

"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

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October 14, 2014

Alaska Board of Fisheries Board Support Section P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99611

Subject: Alaska Board of Fisheries October 15-16 Work Session, Selection of Meeting Location for 2017 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting

Chairman Johnstone and Members of the Board of Fisheries:

The Miscellaneous Section of the Work Session packet contains data requested by the Board from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game identifying the geographical distribution of Cook Inlet Personal Use Permits, Sport Fishing Licenses, Cook Inlet Salmon Drift Net Permits, and Cook Inlet Salmon Set Net Permits.

The purpose of this correspondence is to submit supplemental information to provide an accurate understanding of other user groups, community impacts, and economic impacts.

The Northern Economics Cook Inlet Drift and Set Net Salmon Fisheries report published in May 2013 provides the following statistical data relating to Kenai Peninsula residents and the Kenai Peninsula economy:

- 3,600 harvester jobs, 2011
- 1,617 processing jobs, 2011
- Fourth largest Alaska salmon fishery in value in 2011 at \$54.2 million, exceeds all lower 48 salmon fisheries in ex-vessel value.
- \$212 million first wholesale export value, mostly fresh fish products being shipped by truck to the lower 48, transportation time---60 hours. The uniqueness of having processing plants on the Kenai Peninsula connected to the road system.
- \$350 million---overall economic contribution to the Cook Inlet region.
- Sixth largest port in the US in landed value—the Kenai Peninsula --if total fishery landings of all species from Seward, Kenai, Homer and Anchorage are aggregated as one port.

 Labor income (payroll) to fishermen, 2011, crew and permit holders at 60 percent of exvessel revenue

Set and drift net harvester salmon: \$34 million
Set and drift net harvesters in other fisheries: \$30 million
Set and drift net harvesters from 2nd jobs: \$14. 3 million

Sub Total—harvester income: \$78.0 million

Processing labor income: \$30 million

Total payroll in 2011 Kenai Peninsula fisheries: \$108 million

A comparison of the geographical distribution of fishing licenses, personal use permits, etc. does not accurately gauge the involvement and/or impact of Upper Cook Inlet fisheries on the residents and economy of the Kenai Peninsula. Few if any businesses and individuals are not affected, either directly or indirectly, from Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries. Four hundred East-Side set net families who operate small businesses are directly affected. Eight thousand residents of the City of Kenai are directly affected from early May to late August by Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries.

The City of Kenai, as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, is a Fishing Community, as is Homer, Anchor Point, Ninilchik, Kasilof, Nikiski, and Seward.

Thank you for your attention to this letter, and thank you for your consideration in the selection of the Kenai Peninsula for the Board of Fisheries 2017 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting.

Sincerely,

CITY OF KEINAL

Rick R. Koch City Manager

attachment

