District 8 State House Representative

Phone
465-3743
Email
rep.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov
Address
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801

January 17, 2014

To: Board of Fisheries

For the upcoming meeting on Upper Cook Inlet fish, I would like the Board to consider the attached Board Finding 91-129-FB. I urge the Board to note three important phrases in this document:

1. Allocation criteria number 3: “the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption.”

In order for you to fulfill your responsibility as a Board member, a responsibility bestowed upon you as a result of your confirmation by the legislature, you must consider criteria number 3 to be applicable to *every* single proposal you consider during the Upper Cook Inlet meeting.

2. At the bottom of the numbered allocation criteria: “Note that all seven (7) criteria do not necessarily apply in all allocation situations, and any particular criterion will be applied only where the board determines it is applicable.”

Responsible and fair allocation of fish is vital for the revitalization of the salmon population, and it is virtually impossible to please all user groups. However, the Northern Cook Inlet District should be a very high priority for the Board of Fish, considering the number of Alaskans impacted.

3. Criteria number 6 states: “the importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located” should be especially considered during the upcoming meeting.

Sport and personal use fishing not only sustain the livelihood of hundreds of families in the Mat-Su Borough, but is a vital sector of the economy that has produced upwards of \$120 million as recent as 2008. Decreases in salmon runs collapsed that economy to less than \$20 million in 2012. The Board must act accordingly to ensure that future generations of Alaskans in the Northern District will have access to their share of one of the state’s most precious resources.

With pending litigation (United Cook Inlet Drift Association et al. v. National Marine Fisheries Service et al.) again threatening to take away the state’s authority to manage our Cook Inlet fisheries, now is the time for the Board of Fish to prove that Alaska and our people can manage our fisheries successfully, as we have done since statehood.

Sincerely,

Representative Shelley Hughes

District 8 – Greater Palmer



Submitted By
Richard C. McGahan, Sr.
Submitted On
12/28/2013 6:06:35 PM
Affiliation

RE: Proposal 237

Adding another drift only day to the Kenai River

I support this proposal.

The river is over crowded. This proposal will benefit the users and the river. Studies recently done by the Kenai Watershed Forum have shown elevated levels of turbidity. Having another drift only day would reduce the pollution and the noise on the river.



Submitted By
Richard C. McGahan, Sr.
Submitted On
12/28/2013 6:09:47 PM
Affiliation

RE: Proposal #238

Adding a second drift only day to the Kenai River

I support proposal #238

I support this proposal.

The river is over crowded. This proposal will benefit the users and the river. Studies recently done by the Kenai Watershed Forum have shown elevated levels of turbidity. Having another drift only day would reduce the pollution and the noise on the river.



Submitted By
Richard McGahan, Sr.
Submitted On
12/18/2013 4:01:27 PM
Affiliation

Proposal 219

I support Proposal 219. The spawning beds need to be protected. For too many years the commercial guides sit with their clients fishing, and dragging their anchors through the spawning beds of the king salmon. This certainly has to be a factor in the decline in size and abundance of the kings.



Submitted By
Robert S. Stevens
Submitted On
11/18/2013 9:03:54 AM
Affiliation
Sportsman

Phone
206 321 4456

Email
bobstevens@gallatinassociates.com

Address
1950 Alaskan Way #326
Seattle, Washington 98101-1077

I strongly support the proposal put forth by Kenai River Guide, Dennis Randa. My sons and I have been purchasing licenses and fishing the Kenai River each fall for many years. Up until this past fall, the thought that there would not be enough returning Kings to allow fishing in the world's greatest salmon river seemed incomprehensible; and yet that is exactly what has happened.

To recover, the kings need undisturbed spawning habitat. To close the entire river is both unnecessary and would be devastating to the sportfishing industry on the Kenai Peninsula. What Mr. Randa proposes is both innovative and extremely practical. Proposal 220 which would close every other mile between Eagle Rock and the Soldatna bridge, allowing a continuation of fishing while guaranteeing the kings increased spawning opportunities. Proposal 220 saves the kings and it allows the sports fishing industry to continue. I strongly urge its implementation.



Submitted By
Robert S. Stevens
Submitted On
11/18/2013 9:04:37 AM
Affiliation
Sportsman

Phone
206 321 4456

Email
bobstevens@gallatinassociates.com

Address
1950 Alaskan Way #326
Seattle, Washington 98101-1077

I strongly support the proposal put forth by Kenai River Guide, Dennis Randa. My sons and I have been purchasing licenses and fishing the Kenai River each fall for many years. Up until this past fall, the thought that there would not be enough returning Kings to allow fishing in the world's greatest salmon river seemed incomprehensible; and yet that is exactly what has happened.

To recover, the kings need undisturbed spawning habitat. To close the entire river is both unnecessary and would be devastating to the sportfishing industry on the Kenai Peninsula. What Mr. Randa proposes is both innovative and extremely practical. Proposal 220 which would close every other mile between Eagle Rock and the Soldatna bridge, allowing a continuation of fishing while guaranteeing the kings increased spawning opportunities. Proposal 220 saves the kings and it allows the sports fishing industry to continue. I strongly urge its implementation.



Submitted By
Ruby Dee Buchanon
Submitted On
1/9/2014 9:53:25 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-345-3184
Email
deebuchanon@gmail.com
Address
1908 Meander Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

Dear Board Members,

As a resident of Alaska since 1970 and an avid fisherman, I have watched the availability of salmon on the Kenai Peninsula dwindle over my lifetime. The catch limits for commercial fisheries are hundreds of times greater than the miniscule catch allowed by sportfishermen, and on days when commercial fishing is open, sportfishing anglers catch very few fish. Last year, I personally experienced catching 3 salmon dipnetting on the Kasilof on a peak season date in July.

As a member of the tourism industry, I see statistics for the growth of tourism statewide. While markets such as Denali, Anchorage and Seward are booming with growth, Kenai Peninsula businesses are suffering due to the decline in fish and the restrictions on the sportfishing industry. Alaska tourism is a growing industry and there is substantial opportunity to increase Alaska tourism on the Kenai Peninsula if sportfishing management would simply allow a small percentage of fish to be taken by sportfishermen and limit the commercial catch by that amount.

I respectfully request that you review the numbers in front of you (as I know you have them) to see how many fish are taken by commercial fishing near the Kenai rivers, and how many fish are allowed to be taken by sportfishermen in the same area. Also, review the closures implemented over the past two years which have devastated local Alaska tourism businesses. You may even want to take a look at the number of Alaskans on the Kenai Peninsula currently applying for food stamps and unemployment as a result of these restrictions. The number of harvestable fish needed by sportfishermen to maintain a healthy tourism business on the Kenai Peninsula is miniscule when you examine the commercial harvest. It's simply good business to support the local mom and pop companies on the Kenai Peninsula by providing a sustainable and reliable fishing season for sportfishermen on the Kenai Peninsula.

Sincerely,

Ruby Dee Buchanon

43 year resident of Anchorage, Alaska



Submitted By
Sandy Coons
Submitted On
1/11/2014 9:12:45 AM
Affiliation

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9077456779

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scoons@mtaonline.net

Address
5200 N. Dorothy Dr.
Palmer, Alaska 99645

By the time Salmon of all species get into the streams they have been gone after by the Russians, Chinese and other Pacific nations in the open ocean, then by the Commercial Fishing Trollers in the State/US territorial waters of the ocean, then by the gill netters and commercial fishermen at the mouths of the rivers. Although fish biologists can't seem to be definitive on why the numbers making it to the river is so low, and there may be other issues, the fact of the matter is the numbers of returning salmon are, have been and for the foreseeable future will continue to be low and getting lower. The high seas is the responsibility of the US Congress and the State Department, which we know are worthless at this time. However, the State of Alaska does have jurisdiction in our waters and can do something.

I am demanding, this is way beyond asking, the Board of Fish to put restriction on commercial fishing, and I can live with the restrictions we as sports fishermen now until the numbers of returned, not just "returning", salmon are back to solid and sustainable healthy numbers. This includes subsistence fishing as well for all of us are or have had impact on these returns, not to mention flooding, low water and other natural events which impact returns, spawning and the viability of the fry to get to the oceans.

Sandy Coons



Submitted By
Sarah Pellegrom
Submitted On
1/17/2014 11:18:59 AM
Affiliation
independent

To: The Ak Board of Fish,

I am in support of proposal 117, which allows the 1% rule to be enacted, between different sections (Kasilof and Kenai/ East Forelands). This rule is very un-fair to the setnetters who don't start until July 8. There is a two week later starting date for the Kenai/ East Forelands sec than the Kasilof sec, yet by the 1% rule we all close at the same time. Some years a substantial part of our harvest occurs in August. Coho stocks are stable.

I am against proposal 126 to get rid of permit stacking. The arguement that latent pemits will enter the fishery is unfounded. We bought active fishing operations, gear, nets, fishing locations and shore fishery leases that went with them. These fishermen had participated for years in the fishery. Permit stacking gave them the opportunity to find a buyer of their operation, at the time went not many individual wanted to become ESSN's. Permit stacking doesn't hurt anything, it justs give struggling ESSN's one more tool to be viable. With low king salmon returns it is difficult to find crew. To have to change permits and even more State of Alaska Shore Fishery Leases, would be very challenging. Why would the BOF want to make a struggling fishery-even more difficult? Permit stacking was put in tregulation in 2011. It did not have a sunset clause. Please leave permit stacking in Cook Inlet.

I am in favor of proposal 118. I have been part of fishing on North Kalifonsky Beach, statistical area 244-32, for over 30 years. This proposol gives us back a small part of our fishery that was taken away years ago. It was a traditional fishery for us. By fishing shallow nets on the ebb we will catch Kasilof sockeye. Our section is about 4 miles, in an predominately ebb fishery, all the Kasilof fish that are present on our beach will be caught in South K- Beach stat area 244-31. I ask the BOF-Why not give traditional harvesters of these Kasilof sockeye, some small opportunity to participate in their harvest?

As far as the KRLRKSMP, I am in support of paired restrictions, shallower nets to reduce king harvest, no mandatory periods, elimination of the Tuesday window. Give the Flsh & Game the flexibility to harvest as many reds as possible, during high abundance on the beach, while trying to keep the king to red ratio low. Fishing on peak sockeye days while they abundant on the beaches. Since 1999 the average peak sockeye harvest in the Kenai/ East Forelands section's is July 15 (9% of average season), in the Kasilof section is July 16 (7.1% of average season). With the pre-season projection of 19,700 king salmon, there is not much of a harvestable surplus. Every commercial opening should harvest a high number of sockeye.

I am in support of proposal 133 regarding the way king salmon are reported on fish tickets. This type of reporting is long over due. It will make delivering salmon, take a small amount of time more, yet is needed to get more accurate data.

Regards,

Sarah Pellegrom



Submitted By
Stuart Cridge
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:26:57 AM
Affiliation

Phone
0016433254545
Email
cridgeseeds@xtra.co.nz
Address
NZ
NZ, Other 99505

I have been coming to Alaska now for over 10 years and enjoy the sport of King salmon fishing both on the bank and in a boat on the river.

We have bank fished at the Centennial Park , King salmon steps and nearby many times. We enjoy the local atmosphere, fishing companions, scenery and wildlife. Not to mention the catching of King salmon is this small area of the river. Approximately 30 fisherman congregate over the last 10 days of July to enjoy what the Kenai river is famous for.

We have injected \$1000s of dollars into the sport and local economy of Soldotna and nearby towns throughout our ventures to Alaska in your summer our winter.

Personally , after recovering from ill health I look forward to getting to a warmer climate and relaxing, enjoying something I have a passion for.

Thanking you

Stuart Cridge



Submitted By
Thomas Lemanski
Submitted On
1/15/2014 12:04:55 PM
Affiliation

~Proposal 271 Support Personal Use Fishery Permits should be returned to ADF&G by the date specified. If permit is not returned the permit holder should be fined as specified (\$200) and a permit should not be issued to that family the following year. The lack of enforcement of existing rules by ADF&G is not acceptable. No other entity required to have a permit from ADF&G is allowed to ignore the rules with little or no fear of fine or punishment. ADF&G may want to look into having an online permit system which would make it even easier for people to follow the rules while at the same time requiring proof of residency and family size.

Proposal 272 Support Common sense would dictate that proof of residency and number of dependents would be required to obtain a dip net permit. The Personal Use Fishery is an often abused privilege of being an Alaskan resident. If a permit is not returned at the end of season, no permit should be available to that family during the following year and fines should be enforced.

Proposal 282 Oppose The current time frame for the Personal Use Fishery is long enough. The local residents put up with enough disruption to their lives and their community. The City of Kenai works very hard during the current time period to keep up with the invasion of non-local participants. Extending the time period would aggravate a poorly controlled event.



Submitted By
Todd Moore
Submitted On
1/17/2014 10:17:56 AM
Affiliation
fisherman

Alaska Board of Fish

I am against proposals 126, 150, 154, 155.

150, 154, and 155 seek to add additional time to the Kasilof section. That section already fishes more time than any area in the ESSN fishery. NO to these proposals

126 gets rid of permit stacking. Permit stacking was implemented in 2011. Permits haven't increased on the ESSN. In fact they are down from the late 80's and early 90's. Fishing only 7 days in July for the past two seasons, it is VERY hard to get a crew. Permit stacking helps make our "troubled" fishery economically solvent. With low king salmon returns to the Kenai River, permit stacking makes even more sense during these times of low abundance.

During low abundance of King salmon to the Kenai River, paired restrictions are needed for the in-river fishery and the set netters. ADF&G needs the flexibility to fish on abundance. Regular periods are not a must and the Tuesday window should go away. Last season, I fished some shallow nets. I caught an equivalent amount of sockeye in those nets compared to the deep nets I was also fishing. The shallow nets caught fewer king salmon. During times of low abundance of king salmon, a reduction in depth of nets should be implemented to pass King Salmon to the Kenai River.

The best proposal to help King Salmon would be to make spawning sanctuaries for them. I support proposal 219.

I support proposal 119. The 1% rule based on the entire ESSN fishery is very unfair. The 1% rule should be triggered by harvests in the Kasilof and Kenai/ East Forelands sections, independent of each other. The Kasilof section starts up 2 1/2 weeks ahead of the Kenai/ East Forelands sections. The Kasilof section has 98% of its harvest of sockeye in by August 4, at that time their participation and harvest has dropped dramatically. Why should the Kenai/ East Forelands sections have to bare the burden, of the Kasilof sections lack of harvest, and have the season end simultaneously? There are some years when the harvest of sockeye in August in the Kenai/ East Forelands sections make up a considerable amount of their season.

I support a limited fishery on N-K Beach the first week of July. This was a traditional fishery up until 1997. Fishing 29 mesh gear on the ebb, for two-eight hour periods, would harvest Kasilof sockeye that are abundant on the beach at this time. These sockeye are heading back down the beach to the Kasilof River. It would also greatly reduce any harvest of king salmon.

A 23 year ESSN,

Todd O. Moore

Soldotna, Ak



Submitted By
Tom B. Brion
Submitted On
1/14/2014 7:44:10 PM
Affiliation

Proposal 307

I support proposal 307. I and my family have used this fishery ever since it was established. This proposal would align the open dates more closely with the timing of the run. It would add three days to the end of the current season which would provide a more reasonable and safer time to fish if we could work around the all too often days of high water. We have had flooding conditions the last week of July in three of the past five years. Operation a fishwheel in those condition can be life threatening but in each case the water level dropped significantly in a few days.. We are not asking for more fish only for a safer time to harvest them. This fishery has been a Godsend to our family and has been utilized as a very effective teaching tool to pass on to the younger generation the values of subsistence, sharing with the neighborhood, caring for the catch, and just in general how to be responsible adults, Alaskans and Americans.

Thank You



Submitted By
Tom Hodel
Submitted On
1/13/2014 8:30:46 PM
Affiliation
sport fisherman

Phone
9073982778
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thodel@alaska.net
Address
PO Box 1781
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

I am in total support of Proposal #219. For many years the ER Kings have been heavily fished on their spawning beds. This step down method would adequately protect those mainstream spawners as they make their way upriver. These fish are also larger than tributary fish as per ADF&G studies and is a starting point to reviving the loss of the large Kenai kings. Currently the Kenai River is the only river on the Peninsula that does not protect the kings while on their spawning beds. I ask you for your support of #219.



Submitted By
Tommy Tomas
Submitted On
1/17/2014 9:39:54 AM
Affiliation

Phone
5404933779
Email
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Address
5919 Big Home Dr
roanoke, Virginia 24018

My name is Tommy Thomas, I live in Virginia and I've been coming to AK since 1994, specifically to Kenai to fish. Now there are about 60 of us that come up every year from all over the world. We've met at the same time (to fish) for about 15 years. Some of us have bought land cars, r/v's, boats.. in other words, we spend a lot of money. We love catching kings, that's what we do, but, we never keep any.

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.

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.

My name is Tommy Thomas I live in Virginia I've been coming to ak since 1994 specifically to Kenai to fish. Now their are about 60 of us that come up every year from all over the world that meet at the same time (to fish) for about 15 years. Some of us have land cars r/v's boasts in other words we spend alot of m money. We love Catching Kings that's what we do but we never keep any.

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.

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.

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-re sident 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.

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 in favor of all aforementioned proposals

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,

thomas m thomas



PC 444
2 of 2

thomas m thomas
5919 bighorn dr
roanoke, VA 24018

Email address: valvoline69@aol.com

Phone number: 5404933779

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



Submitted By
Vern Rauchenstein
Submitted On
1/12/2014 5:55:10 PM
Affiliation

To whom it may concern:

The Alaska fish belong to ALL Alaskans, not just the commercial fisherman. A fish caught in the Alaska rivers and lakes benefits many more Alaskans through sport fishing; money is spent in local industries. I suggest that the sport fishing industry is allowed to buy commercial fishing licenses. Those licenses would then be retired and the fish allotment be transported to the rivers and lakes, "sport fishing industry", and the state Would Not issues to replace those purchased by the sport fishing industry. If such a program exists then advertise it, and if not then let the legislature or the governor of Alaska create it. Sport fishing is essential health and welfare of Alaskans.

Vern and Renamary Rauchenstein



Submitted By
William L Kramer
Submitted On
1/11/2014 11:41:09 AM
Affiliation

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8927067

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Address
991 S. Horseshoe Lake Rd.
Big Lake, Alaska 99652

For both economic and subsistence reasons it is vitally important that ***Salmon destined for the Northern Regions of Cook Inlet be given proper consideration and valued equally*** with regards to all decisions made affecting Cook inlet salmon returns. It can't simply be about one river or a single vocal advocay group stuffing the comment box. We can all agree that abundat fish returns is in everyones best interest and will only be accomplished by a fair and equitable policy.



Submitted By
William R Nelson
Submitted On
1/17/2014 2:21:21 PM
Affiliation

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9072835194
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Address
209 Susieana Lane
Kenai, Alaska 99611-6875

I urge your support and concurrence for the following proposals to be presented at the 2014 Board of Fish Meeting:

50, 52, 200 - There is no justification for catch and release of a salmon that I can see.

54, 221 - Allowing fishing on spawning beds is very poor management.

79, 81 - Both proposals would enhance and protect returning king salmon.

237,238,239, 240 - This will lessen the motorized disturbance on the Kenai River

278,279 - Opening the dip net fishery to 24 hours a day is a significant safety issue for the City of Kenai as it attempts to rake the north and south beaches of fish wastes. I can't imagine Commissioner Campbell approving this last season. Would the State allow the oil industry or other industries to expose their workforce or the public to safety concerns like this and just sit back and say nothing! Shame on you Cora Campbell for allowing this.

**PROPOSAL COMMENTS - John McCombs, January 14th, 2014****Proposal number Page number Comment**

Proposal #110 Page #113 Close by E.O. - If goals are met and fish are present fishing should be open.

Proposal #121 Page #121 Regular openings Mondays and Thursdays thru July 18th. - The fish can move fast. The fleet requires harvest opportunity before the bulk of the run is up the river.

Proposal #162 Page #183 450,000 to 750,000 Kenai escapement. - These numbers have yielded the highest returns in the past.

Proposal #164 Page #187 Re-establish the commercial priority for management in Cook Inlet. - This was the way it was prior to 1999. All species were plentiful. This was clearly a re-allocation in a fully allocated fishery.

Proposal #171 Page #171 In-river windows. - A window closure outside the river will result in a window closure in the Kenai/Kasilof River. This would include the dip net fishery. Windows are a re-allocation of a fully allocated fishery.

Proposal #180 Page #201 Pink salmon plan. - Write a real pink salmon plan, one that would allow fishermen to harvest pinks, since no one else wants them. The state has allowed incredible waste of these abundant salmon.

Proposal #181 Page #202 No limit on pike/start a commercial fishery. - Pike eat too many salmon fry.

Proposal #182 Page #202 Pike bounty. - Place a \$5 bounty on pike, they kill too many salmon.

Proposal #57 Page #217 Export limit, 100lbs. - Do visitors need more than 100lbs of filets? I don't think so.

P184



Proposal #200 Page #231 Ban hook and release of Kenai king salmon. - There are not that many of them. Kenai kings are smaller every year. The mortality is understated. H&R kings do not spawn.

Proposal #203 Page #236 Slikok Sanctuary. - Expand to protect spawners.

Proposal #204 Page #237 Kiley Sanctuary. - Expand to protect spawning king salmon.

Proposal #221 Page #256 Kenai king conservation zones. - Create conservation zones to protect kings spawning in the Kenai River.

Proposal #224 Page #258 Barbless hooks. - When no bait is allowed (Kenai River) only barbless hooks can be used. This is already in place on the Columbia River. This will reduce mortality.

Proposal #228 Page #261 Enhance Kenai kings. - Release 50,000 smolts from Kenai brood stock. The demand now far exceed the supply.

Proposal #239 Page #272 Additional drift only day. - Another quiet no-wake, no noise, no exhaust, day on the river in a park would be good for king salmon and fishermen.

Proposal #267 Page #298 Limit to 200 guides. - There are 90 guides on the Deshka for the same number of kings. Guides are now guiding dip netters. This should be considered. The KRSMA board is all guides.

Proposal #273 Page #303 Sport license for dipping. - Dip netting is not sport fishing. Dip netting is personal use fishing.

Proposal #275 Page #305 Cap dip netters at 10,000. - This fishery occurs in front of the counters. It is unlimited and was an emerging fishery in a fully allocated fishery.

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Proposal #276 Page #305 350,000 escapement. - In 2008 the commercial fishery was closed for lack of escapement. A biological trigger is better biological management, not just re-allocation.

Proposal #277 Page #306 Dip net begins after escapement is met. - Dip netting started on surplus stocks after escapement goals were met. Today dip netting is a re-allocation in what was a fully allocated fishery.

Proposal #279 Page #307 Dip net hours, 7 to 7. - This is in the book, I would amend to, from sun up to sun down, or something close. This reflects safety and maintenance functions.

Proposal #287 Page #314 2 inch mesh for dip nets. - This would further protect king salmon.

Proposal #289 Page #315 Dip net carcasses. - Grind to 1/4 inch, D.E.C. regulation. No matter how many tractors the City of Kenai buys, the tide is strong, the dippers are many, and the guts are copious.

Proposal #299 Page #327 Dershka king enhancement. - Enhance these as the demand exceeds the supply.

Proposal #304 Page #330 Larson Creek. - Spawners traveling to Larson Lake are being targeted impacting escapement. Close this area.

Proposal #271 Page#301 Re 5 AAC 77.540(a)(3). - The math in 271 would indicate sport fish division did not forward their list to enforcement division, representing \$11,600,000 in potential fines. Is this correct?

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The Texas Roadhouse restaurant at Tikahtnu Commons is scheduled to open in February. ERIK HILL / Anchorage Daily News

New construction permits rise

More national retailers to open in Anchorage this year.

By **MONICA GOKEY**
mgokey@adn.com

Anchorage logged \$631 million in new building permits in 2013, a 40 percent increase over 2012 construction, according to data presented by architect Brian Meissner at the Building Owners and Managers Association's annual commercial real estate forecast luncheon Friday.

"2013 was as big as the years before the bust," Meissner said.

Major construction projects under way around the city include hotels, office buildings and retail space.

Commercial vacancy rates throughout the city generally went down in 2013, said Brandon Walker, an associate at Pacific Tower Properties in Anchorage. Retail vacancy rates are just more than 4 percent, lower than the national average of 7.7 percent, he said.

National retailers that set up outlets in Anchorage in 2013 included cosmetics giant Sephora and designer Michael Kors. Walker said a number of other national brands have plans to open in here in 2014: Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops, Hard Rock Cafe, Texas Roadhouse and Tilted Kilt Pub and Eatery.

Industrial vacancy rates fell below 2 percent in 2013, Walker said.

See Back Page,
CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION: Mat-Su area shows strong growth

Continued from B-1

Speaking of the city's available commercial properties, Walker said, "Much of the inventory right now is plagued by obsolescence. This is limiting the already limited supply of properties."

Fortunately for the city's commercial tenants, Walker said, they haven't seen an upswing in rents as a result of the decrease in vacancies.

In his forecast for next year, Walker predicted industrial vacancy rates will continue to trend downward until prices or construction costs justify new development.

Other items noted by the luncheon's four keynote speakers include:

Cuts to local and federal government jobs are expected to increase the office vacancy rate. Long-term vacancy and leasing prices are ex-

The federal government's sequestration affected military construction projects in Alaska. Little new military construction is expected in 2014.

upswing toward the end of 2014 to coincide with completion of some construction projects.

National brands are forecast to continue setting up shop in Anchorage.

New school construction in Anchorage is waning but renewal projects are on the rise.

Strong growth in construction in the Mat-Su region is expected to continue as people keep moving there.

The federal government's sequestration affected military construction projects in Alaska. Little new military construction is ex-

As interest rates go up, property buyers can expect to have less financial leverage, higher down payments and lower profit margins than in recent years.

As it becomes more expensive to borrow money, some property owners may choose to hang on to property longer, resulting in less turnover in the market.

As the banking industry continues to consolidate, there will be fewer lenders so well-qualified borrowers will have an even greater advantage than borrowers with less financial wherewithal in accessing capital

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KENAI RIVER

Special Management Area

"Working together...for the river"

ADVISORY BOARD

January 14, 2014

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Board of Fisheries
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

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BOARDS
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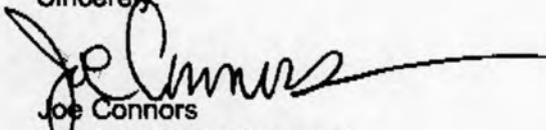
Re: Board of Fisheries Proposal 233

Dear Board Members:

The Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board recently discussed the City of Soldotna's proposed regulation (#233) that is currently before the Board of Fisheries. The City of Soldotna has submitted this proposal to address conflicts with power boaters and bank anglers at the Centennial Boat Launch lagoon on the Kenai River. This proposal would be effective July 1 – August 30 of each year.

The KRSMA Advisory Board believes this proposal will reduce conflicts with power boaters and bank anglers, improve public safety, and promote an orderly fishery. The KRSMA Advisory Board supports this proposal and urges the Board of Fisheries to implement this regulation.

Sincerely,


Joe Connors
President KRSMA Board



Kenai Area Office, PO Box 1247, Soldotna, AK 99669, 907-262-5581
Kenai Peninsula Borough, 144 N. Binkley, Soldotna, AK 99669 907-262-4441
Gilman River Center 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna, AK 99669, 907-260-4882
Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough

KENAI RIVER
CENTRAL





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Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802

COMMENTS ON UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH PROPOSALS

The Alaska Sportfishing Association offers the following comments on a select few proposals for the Upper Cook Inlet/ Board Of Fisheries meeting.

Proposals 55 and 56. We oppose this proposal as it ties Resurrection Bay in with lower Cook Inlet. The chinook fishing in the bay targets feeders or stocked fish-- not local spawners.

Proposal 103. We support this proposal.

Proposal 112. We support this proposal.

Proposal 126. We support this proposal.

Proposal 131 We support this proposal

Proposal 135 We do not support this proposal

Proposal 136,139,140, 146 We support these proposals.

Proposal 151 We do not support this proposal

Proposal161 We support this proposal

Proposal164 We do not support this proposal

Proposal168 We support this proposal

Proposals 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 did not earn our support

Proposal 188 did earn our support

As did proposal 190

Proposal 193 We support this proposal

plg2



We support proposal 201 and 211

Proposal 207 is also supported

Proposal 219 merits consideration

We oppose proposal 228

We support proposal 248

Proposal 255 makes sense

We like proposal 264

We do not like Proposal 266

We support proposal 269

Proposal 275 and 276 are political harassment

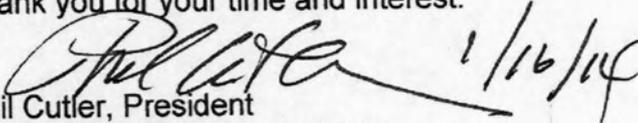
We support proposal 282 but not 283 or 285

We support proposals 292 and 293 and 296 and 297 and 300

We also like proposals 313 and 314 and 315 and 318

And finally, we support proposals 321 and 325

Thank you for your time and interest.


Phil Cutler, President
Alaska Sportfshing Association

1/16/14

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