



Debbie Kerns
1189 Cook Way
Homer, AK 99603

November 15, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows.

I have lived on the Kenai Peninsula for the past 16 years, and in Alaska my whole life, and salmon are a very important part of our lives

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

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

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

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

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





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

I believe the salmon of this state should be managed for the local residents first, as this is an important resource we use to feed our family!

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

Sincerely,

Debbie Kerns

Debbie Kerns
1189 Cook Way
Homer, AK 99603

Email address: tkerns@tundratech.net
Phone number: [tkerns@tundratech.net](tel:tkerns@tundratech.net)
Additional information about me:

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



Chris White
40 Road 2CD
Cody, WY 82414

November 15, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows.

I have fished all of my life. I live in the mountainous northwest region of Wyoming, a mere 52 miles from the east gate of Yellowstone National Park. I started fly-fishing several years ago, and I have always been a catch and release fisherman. I was fortunate enough to experience the majestic Kenai River and the Alaska landscape in July of 2012. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I fished for kings for 3 days on the Kenai, and I was fortunate to catch the biggest fish of my life. I cannot tell you how excited I was. It was an amazing experience. I could not keep the fish because of a very limited King Salmon run. I was not disappointed, because as I stated earlier, I usually catch and release. I could not imagine Alaska without these majestic creatures swimming in those waters. I think the preservation of these monsters need to be priority one. Not only do they provide subsistence, but they boost economy around Alaska.

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

I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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





I support proposals:

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

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

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

I support proposals:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Chris White

Chris White
40 Road 2CD
Cody, WY 82414

Email address: cswwhite1979@gmail.com

Phone number: (307)272-1337

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



Sarah Jane Smith
3501 North Star Street unit A
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

November 15, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

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

I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
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The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy directs that the burden of conservation will be applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock. Where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measureable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource. All user groups need to bear in the burden of conservation of Kenai River king salmon in an equitable manner.

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

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





I support proposals:

- #169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3
- #161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River
- #112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing
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- #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

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Jane Smith

Sarah Jane Smith
3501 North Star Street unit A
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

Email address: sarahjane99801@hotmail.com

Phone number: 907-569-7070

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Personal Use / Dipnetter



William Keller
35510 Briars Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

November 16, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I have been a Kenai River property owner since 2002, and have fished the Kenai since 1989. I am very concerned by the downturn in the fishery, and lack of cooperation between user groups.

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

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

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

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

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





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 live on the Kenai River at mile 17 1/2, between Sunken Island and the Grave Yard. I was extremely concerned this past summer, when I witnessed hundreds of King Salmon being caught and retained during the "Closed to Bait" period in July. Sunken Island, just up river from us is a very prolific spawning area, and when a fish is caught in that area it is typically netted as the boat drifts past our property. If I had input for future fishing restrictions, I would advocate for the total closure of all King Salmon fishing for a 7 year period, so that one complete cycle could occur without pressure from any user group.

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,

William J. Keller

William Keller
35510 Brians Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

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Phone number: 907-394-1072

Additional information about me:

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



Alyson Hickson
9047 Dewberry St Apt #4
Anchorage , AK 99504

November 16, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I am a life long alaskan i have seen the salmon disappear please don't let this happen to the Kenai kings.

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

I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

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





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

I support proposals:

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

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

this is important to me because I have seen the fish disappear please don't let this happen to the fisheries

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,

Alyson Hickson

Alyson Hickson
9047 Dewberry St Apt #4
Anchorage , AK 99504

Email address: akwildernessgirl25@icloud.com

Phone number: 907-570-4438

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen

7



Andrea Leydon
8525 Emerald Street
Anchorage, AK 99502

November 16, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I am a life-long Alaskan who enjoys fishing on the Kenai River. I have never caught a king salmon and it's sad to hear that my chances are slim to none. Fishing on the Kenai River this summer was definitely combat fishing. With commercial fishing allowed, dip-netters had to fight for every single fish. These fish feed our families. And really, fishing is meant to be fun. Fishing is a tourist attraction and if we can't save our kenai kings, what is next?

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

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

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries





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

I support proposals:

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

As a life-long Alaskan, I believe we deserve equal shares to the place we call home. Keep Alaska wild.

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

Sincerely,

Andrea Leydon

Andrea Leydon
8525 Emerald Street
Anchorage, AK 99502

Email address: alinkheak@hotmail.com

Phone number: (907)245-0404

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen

This letter will be faxed after it is e-mailed so it can be submitted as public testimony.



Alexa Lehman
16601 Virgo Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99516

November 16, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows.

Every year my friends and family go fishing on the Kenai. It's a great way to sustain ourselves through the summer and winter. I don't know what we would do without such a great supplement and true Alaska staple.

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.

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

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The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for





personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting) households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

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As I stated above, the fish that my friends and family catch are a part of our livelihood. This last summer, their catch was minimal compared to past years and their fishing spots were invaded by commercial fishing. It's important that we conserve and monitor how we fish, in order to keep salmon fishing a part of Alaskan culture.

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Alexa

Alexa Lehman
16601 Virgo Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99516

Email address: lexa_leh@yahoo.com

Phone number: 612-859-1775

Additional information about me:

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

This letter will be faxed after it is e-mailed so it can be submitted as public testimony.



Doug Garnhart
265 Jasmine Way
Danville, CA 94506

November 16, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I have been fishing in Alaska now for over 18 years. My first trip was on the Kenai River. During this time I have seen the number of river "guides" increase exponentially year-over-year, to the point where you can now walk across the river on these boats. My last trip on the Kenai was 6 years ago...it was a mess.

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

I support proposals:

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

I support proposals:

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- #112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing
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- #139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

From glutton "dip-netters" to "no-limits-for-our-local-economy" to "commercial-terrorism" you are now being asked to do your job for the sake of a natural wonder! If I was the "Kenai-King"....it would be simple. Just shut down all fishing in and around the Kenai for 5 years. Nature will take care of the rest. I am not surprised to see these "locals" all upset....what I hear in all this, is they're upset because the tourist dollars are declining. Time to act was yesterday. In any case, my bet is that you will continue to do nothing...

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

Sincerely,

Doug Garnhart

Doug Garnhart
265 Jasmine Way
Danville, CA 94506

Email address: doug.garnhart@yahoo.com

Phone number: (925) 683-1306

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen

This letter will be faxed after it is e-mailed so it can be submitted as public testimony.

Dennis Mellinger
821 River Estates Dr.
Soldotna , AK 99669

November 16, 2013

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

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

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

I have fished on the Kenai since 1987. King salmon have been becoming increasingly scarce over the last several years, in fact I have not fished for Kings for the last 3 years .

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.

I support proposals:

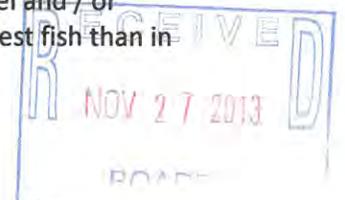
- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in





Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

I support proposals:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please save our Kings

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

Sincerely,

Dennis Mellinger

Dennis Mellinger
821 River Estates Dr.
Soldotna , AK 99669

Email address: mellingerdl@aol.com

Phone number: 907 317-3468

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler

This letter will be faxed after it is e-mailed so it can be submitted as public testimony.

Stuart Ennis
320 Nile Ck Ln
Naches,WA 98937

November 17, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

have fished the kenai many years for 2 to 3 weeks and have seen the decline over the years,i don't have the answer ,I just hope someone does, ,,I have heard many ideas over the years,mostly blaming one group or another,mabay a fish wheel,where you can capture the sockeye and save the kings.

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

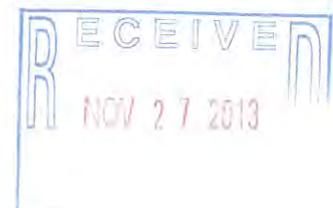
I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries





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

I support proposals:

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

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

Sincerely,

stuart ennis

Stuart Ennis
320 Nile Ck Ln
Naches, WA 98937

Email address: sennis@frontier.com
Phone number: 509-658-2924
Additional information about me:
I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



Johann Hanusch
Franz-Huber-Str.10
Kiefersfelden, Germany, 83088

November 17, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

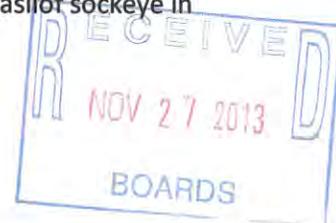
Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from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

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

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

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

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





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

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Johann Hanusch

Johann Hanusch
Franz-Huber-Str.10
Kiefersfelden, Germany, 83088

Email address: info@hans-hanusch.de
Phone number: +49 80332549
Additional information about me:
I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



William Simpson
37910 Greatland St.
Sterling, AK 99672

November 17, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to.

I'm a 59 year resident of Alaska and have enjoyed hunting and fishing since I was 10 years old. I have a residence on the Kenai river where I intend to retire and live starting July 2014, I am concerned with the continued decline of king salmon in the Kenai and hope our resource managers are aware and have a management plan to turn this around.

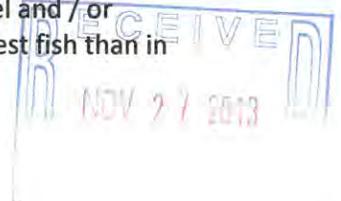
It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement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

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

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

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

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in





Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

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

The Cook Inlet fishery is a valuable source of income to many lives, not just in the commercial, sport, and guide industries, but also to the service and retail industries of the peninsula. Let's keep the resource strong and renewed.

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

Sincerely,

William L. Simpson

William Simpson
37910 Greatland St.
Sterling, AK 99672

Email address: william.simpson49@gmail.com

Phone number: 907 306-6608

Additional information about me:

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

Tiffany Winsor
1956 Brandilyn St
Anchorage, AK 99516

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

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

I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

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





I support proposals:

- #169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3
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- #248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes
- #126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits
- #139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter. The conservation and sustainability of Kenai River king salmon rests in your able hands. The fish come first!

Sincerely,

Tiffany Winsor

Tiffany Winsor
1956 Brandilyn St
Anchorage, AK 99516

Email address: twinsor@gci.com
Phone number: (907) 522-7393
Additional information about me:
I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



Mack Padgett
855 Ames Road
Kenai, AK 99611

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows.

I have been fishing the Kenai for 30 years and hope to see the river return to its glory days. We have invested in the Kenai and intend to spend our retirement years here.

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

I support proposals:

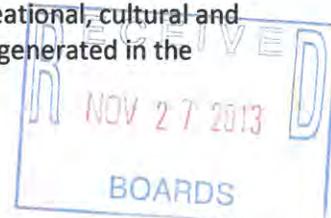
- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal use (dipnetting) fishing in Cook Inlet. Alaskans greatly depend upon the fish harvested in these fisheries. The social, recreational, cultural and economic values generated in these fisheries are much greater in value than those generated in the





area's commercial salmon fisheries. As a public resource, it makes most sense to manage Cook Inlet salmon resources for the greatest number of Alaskans - those that fish and harvest in the sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries.

I support proposals:

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

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

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

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

The Kenai Kings are a special fish. We cannot wait any longer to recognize the fact that we are killing the greatest strain of King Salmon in Alaska. It's time to make a change.

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

Sincerely,

Mack Padgett

Mack Padgett
855 Ames Road
Kenai, AK 99611

Email address: padgett@alaska.net

Phone number: 9072273217

Additional information about me:

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



Shaun Churilla
13126 Rosser Dr.
Eagle River, AK 99577

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I am not a dipnetter or commercial fisherman. I am an Alaskan Sports fisherman who retains about 20 Sockeye, via rod/reel, a year. I primary Rainbow fish and can be found on many Alaskan streams from April through October; fishing is my passion and my concern is not who gets the fish but the resource in general. However, I have sat back and watched the Kenai Chinook salmon population nose dive over the last few years and fear the decline of all salmon species are at risk with our current management plan.

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

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

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

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





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

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

These issues are important, because State Scientists cannot voice their opinions based on scientific data. Reference Beluga Article and Gov Parnell's direction: A Parnell administration rule that requires state scientists to adhere to official policy and not the principles of independent science when they work outside their agencies continues to fuel debate more than a month after two biologists were removed from a federal beluga whale recovery team. The state biologists were kicked off the beluga panel because the rule compromised the scientific integrity of the team, federal officials said. The policy could have the long-term effect of chilling participation of state scientists in independent research and journal activity that scientists in academia have long enjoyed, said Cornick, who said she was speaking for herself and not her university.

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,

Shaun Churilla

Shaun Churilla
13126 Rosser Dr.
Eagle River, AK 99577

Email address: Schurilla07@gmail.com
Phone number: 907-726-0308
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Sport Angler



PC 41

Ben Birch
4740 E 115th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99516

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to.

I am a lifelong Alaskan who has grown up fishing the Kenai to harvest food for the year. In recent years the fishing has become noticeably poor in the upper areas I have been fishing for years. I think that with the decline in fish numbers less time should be granted to commercial netters as they have the largest direct effect on sport fisherman trying to support their households.

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:

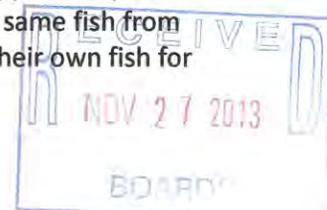
- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for





personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting) households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

I support proposals:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These issues are important to me because I am a lifelong Alaskan who has been harvesting food for winter since I was young, and would like to continue doing so for the remainder of my lifetime.

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

Sincerely,

Ben Birch

Ben Birch
4740 E 115th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99516

Email address: benbirch14@gmail.com

Phone number: 9073014797

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter

Shane Webster
Po box 770
Sterling , AK 99672

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to.

I've lived in Alaska since 1995. I'm an avid sportsfisher... I have spent a season as a commercial drift deck hand, a season as a Kenai River powerboat guide and a season at the local fish processor. My freezer has sockeye from the Kasilof, silvers and black bass from Seward, halibut from Homer. And absolutely no fish from the Kenai this year. My father and step-mother have been guides. My sister and her husband are fishing guides.

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

I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:

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





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

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

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 would like to see something done about the KENAI'S dwindling salmon runs. New sonar that produces accurate count numbers above tide waters. Possibly a hatch box program with the kenai peninsula collage. Most importantly quit punishing the sports fisherman while scratching the commercial fisherman's back. There's NO POSSIBLE WAY the sonar numbers are accurate. If i can see that by spending one day on the river then someone with a higher education than me should be able to figure that out. Please feel free to contact me and i will happily talk your ear off about the kenai

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

Sincerely,

Shane J Webster

Shane Webster
po box 770
sterling , AK 99672

Email address: aknsm61@gmail.com

Phone number: 907 252-7445

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen



C Mark Ledden
39 Willowgate Dr
Pulaski, NY 13142

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

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

I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

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





households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

I support proposals:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

209,211,156,248,126,

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter. The conservation and sustainability of Kenai River king salmon rests in your able hands. The fish come first!

Sincerely,

c mark ledden

c mark ledden
39 willowgate dr
pulaski , NY 13142

Email address: cmledden@gmail.com

Phone number: 3155294204

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



PC 94

Tom Wellman
34935 Eagle Circle #C-5
Sterling, AK 99672

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I am a lifelong Alaskan who has fished the Kenai River as a sports fisherman since 1975. The previous abundance of king salmon in the river is long gone. Sadly, the Board of Fish and ADF&G are overseeing the eradication of this species due to poor management practices and politics that allow for a game of russian roulette. In 2013, it was painfully obvious that both runs were in trouble early and yet the fishery was allowed to remain open way too long to placate commercial interests, both fishing as well as the tourist industry. What is more important, the fishery or money? I am willing to sacrifice my fishing time and opportunities if other users are willing to share the burden as well.

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

I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:





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

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

I support putting Alaskan residents first in the management of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Many people harvest fish to feed our families and share with friends. Access to fish is one of the primary reasons Alaskans value living in Alaska. When fishery managers 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

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter. The conservation and sustainability of Kenai River king salmon rests in your able hands. The fish come first!

Sincerely,

Tom Wellman

Tom Wellman
34935 Eagle Circle #C-5
Sterling, AK 99672

Email address: tomwellman10@hotmail.com

Phone number: 907-947-1114

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Stephen P Kehl
45975 Drift Dr
Kenai, AK 99611

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I moved to Alaska in May 1981 and I went fishing on the Kenai/Russian River several times that first summer. Fishing for reds has always been a great way to share the outdoors with friends. I started fishing for Kings a couple of years later. After a couple of years fishing out of a friend's boat, I was convinced that I should buy my own boat. Soon after that, I purchased a 27' trailer and I had my own camp on the river. Before I retired in 2007, I purchased land and I built a house close to the river. Over the years, I estimate that I have spent a small fortune entertaining friends and fishing for Kings. Several friends have made an annual pilgrimage to the Kenai to fish with me. We have all noticed the size of the Kings caught was getting smaller over the last ten years. This is our chance to change our ways and preserve this great run of big fish. The tourist dollars spent on hotels, meals, guide trips, etc. will all be lost if this fish is allowed to become extinct.

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

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

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





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

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

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

I am concerned that our children and grandchildren will not have the opportunity to catch a fish over 50 pounds. Sportsmen from the world over will not be coming to Alaska for trophy fish if they can catch bigger fish elsewhere. Fishermen spend big dollars here and they will continue to come to Alaska after the oil is gone...if we have the fish they want.

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

Sincerely,

Steve Kehl

Stephen P Kehl
45975 Drift Dr
Kenai, AK 99611

Email address: aktwosome@gmail.com
Phone number: 907-952-0579
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Max McGrath
1343 H Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I agree with the points made in this form letter. Take action to save the Kenai Kings!

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

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

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

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

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





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

We must care for our precious natural resources by enacting thoughtful legislation and guidelines so that all Alaskans can benefit from our Salmon.

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Max McGrath

Max McGrath
1343 H Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Email address: maxbmcgrath@gmail.com

Phone number: 907-538-7504

Additional information about me:

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



Gerald W. Anderson
38320 Downrigger St.
Kenai, AK 99611

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I hope to see a total & complete SHUTDOWN of the obvious King Catchers for the next 5 years. A. Sportfishing from Soldotna Bridge to the Mouth Restricted motor boat activity, during spawning, in the same area B. East Side Set Nets (ESSN) After the 5 yrs. carefully analyze the scientific progress (results)

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

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

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

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

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





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

I'm a 15yr.resident & property owner,W/access to the Kenai River. I settled here in 1999,King fishing was GOOD,the last 3-4 yrs.it's horrible. Very sad to see.

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

Sincerely,

Gerald W.Anderson

Gerald W. Anderson
38320 Downrigger St.
Kenai, AK 99611

Email address: aukwaholic@gmail.com

Phone number: (907)283-7665

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Tom Jahns
PO Box 1068
Soldotna, AK 99669

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I've lived and worked in Kenai for more than 20 years. During that time I have had the privilege of fishing and catching a number of King Salmon, most being returned to the river as potential spawners. After the past three dismal King seasons, I have sold my river boat and rarely fish, except for an occasional silver trip. We have watched our world class King salmon fishery disappear before our eyes, primarily through poor fisheries management, commercial greed and excessive guide pressures. It is past time to stand up and say enough is enough. We need strong conservation measures, possibly a King salmon enhancement program (similar to Oregon and Washington), and a shift in the open season dates to better manage the late run of fish that are increasing without direct benefit to Alaskans. Please Wake Up Before It Is Too Late!

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

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





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

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

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I moved here 20+ years ago for the enhanced quality of life that the area and its fishing offered. As you well know, the Kenai River King Fishery affects all of us in many ways. By allowing this world class fishery to expire, one can foresee a serious downturn in our economy, including current and future property values and tourism dollars. The time has come to stop the carnage or forever say goodbye to a unique sportfishing revenue that has truly made the towns and villages along the Kenai River into what they are today.

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

Sincerely,

Tom Jahns

Tom Jahns
PO Box 1068
Soldotna, AK 99669

Email address: thomjahns@gmail.com

Phone number: 907-283-6050

Additional information about me:

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



David DeVaughn
3993 Lentine ct.
North Pole , AK 99705

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

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

I support proposals:

- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

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

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support 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

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter. The conservation and sustainability of Kenai River king salmon rests in your able hands. The fish come first!

Sincerely,

David DeVaughn

David DeVaughn
3993 Lentine ct.
North Pole , AK 99705

Email address: david.devaughn@k12northstar.org
Phone number: 907-488-5942
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen

John Butler
533 S Woodland St
Orange, CA 92869

November 18, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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

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

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

I have been fishing this river for the past 20 years and over the past years I have noticed a drop in size of the fish caught. This last year I arrived and found that F&G had closed the river the night before I arrived to king fishing. So I am out air fare and accommodation and the thrill of catching a king. I cannot afford to keep this up as I am a retired person. The time to act is now and hold off ALL fishing for at least 5 years, and hope that the fish will recover. I feel that as time goes on that the commercial fleet will strip this river of a great experience that future generations will never experience the thrill of catching a KING.

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

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

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

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





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

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.

This year was the worst fishing I have ever had on the Kenai, as there were NO kings, the red were stopped by nets at the mouth of the river, and very few made it up river.

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

Sincerely,

John Butler

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Additional information about me:
I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler