



February 19, 2019

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Re: Opposition to Proposal 170, and 171, comments on 169

Dear Chairman Morisky and the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) represents fishermen and stakeholders who have a substantial investment, current and future, that would be affected by these proposals.

Proposal 169 comments:

There is merit to part of this proposal, but it's trying to solve specific regional issues with far reaching policy changes that would affect the entire state. Having escapement data available to the general public and stakeholders in advanced of proposal deadline timeframes that allow for this information to be used in comments would be a benefit not only to commenters, but would also give more valuable and accurate information to BOF members. We believe this part of the proposal has merit and would alleviate much of the frustration that precipitated its writing. SEAS would defer to ADF&G staff as to whether other parts of this proposal would be beneficial to the state and the public.

Proposal 170 oppose:

This proposal is very detailed and thorough in its scope and desire, so much so that no one is exactly sure what all the impacts might be. It seems fitting that if a far-reaching review and re-write of the Sustainable Fisheries Policy is deemed appropriate by the BOF, that there be a mechanism and process defined by the BOF to allow for a collaborative process to take place; and then be provided to the BOF for their deliberation. We applaud the author's extensive thought process and knowledge that produced this proposal; and believe it is a great ROUGH draft for directing a thorough review should the Board feel so moved.

Proposal 171 oppose:

SEAS' adamantly opposes this proposal which seeks to modify the criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries. Our first issue



is with the arbitrary ranking of the allocation criteria which favor (in regulation), **ANY** individual gear group(s) in non-subsistence areas. We contend that this ranking is strictly a regional preference by the proposer(s), and is a fundamentally flawed design when applied state wide. Section 17 (e) of the existing criteria is not prioritized but is numbered in its order and states that the Board may allocate among users, shall adopt criteria for allocation, and shall use the criteria as appropriate to a particular allocation decision. The criteria may include factors such as:

“The list of the Seven” (LOTS)

Not only is this proposal non-responsive to local, regional, and historical uses in specific areas, but it also eliminates the ability of the BOF to include anything **BUT** the LOTS. Current language states “the criteria **may** include... (the LOTS). SEAS’ position is that the language chosen was **NOT** a mistake, but rather a well-intended tool for future BOF members to be able to consider circumstances that may not have existed or were unforeseen at the time. We fail to see how these changes will do anything but **LIMIT** the BOF to exercise its current authority.

Amending the portion of criteria (1) history ... of commercial fishery to **commercial fishery with emphasis on the previous 20 years** disregards the investment and history of only one user group and is blatantly bias.

Finally, Section (b) of this proposal introduces, and poorly defines “Adaptive Management.” Our interpretation of this language is that the proposers order of importance must be met, and if not, management strategies would be adapted and changed to meet the chronological order laid out in the proposal. Is this in season adjustments, an annual review, every Board cycle for each area and fishery? It is not clear what the adaptive management process would be based on and when the re-evaluation process would happen. Again, we believe this proposed language takes away the Boards’ current authority to apply criteria as individually appropriate and include additional information at their discretion as deemed applicable.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Susan Doherty
Executive Director
Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS)

Submitted By
Steven Swartzbart
Submitted On
2/19/2019 5:45:02 PM
Affiliation

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My name is Steven Swartzbart and I am a second-generation commercial salmon fisherman from Cordova, Alaska. My mother is a biologist for ADF&G and my father was a commercial fisherman for 35 years before passing the family business to me. This gives a unique opportunity to receive many points of view. I am thankful for the opportunity to comment on the proposals that effect my family, community, and state.

Proposal 162. Strongly Support.

Accurate and timely data is extremely important for managing any fishery. I believe especially with salmon because of their migration process. Commercial salmon fisheries are a great example of this, with in a very short period of time ADF&G knows the exact number of salmon harvested through our fish tickets. Proposal 162 will improve the information from other user groups. I believe biweekly reporting is a small inconvenience for other user groups that will have a tremendous benefit to managers. I also catch salmon for subsistence and everyone I know is more than willing to report with in a two week period. I believe this is a step forward in Alaska's world class fisheries.

Proposal 171. Strongly Oppose.

I don't support this proposal. The nonsubsistence areas of the state are not in need of more food and sources of recreation. I believe it is important to limit personal use fisheries in nonsubsistence areas because the users have many other options for food and recreation, that rural Alaskans don't have. This is a step in the wrong direction and it gives more to urban Alaskans, who do not depend on the amazing finite resource of salmon.

I support Proposal 161 and 168.

Thank You

Submitted By
Todd Moore
Submitted On
2/10/2019 9:43:28 AM
Affiliation
Set netter

Alaska Board of Fish Members,

I am in full support of proposal 181, as written.

I am a life long Alaskan Resident. I started fish Kaifonsky Beach in 1988, as a crew member. I helped fished beach nets and other nets all the way out to the 1.5 mile boundary off the beach. After about 10 years I acquired a set net permit and associated shore fishery lease that went into effect in 1979.

While fishing beach nets early in my career, it was obvious that Kasilof Sockeye were very abundant on the beaches. I believe that the regulation letting NKB fishers harvesting Kasilof Sockeye with 600 feet of MHT is a good regulation.

I do not think that the hours fished in that select fishery should count towards the hours I might fish as per the regulation book.

My shore fishery lease is about 1/2 mile off shore and on the ADF&G regulatory marker on the south side of the Kenai River. (244-32).

Please pass 181, this would make the NKB fishery consistent with the Kasilof section 600 foot fishery.

Thank you,

Todd O. Moore

Soldotna, Ak.

Submitted By
Tom Anderson
Submitted On
2/20/2019 7:40:52 PM
Affiliation

Board of Fish

Statewide Finfish 9-11 March 2019

On-time Public Comment

Proposals 161 and 162, **SUPPORT** with recommendations:

Salmon harvest reporting across Alaska has long been less than it should be, creating an unnecessary challenge to managers to guess harvest as fisheries are prosecuted throughout the season. Although high speed internet is not universally available across the state, it is now available enough such that we can impose a higher standard for reporting the harvest of our most precious renewable natural resource, with the ultimate goal being to apply the same standard for reporting to all user groups: reporting all salmon harvested within 24 hours.

With so many of Alaska's salmon runs declining, we must make use of every piece of information available to ensure these resources are used sustainably and responsibly, and Proposals 161 and 162 are both good steps in the right direction, however we feel that at this point, approving proposal 161, and ALSO approving 162 with modification to apply a higher standard to the most threatened runs.

We recommend modification of Proposal 162 to require the reporting of any salmon harvested from a stock that has not met its escapement goal in the past six years within 24 hours. We recommend six years because that represents the longest life-cycle of any pacific salmon, so requiring 24h reporting on harvests from these stocks for six years will ensure that the progeny of the last run that failed to meet its escapement goal will be subject to this enhanced reporting requirement.

On its own, Proposal 162 is not strong enough, as it allows too much time to lapse between harvest and reporting, and does not apply to all salmon species.

Proposals 169 and 170, **OPPOSE**

The claims asserting the need to change our escapement goals are greatly inflated, and the dire nature of the results questionable, given the record returns we have experienced in many of our salmon stocks over the past 10 years. While there may be systems that could benefit from the management prescribed within these proposals, applying this management statewide to replace our existing management (widely considered to be among the best in the world) would simply be foolish.

Specifically, these proposals would leave the harvest of mixed stocks without a suitable management plan, especially if some component does not have an inseason abundance/escapement estimate. This occurs across Prince William Sound, and throughout the Copper River Spring/Summer Chinook/sockeye fishery.

Proposal 171, **OPPOSE**

Proposal 171 is completely unnecessary, reduces the ability of the Board of Fish to apply its discretion, and simply mis-states the existing statute and code to misrepresent the nature of fisheries management in non-subsistence areas.



Non-subsistence areas exist around Alaska's largest urban centers in Anchorage/MatSu, Fairbanks, Juneau, Valdez, and Ketchikan, prohibiting any subsistence harvest from occurring in these areas. The rationale is quite simple: the areas surrounding these urban centers cannot sustain the use they would receive by residents of these urban centers if subsistence activities were allowed to occur there. Any other harvest is acceptable in these areas, including personal use harvests. The proposal, as well as the outreach and campaigning of the proposer have equated the prevalence of sport fisheries in these areas as somehow reducing the access of Alaskans to food resources simply because non-residents are also eligible for sport harvests, thereby committing the logical fallacy of "Appeal to Pity." The Alaskans who reside in non-subsistence areas still enjoy all the privileges of an Alaskan resident, and are able to participate in all subsistence and personal use fisheries statewide. Essentially, Proposal 171 is demanding that fish resources come to our urban residents, rather than they travel to the resources, which is not realistic.

The proposal lists the factors the Board can consider when allocating fisheries resources as indicated in AS 16.05.251, but the proposal gives the distinct impression that this is a ranked list, and it is neither ranked, nor exhaustive. The proposal indicates the remedy is to rank these factors, and presumably make the list exhaustive, making the #1 priority "The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption," and herein lies the rub, as this is essentially subsistence, and these are non-subsistence areas (near urban centers). Because subsistence fisheries are prohibited in these locations, personal use fisheries would become the top priority in these areas, thereby becoming *de facto* subsistence fisheries in non-subsistence areas, and turning the entire concept of non-subsistence areas on its head, and putting the resources near our urban centers in jeopardy.

Moreover, the proposals invites us to believe that the existing language in AS 16.05.251 precludes the Board of Fish from allocating fish to personal use fisheries in non-subsistence areas, and it simply does not. The Board currently has all of the authority it needs to make allocations as the proposal specifies, but the Board also has the authority to make other allocation decisions where appropriate, and we believe that this should be preserved.

There is no justification for this proposal other than that the statute was written in 1989 and it has not been modified since. This is very poor justification for essentially undermining 5AAC 99.015 which established non-subsistence areas around urban centers. Our urban centers have only grown since 1989, and fish resources around our largest cities have not expanded to keep pace, in fact many have declined. Making this seemingly arbitrary change would be an enormous mistake when the Board currently already has the authority and flexibility it needs.

Submitted By
Toni Godes
Submitted On
2/20/2019 11:23:51 PM
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Proposals 161 and 162: SUPPORT

With current technology, timely catch reports by sport, personal use and subsistence fishers can be used for better in-season management of our fisheries. As numbers of non-commercial users increase, there is a greater need to have in-season—preferably real-time—data. The sooner the better! I like the idea of an F&G ap, for big game reporting as well.

Proposal 171: OPPOSE

Applying this prioritized criteria to the Copper River fishery would completely change the way the river is currently managed. It would force F&G to manage in a way that could actually harm the fishery, especially in years of over-escapement. Essentially, the fleet (and Cordova's economy) loses the first month of the fishery while the fish travel up to the other, newly "prioritized" user groups, which can be as much as half of the season's income and one-hundred percent of the Chinook salmon sought after by KRSA. For Cordova, it would be a major blow. Sport and personal use numbers are increasing (from Anchorage and the Valley, as the Kenai Peninsula fisheries struggle), while the commercial fleet are limited entry. Of course far more people are affected than the commercial fleet, but those "numbers" would not be addressed in this proposed schematic. At one time the town came alive in March for herring and remained strong through September. These days, the excitement begins in May, and without this early fishery, it will be even later before money comes into town. I hate to think what this kind of change would mean for the population and health of Cordova, not to mention the loss of this commercial fishery for the State as a whole.

While I understand the desire to put fish in the freezer, I think there should be concern about the Copper getting the kind of personal use and charter boat pressure the Kenai has had, especially where the river narrows and by the spawning grounds, and this proposal only encourages a similar scenario playing out.

I want to point out that number two (2) in KRSA's list of prioritized allocation criteria directs F&G to record the number of non-residents who fish and factor them into allocation. Why are out-of-state sport fishermen the *number two* priority when deciding who gets to fish? It's because this proposal is meant to benefit charter fishermen, not making sure every resident has enough to eat, as it disingenuously claims.

In response to (c), "historical precedence" has never been the *only* determinant when deciding when/where to fish. I am unclear why KRSA would oversimplify and make that statement. Keeping the current criteria and refusing to prioritize will allow F&G the ability to make decisions that make sense for the unique area they are managing. By dictating who gets fish first, management would be forced to ignore all other factors that go into management decisions.

Submitted By
Trae W Lohse
Submitted On
2/20/2019 9:45:57 PM
Affiliation
Fisherman

Proposal 171

I oppose Proposal 171. This proposal is simply an attempt to give personal use fisheries legal priority in nonsubsistence areas. By prioritizing certain criteria over others there is an attempt to tip the scales in favour of personal use over commercial harvesters. As populations swell in nonsubsistence areas there is only potential for growth in the number of personal use fisherman and the amount of the resource that they harvest. Commercial Salmon Fisherman on the other hand are limited in number by state law and have not increased in number since the creation of limited entry over 40 years ago. Also limiting how far back the board looks historically to the last 20 years the board will have to ignore the decades of Commercial fishing that has occurred and been a major economic driver for this state going back to before statehood.

Submitted By
Trae W Lohse
Submitted On
2/20/2019 9:56:29 PM
Affiliation

Proposal 161

I support this proposal. Timely reporting is in the benefit of the people who harvest salmon as well as the resource itself. The more accurate and timely the state gets reporting data the better they can manage the salmon resource.

Proposal 162

I support this proposal. Timely reporting benefits users and salmon in giving a realtime picture of salmon take in the same way that the commercial fleets data is currently used to gauge harvest levels and run strength inseason.

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS



PC057
1 of 3

Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 * (253) 279-0707 * usag.alaska@gmail.com * akgillnet.org

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

February 12, 2019

Chairman Reed Morisky
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Chairman Morisky and Board members,

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters offer the following comments on proposals being considered at Statewide Finfish March 9-11

Proposal 162- Support. Given the current state of king salmon in our region, we believe that real time accurate data should be available as a tool for the department to assess and estimate catch and stock composition of all user groups. Current regulations for commercial fisheries require weekly reporting of catches. This gives the department the ability to adjust fishing time and area in season to control harvest. The charter fleet also has a weekly reporting requirement. Sport fish data outside of the charter catch for king salmon is gathered through a statewide survey and creel sampling. The survey is annual, so catch numbers for sport/personal use lag behind other user groups. As a user group that is subject to weekly reporting, we feel that all user groups should be accounted for as accurately as possible. It is our contention that sport/personal use is not. Mandatory reporting for this sector would allow in our view a more comprehensive manner than the mail out sport fish survey, by definition, giving a more accurate catch number. Responsible resource management and allocation requires accurate, timely information. The communication technology available today allows for online reporting that would reduce

burden to harvesters. The department uses online reporting for big game, and could easily do the same with king salmon.

The fall/winter of 2018/19 sport season for kings was uncharacteristically good in parts of se Alaska. Petersburg, Wrangell, and Juneau all saw very good sport fish catches. Currently, the department is not conducting creel surveys, as that mostly occurs during the spring and summer months. Due to the small segment of the population fishing, it is unlikely that there will be an accurate accounting of these fish with the current statewide sportfish survey.

Proposal 169 and 170- Oppose. It is unclear to us how this would affect our fishery. In our region, we are managed for different stocks of fish, at different times, in five different districts. Each is unique. Conversations with the AMB's associated with these 5 districts did not have any straightforward answers as to how this would affect us. In our estimation, there could be unintended consequences associated with the adoption of this proposal. While this may be a reasonable proposal for some regions, we are unsure that it will be of benefit or loss to ours.

Proposal 171- Oppose. This proposal would narrow the scope of criteria that the BOF must consider in allocative decisions. Numerically listing criteria in a descending order of importance will limit the board's ability to consider criteria in objective manner. The current regulation, which lists criteria, but not in any directed order of importance, allows the individual board member less constraint in deciding his or her own order of importance in any particular allocative discussion. We feel this is important to the board process, as all users should be allowed to play on an even field on a particular proposal that could have an effect on them. We believe that historical use of a resource should always be a consideration. In recent years, we have seen a dramatic increase in personal use and sport fishing in our state, while commercial fishing has remained static, due to limited entry. Every fish taken in the commercial sector is reported on a fish ticket, allowing the department to closely monitor catch. Sport/personal use has a much less robust catch estimation program. It is our fear that with an unmitigated growth in the sport/personal use sector, some areas of the state are seeing unintended and unaccounted for allocation shifts. It is also important to note that not all Alaskans choose to get their fish themselves.

Many rely on the commercial fishing industry to supply their fish. Many people do not have the time, equipment, or energy to get their seafood protein. Restaurants and other food services also rely on commercial fishing for a stable supply of seafood.

It has been said by some that this proposal is the result of a commercial biased BOF. We do not believe that is the case. In fact, if polled, the vast majority of commercial users that participate in the process would probably have a polar opposite view.

Sincerely,



Max Worhatch, Executive Director, United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

Submitted By
Audrey Salmon
Submitted On
2/20/2019 10:49:27 AM
Affiliation

I STRONGLY OPPOSE proposal 171. The justification is very misleading and the "Personal Use" priority is a complete facade. The statewide commercial harvest percentages on salmon cannot be used to compare to local commercial fishing percentages in Cook Inlet. You cannot allocate away an established and historical fishery that started before Statehood. What is wrong with KRSA?? The dipnetters and sport fishermen cannot possibly harvest all of the salmon swimming up the Kenai River, this has been proven year after year while the river is overescaped. Smaller fish and diminished returns are the result of this unsustainable and irresponsible practice. This Kenai River sockeye run has been built up over the years to provide opportunity for all users, not just sport. Please consider the Alaska State Constitution and its commercial fishing priority. This proposal is about sheer greediness of local sportfishing advocates. Commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet do not have the luxury of timing and location the sport fishermen have; CFEC licensed fishermen cannot just go to another river and harvest when they feel like it throughout the season. When the salmon have gone through the small slivers of water in Cook Inlet allowed to the commercial fleet, they are gone for good. Most of the commercial fishermen were not allowed to fish the amount of days, especially the amount of hours, allowed to the personal use fishery. Also, please take a hard look at the amount of salmon being shipped out the Kenai area in July; a huge portion of these "Personal Use" fish are shipped all over the country to resell in local markets. WAKE UP!!! Do something to stop this abuse - DO NOT PASS THIS PROPOSAL!!

February 19, 2019

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
Attn: Board of Fisheries
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Statewide Finfish Meeting
Proposal 171 (support) and Public Opinion Survey Results

Dear Board Members:

As an Alaska Salmon Fellow, I have had the opportunity over the last two years to consider the idea of equity in Alaska's salmon system. As the Board is well aware, Alaska's fish are a public trust resource of the state, reserved to the people for common use (Article VIII §3). It makes sense then, that Alaskans are again seeking some equity in the benefits derived from the fisheries. I believe that Proposal 171 seeks to increase the benefits all Alaskans are eligible to receive from our shared fish resources, by making our food resources available to the owners of the resource first.

I have attached to this comment letter the results of a survey commissioned by members of my cohort and myself in the Salmon Fellows program, as we sought to better understand the fisheries system and the ties Alaskans have to our fish resource. The survey was conducted by phone of a random sample of Alaskans, and the methodology is briefly addressed in the presentation of survey results, and the results are presented with a margin of error of $\pm 3.44\%$ at a 95% confidence interval for the total sample.

While the Board can read the survey results for themselves, I would like to draw attention to certain specific indicators which suggest that most Alaskans would be supportive of principles presented by Proposal 171. When presented with the question of whether or not there should be allocative changes between personal use and commercial fisheries, half of Alaskans polled believed there should be no change. However, of those who did believe a change was suitable, 78% supported an increased allocation to personal use fisheries (39% of all respondents), while 10% (5% of all respondents) supported an increase to commercial fisheries. More specific to Cook Inlet, when asked if more fish should be made available for personal use and dipnetting *even if it means a reduction in commercial fishing harvests*, Alaskans were supportive at a rate of 59% to 33% against.

I ask the Board to review these survey results and see that the changes recommended by Proposal 171 are in line with the overwhelming majority of Alaskans who hold no ill will towards our friends and neighbors in the commercial fishing sector, and wish them great success, but who desire to have the opportunity to feed their families from our shared resources before seeing them shipped around the world.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal, and for accepting this data into the record.

Ben Mohr
Anchorage, AK

Alaska Opinion Survey Findings

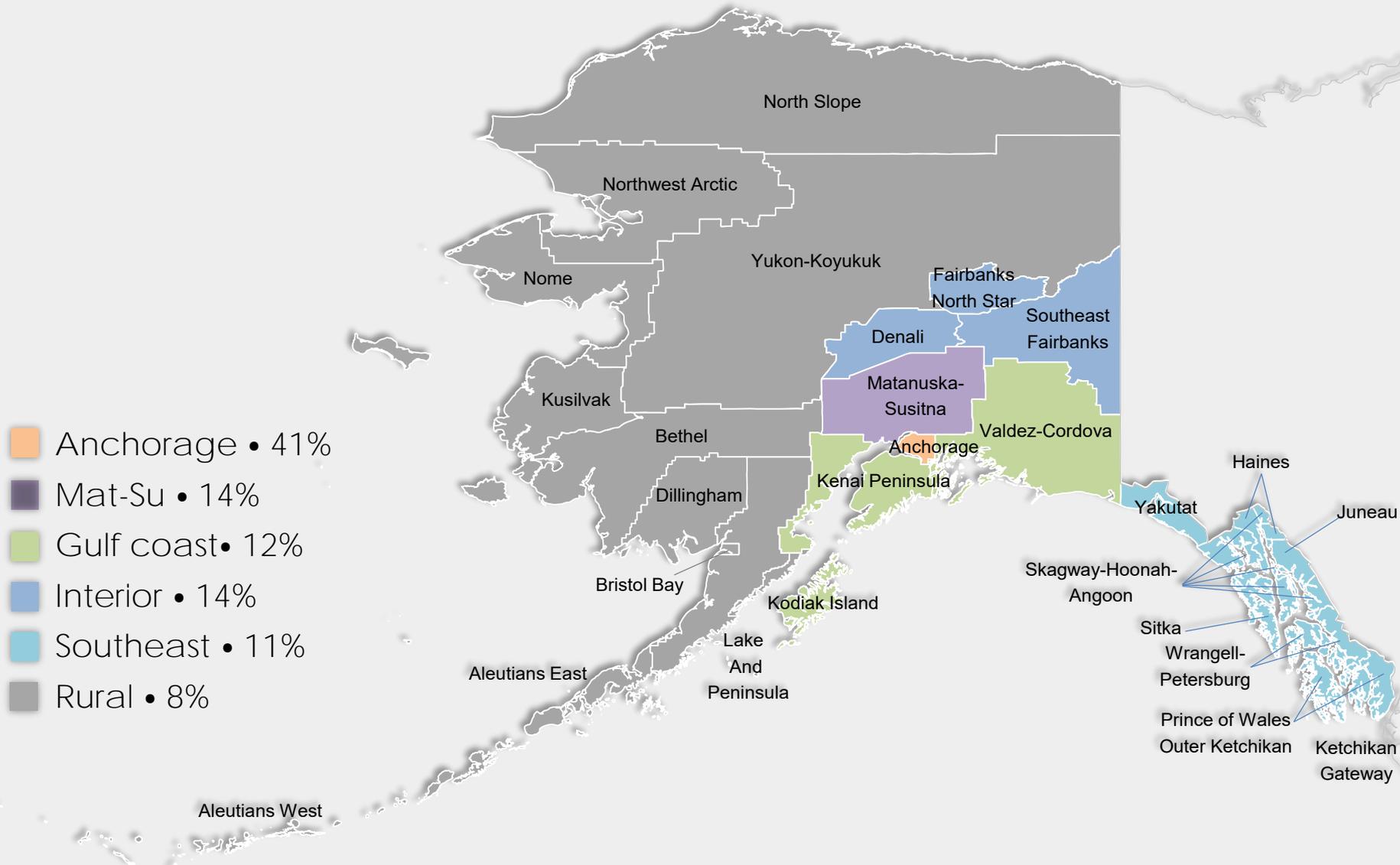
February 2019



Methodology

- Fielded: December 3-6, 2018
- Sample:
 - n=810 Alaskan Registered Voters
 - Interview quotas by location, age and gender
- Interview Method:
 - Live interviewer telephone survey
 - 60% landline, 40% cell phone
- Weighting:
 - Based on most recent Alaska voter registration statistics
 - Highly representative sample in terms of age, gender, education level, political registration and geographic location
- Margin of Error:
 - $\pm 3.44\%$ at 95% confidence interval for total sample

Geographic Representation

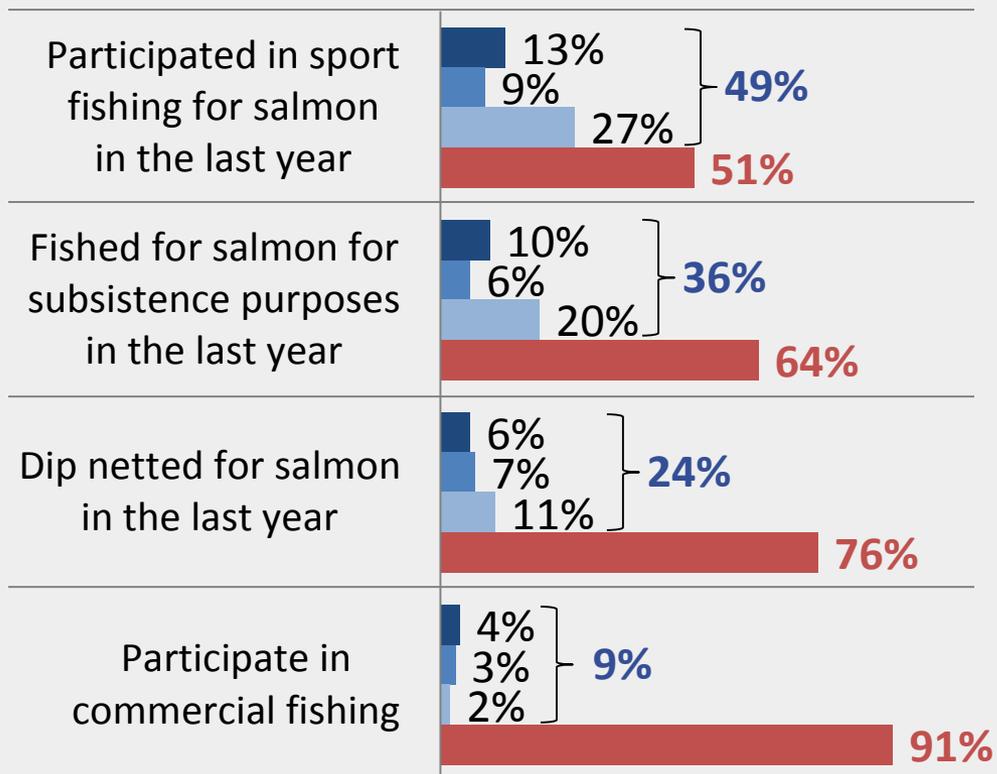


Personal Background Fishing in Alaska



Please tell me which of the following applies to you and members of your household... And, is that you personally, someone else in your household or both?

- Yes, Personally
- Yes, Someone in household
- Yes, Both
- No



(% Yes)

OVERALL	Sport	Subsistence	Dip net	Commercial
Overall	49%	36%	24%	9%

LOCATION

	Sport	Subsistence	Dip net	Commercial
Anchorage	47%	29%	25%	5%
Mat-Su	53%	33%	36%	4%
Gulf coast	64%	47%	29%	18%
Interior	37%	27%	25%	1%
Southeast	59%	37%	6%	22%
Rural	37%	68%	12%	22%

PARTY

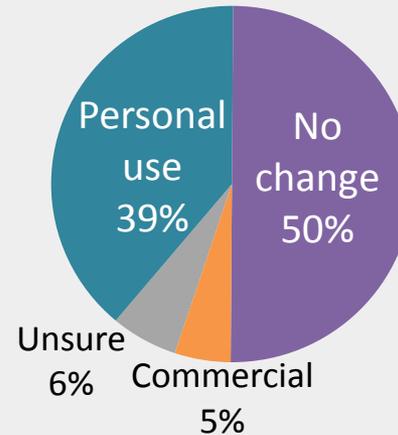
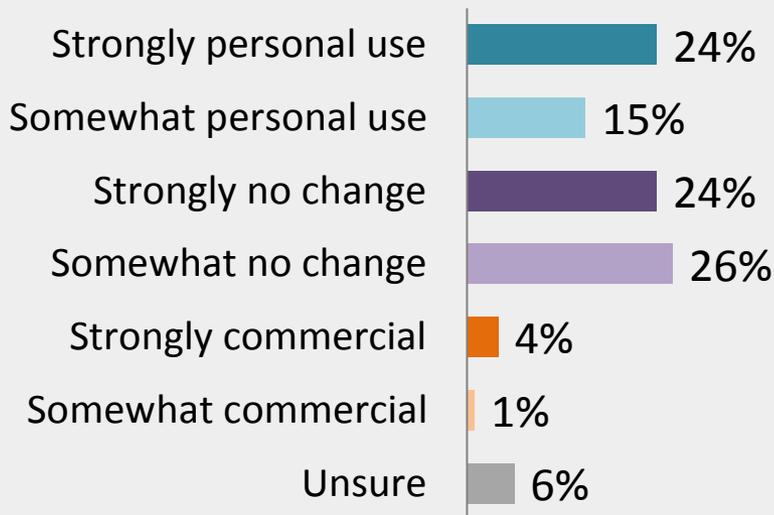
	Sport	Subsistence	Dip net	Commercial
Democrat	47%	35%	18%	11%
Republican	56%	32%	22%	5%
Non-Partisan	51%	34%	22%	8%
Undeclared	46%	37%	26%	11%

AGE

	Sport	Subsistence	Dip net	Commercial
18-34 yrs old	51%	41%	29%	9%
35-44 yrs old	55%	49%	30%	11%
45-54 yrs old	53%	31%	24%	7%
55-64 yrs old	45%	27%	19%	7%
65+ yrs old	42%	32%	19%	10%

Increase the Allocation of Salmon in Alaska for...

Thinking about the allocation of salmon between commercial fishing and personal use fishing in Alaska, do you think that the allocation of salmon should be changed to increase the number of salmon available for commercial fishing, or should it be changed to increase the number of salmon available for personal use fishing, or should there be no change in the allocation of salmon?



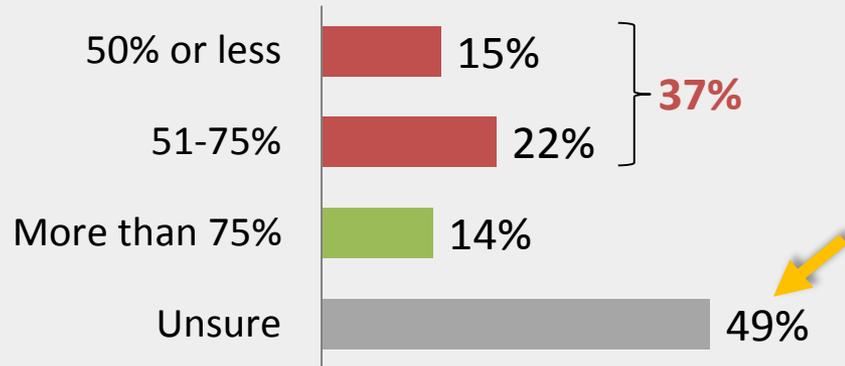
LOCATION	Personal use	No change	Commercial
Anchorage	40%	51%	2%
Mat-Su	53%	37%	5%
Gulf coast	17%	62%	15%
Interior	49%	45%	4%
Southeast	30%	56%	8%
Rural	35%	52%	5%

PARTY	Personal use	No change	Commercial
Democrat	29%	66%	2%
Republican	42%	50%	3%
Non-Partisan	40%	50%	4%
Undeclared	38%	48%	7%

PERSONAL BACKGROUND	Personal use	No change	Commercial
Sport fisher	41%	49%	6%
Subsistence fisher	44%	43%	7%
Dipnetter	51%	40%	4%
Commercial fisher	20%	60%	14%

And as far as you know, approximately what percentage of salmon are currently allocated to commercial fishing?

(Asked as open-ended question)



LOCATION	75% or less	More than 75%	Unsure
Democrat	34%	17%	49%
Republican	33%	16%	51%
Non-Partisan	40%	17%	43%
Undeclared	38%	12%	50%

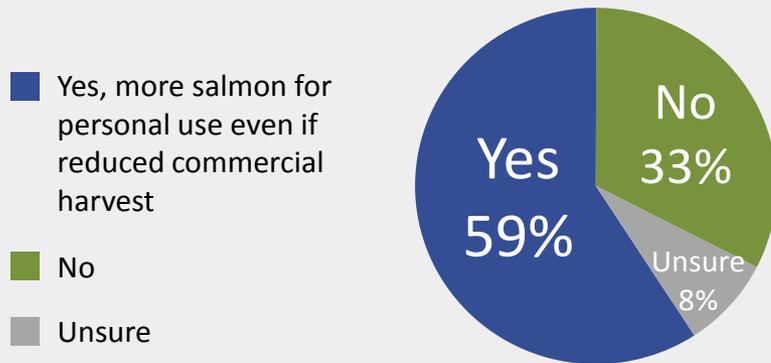
LOCATION	75% or less	More than 75%	Unsure
Anchorage	36%	15%	49%
Mat-Su	36%	13%	51%
Gulf coast	39%	12%	49%
Interior	35%	14%	51%
Southeast	35%	14%	51%
Rural	42%	16%	42%

FOLLOW LOCAL NEWS	75% or less	More than 75%	Unsure
Very closely	41%	21%	38%
Somewhat closely	33%	12%	55%
Not closely	40%	6%	55%

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE	75% or less	More than 75%	Unsure
Sport fisher	35%	19%	46%
Subsistence fisher	36%	22%	42%
Dipnetter	38%	18%	44%
Commercial fisher	43%	15%	42%

Cook Inlet Salmon Allocation

Eighty percent of the salmon caught in the Cook Inlet region of Southcentral Alaska each year are caught by the commercial fishing industry in saltwater, prior to the salmon entering Alaska's freshwater rivers and streams where the majority of personal use fishing and dipnetting takes place. **Do you believe that more salmon should be made available for personal use fishing and dipnetting, even if it means a reduction in the commercial fishing harvest?**



PERSONAL BACKGROUND	Yes	No
Sport Fisher	59%	34%
Subsistence Fisher	64%	31%
Dipnetter	61%	32%
Commercial Fisher	35%	58%

LOCATION	Yes	No
Anchorage	58%	32%
Mat-Su	72%	21%
Gulf coast	38%	54%
Interior	75%	20%
Southeast	48%	41%
Rural	63%	32%
GENDER	Yes	No
Male	57%	34%
Female	62%	31%

PARTY	Yes	No
Democrat	51%	40%
Republican	61%	32%
Non-Partisan	65%	27%
Undeclared	57%	34%

TIME IN ALASKA	Yes	No
Less than 10 yrs	49%	41%
10-20 yrs	62%	29%
20 yrs or more	60%	32%



From: **Robert Penney** bobpenney@icloud.com
Subject:
Date: February 19, 2019 at 9:05 AM
To: **Bob Penney** rpenney@aol.com

PROPOSAL 171

90% of Alaska's land is classified as "rural". The harvest of fish and game there is managed under "subsistence" guidelines. It allows its residents wide allowances in the harvest of fish and game, they can almost "live off of the land". The Feds manage the harvest on most of these lands. Subsistence harvest has a first priority on all state and federal lands.

The remaining 10% of Alaska's land contains the five urban or non-subsistence areas; over 75% of our state's population live in these five urban districts. They are Fairbanks, Anchorage (including all of Cook Inlet), Valdez, Ketchikan and Juneau. The state alone manages the harvest in these five urban areas. Harvest rules are much more restricted there than in rural areas.

The Board of Fish recognized this inequity some years ago and created a "personal use" fishery regulation that, in essence, allows urban users the same rights as rural users. A prime example of this is the personal use of dip netting for Red salmon in the Kenai River - it is restricted to Alaskans only - you must be a resident with a license. This fishery has exploded in use over the last ten years. It is now the most successful public use fishery in the United States. In a recent year, 28,000 Alaskan families participated in this fishery. Together they represent over 90,000 residents...that is 12%+ of our population, all dip netting for Reds in the Kenai. It is tremendously successful and all those Alaskans were fishing for table fare and freezer food.

Enactment of Regulation 171 would help correct the unfairness of allocations between rural and urban Alaska residents. The 75% of us who live in urban areas want to harvest the salmon for foos for our tables too. Most all the urban fishermen catch salmon to "keep and cook", not to "catch and release". It is for family food. We have a right to do so - they are our fish. Personal use fisheries of urban districts should have the same rights as subsistence users have for rural districts. Why should/could they be different? We are all Alaskans and have a right to our fish.

And, the biggest inequity in our state exists right here in Cook Inlet, in one of those five urban areas. There, some 1,380 commercial fishermen have been historically allocated over 80% of the salmon harvest and 200,000 licensed anglers in Cook Inlet are restricted to the remaining 20%. We suggest this lopsided management might even be unconstitutional? It should be changed. If we can't get this inequity modified, what should we do? Go to the state legislature?

Being able to harvest our own game and fish is a major reason that many of us live here. To be constitutionally fair, allow all Alaskans to have an equal right to harvest our own fish. These corrections are long overdue.



From: Robert Penney ropenney@aol.com
Subject: Fwd: Urban Areas
Date: February 19, 2019 at 9:51 AM
To: Robert & PJ Penney ropenney@aol.com



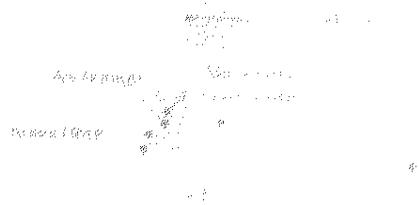
Begin forwarded message:

From: Clark Penney <penney.clark@mac.com>
Subject: Urban Areas
Date: October 7, 2017 at 6:04:07 PM PDT
To: Bob Penney <RCPenney@aol.com>

Just got back from Girdwood...see attached.

Sent from MacBook Pro

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NON-SUBSISTENCE USE AREAS IN ALASKA



For more information visit www.akfisheries.com.

Submitted By
Bret Bradford
Submitted On
2/20/2019 5:20:31 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9078310850

Email
Bretbradford@ak.net

Address
Po box 603
Cordova, Alaska 99574

I am writing this letter in opposition to Board of Fish proposal 171.
The allocation process fine the way it is. The suggestion to allocate by way of a priority list created by a sport fishing group is ludicrous.
Thank you for your service to the great state of Alaska.
Bret Bradford
Cordova, Ak

Submitted By
Bryan Petersen
Submitted On
2/20/2019 10:16:18 AM
Affiliation

Phone
435-849-4389
Email
bpetersen8@msn.com

Address
824 Lakeview
Stansbury PARK, Utah 84074

I'm against proposal 171. Commercial fishers should have as much right to fish as anyone. They help to feed the world. Most who fish other types of fishing do so for sport or recreation.

Submitted By
Carolyn Leman
Submitted On
2/20/2019 4:15:03 PM
Affiliation
Leman family

Phone
243-2000

Email
carolynleman@gmail.com

Address
PO Box 190773
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0773

I oppose Proposal 171.

I have been a limited entry permit holder in Cook Inlet for more than 40 years, have supported our family's fishery, raised three children, and am now teaching eight grandchildren the importance of work, initiative, integrity, and generosity. Hundreds of other small family businesses in Alaska are doing the same.

Proposal 171 would limit the ability of the Board of Fisheries to properly consider the long term investment many Alaskans like me have made in the fishery. I believe it doesn't really solve a problem--but it does create more.

I urge you to reject Proposal 171.

Submitted By
Casey Gaze
Submitted On
2/20/2019 12:24:58 PM
Affiliation
Fisherman

Phone
9073150523
Email
caseygaze@gmail.com
Address
6575 Kenai Spur Hwy
Kenai , Alaska 99611

I am encouraging you to vote no on proposal 171. Dipnetting on the Kenai was started in the 1990's to help in controlling over escapement of sockeye salmon when fish & game decided to end the terminal commercial fishery at the mouth of the Kenai river. The commercial fishing industry has provided fish for everyone to access at the marketplace since the late 1800's. Priority should be given to the commercial fishermen so anyone can go to the store if they want salmon and don't have the means to personal use or sportfish.

Submitted By
Charles Lindsay
Submitted On
2/20/2019 1:55:00 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-399-2174

Email
chucklindsay@gmail.com

Address
PO Box 15428
55060 Kalopi Ct
Fritz Creek, Alaska 99603

I oppose Proposal 171, which modifies criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport and commercial fisheries. I have been an Alaska resident for over 10 years and I have participated in each of these fisheries (personal use, sport, and commercial). I believe that Proposal 171 seeks to prioritize allocation of fisheries to personal use and sport fisheries at the expense of commercial fisheries. I strongly feel that this action would inhibit the ability of the Department of Fish and Game to successfully manage in-season escapement goals on many major river systems to the biological detriment of these fisheries and all user groups. I urge all board members to oppose Proposal 171.

Submitted By
Curtis Herschleb
Submitted On
2/20/2019 12:09:34 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9072533632

Email
salmo1@ak.net

Address
PO Box 1622
Cordova, Alaska 99574

My name is Curt Herschleb. I am a second generation Cordovan commercial fisherman. I reside in Cordova with my wife and two daughters. I am commenting today on proposal 171 to the 2019 statewide fin-fish meeting of the Alaska Board of fisheries. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Proposal 171 refers to 5AAC99.015 which gives the Board allocation authority in nonsubsistence areas based on 7 unordered criteria. The proposal seeks to restrict the Boards authority first in section(b) by mandating the Board apply an "Adaptive Management" approach to adjust management strategies (i.e. allocation between user groups.) "Adaptive Management" is defined as considering changes over time to "conditions and needs" (i.e. the rapid, recent, and unlimited growth of personal use and sport user groups from largely urban areas of the state and their desire for more fish). This violates the concept of equal protection because the expansion of commercial use has been limited by law since 1973 while other groups continue to expand unchecked.

Proposal 171 further restricts the Board by assigning importance to the allocation criteria in descending order from 1 through 7 and significantly altering one of the criteria. The proposal mandates that the first criteria to be considered in allocation decisions is "the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption." Again, this violates the concept of equal protection by prioritizing the rights of an Alaskan resident to harvest fish over the rights of Alaskan residents to purchase fish for personal and family consumption. The opportunity to purchase fish, enjoyed by many Alaskan's, is provided by the commercial user group.

Proposal 171 also significantly alters one of the criteria in 5AAC99015 in a manner consistent with the "Adaptive Management" mandate. It states that the Board shall consider "the history of each personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishery with an emphasis on the previous 20 years". The addition of the bold print represents an unfair bias in favor of user groups that have grown recently, rapidly, and unlimited over the commercial user group which, as stated previously, has been limited by law for the past 46 years.

In conclusion, I support all means of access available to Alaska residents to our bountiful fisheries resources and believe they should be on equal footing with regard to the Boards'



criteria for allocation. The board currently has the ability to apply allocation criteria in a fair and equitable manner under 5AAC99015 as it stands. Proposal 171 would restrict the Board in the application of allocation criteria in a way that would necessarily prioritize the personal use, sport, guided sport (the latter two user groups include non-residents) over the commercial fleet. For these reasons I urge you to reject Proposal 171.

Best Regards,

Curtis Herschleb

Darren Platt
10708 Birch Cir
Kodiak, AK 99615

February 20, 2019

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Board Support Section

Dear Chairman Morisky and the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I'm writing **in opposition to Proposal 171**.

Proposal 171 is clearly designed to require the board to grant an overall preference to urban-based recreational users. I am writing in opposition to both the re-wording of the allocation criteria and the requirement that *any* criteria be applied in a prescribed order of importance. If adopted, the application of the weighted allocation criteria in the proposal would result in suboptimal allocations by dedicating a specific subgroup of non-subsistence users as preeminent over all other users, regardless of the benefits that the fishery may convey to non-recreational users and the people of Alaska. Additionally, the Board of Fish would ultimately have to revisit every past allocative decision and reallocate resources according to the new allocative structure. The proposal to limit the board to a 20-year time frame when considering the historical importance of a fishery is arbitrary and unnecessary.

In its current form, the allocation policy allows the board to apply the allocation criteria on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific nature of the fishery under consideration. The extraordinary variation in how Alaska's communities use and value fishery resources necessitates that the board be granted its current allocative liberties. The Board of Fish process incorporates substantial public interactions through written and oral testimony, and direct interactions through the *Committee of the Whole*. Rigorous public involvement allows the board to make decisions that are reflective of the needs and values of those who rely on the resource. Proposal 171 would short-circuit this process and force the board to apply the presumptive value set of the authors of the proposal, in complete disregard to public input, and without consideration of the specific needs of the impacted users. The prescriptive allocative approach described in Proposal 171 would undermine an otherwise effective process of determining allocative distributions that best serve the impacted regions and users.

According to current allocation guidelines, there is nothing to prevent the board from applying allocation criteria in the weighted order as described in the proposal. However, if the board has ever made allocative decisions in which the allocation criteria were stressed in any other manner, then those allocations would now be subject to reallocation, potentially impacting every salmon management plan in the state. If the current 7-member board has made even a



single allocative decision that did not adhere to these newly proposed standards, then the approval of Proposal 171 would tacitly imply that the current board has erred in its past allocative decisions, begging the following question: why didn't the board, in those cases, apply the allocation criteria in the manner suggested in Proposal 171 if it believes that those criteria should always be applied in that way? If, however, the board is going to stand by the wisdom of its past allocative decisions in even a single case that would violate the criteria ordering of Proposal 171, then the board cannot also support the proposal while defending its past decisions. For example, if there exists just a single case where the availability of alternative fishery resources and the local economic dependence on the fishery was deemed more important than the mere count of the number of people who have participated in the fishery, then Proposal 171 would force the board to reallocate the fishery in a manner that it has already judged to be suboptimal.

Article viii sections 2,3 & 4 of the Alaska State Constitution explicitly state that fishery resources are to be “reserved to the people for common use,” and utilized for the “maximum benefit” of Alaska’s residents while being “subject to preferences among beneficial uses.” Nowhere in the constitution, or in any Alaskan statute, does it declare that urban recreational users provide greater benefit and should be granted priority over all non-subsistence users. The application of this assumption as the basis for granting these users universal priority in all allocative decisions would not hold up to the basic tenets of the state constitution and is unfounded in Alaskan statutes or even as a generally expressed sentiment of the Alaskan public.

As mentioned earlier, the adoption of Proposal 171 would result in suboptimal allocations, as determined by past allocative decisions of the current board, thereby limiting the ability of the board to make decisions that would adhere to the constitutional mandates concerning beneficent utilization of Alaska’s natural resources.

The requirement that the board emphasize the last 20 years in their historical consideration of a fishery is arbitrary and unnecessary. The current allocation criteria already allow the board to emphasize the preceding 20 years of historical fishery utilization if it deems that period sufficient in its analysis. However, there are cases in which the historical importance of a fishery stretches far beyond that time frame. One particular example is the Karluk River sockeye fishery in Kodiak, which has a commercial history stretching back to the 19th century. This fishery endured about 80 years of sparse salmon returns, requiring the local fishing fleet to bear the sole burden of conservation. This multigenerational conservation sacrifice eventually paid off, as recent runs have resembled the prolific returns of the 1930’s. Under the criteria in Proposal 171, the commercial fleet would have been penalized rather than rewarded for bearing the conservation burden, since their harvest patterns had been curtailed for more than 8 decades in order to conserve this fishery. Fishing communities typically make long-term investments in boats and infrastructure, and salmon runs exhibit patterns of abundance and scarcity that stretch far beyond the 20-year time frame. There is no reason for the board to limit their attention to this arbitrary period of time when total historical context of a fishery will give them better information when making management decisions.

For the reasons mentioned above, and out of concern for my community of Kodiak and its local fishing fleet, I strongly urge the board to **oppose every aspect of Proposal 171**. The current statewide allocation policy is working as intended and should not be altered so that one regional user group can be given preference in its ongoing allocative disputes.

Darren Platt

Kodiak, Alaska

Submitted By
Elijah Porter
Submitted On
2/19/2019 12:44:37 PM
Affiliation

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2539065145

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elijahporter@live.com

Address
52875 Horner Road
Nikiski, Alaska 99635

Why would KRSA want to expunge data that we have just because it is over 20 years old? I think it is important to look at the longer history of fishing in the Cook Inlet to get an answer. About 100 years ago now, fish traps almost exterminated the salmon runs in the Cook Inlet. To save the salmon, we got rid of fish traps and went to gill nets. This method of fishing has worked fine for the past 60 or 70 years. It is still working great in places like Bristol Bay where there is very little in river usage. What has changed since the abolishment of fish traps in the Cook Inlet? In river usage. KRSA would like to only look at data from the last 20 years because that is about when in river usage started to become an issue. If we can't go back farther and show that set netting is not the cause of low numbers of kings and other species of salmon, then it is check mate for KRSA. If they get this passed, then there will be virtually no record of in river usage being the root cause for the low returns problem. We have to see this for nothing less than what it is... A way for KRSA to start to rewrite history in a way that gives them 0 culpability in disappearance of the kings. This will eventually cause even more devastating problems to our fragile in river ecosystems.

Submitted By
Erica Leman
Submitted On
2/19/2019 10:44:58 PM
Affiliation

Phone
(907) 440-0714
Email
ericaleman10@gmail.com
Address
12101 Graiff St
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Dear Board of Fisheries,

I am a Cook Inlet setnet permit holder. Since marrying my husband, Joseph Leman, 10 years ago, I have been a part of the fishing operation that has been in his family for 107 years. Our young children are now 5th generation Ninilchik fishermen. They love being on the beach during fishing season, and are quickly learning the skills to catch fish and work hard. It is very important to us that these opportunities continue for our children, as well as successive generations.

Proposal 171 is a dishonest attempt to unfairly eliminate our user group. It targets small family businesses like ours with an attempt to solve a non-existent problem. Anyone who wants to catch fish for personal use is able to do so during the summer, whether with a rod and reel or a dipnet.

Please reject Proposal 171!!

Thank you.

Erica Leman

Submitted By
Georgeanna Heaverley
Submitted On
2/20/2019 4:54:21 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-398-1849
Email
glheaverley@gmail.com
Address
4020 Crosson Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

I am writing to express my concern over Proposal 171, submitted by the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. I am a born and raised Alaskan and second generation Cook Inlet commercial fisherman, having grown up in the small community of Nikiski on the Kenai Peninsula. My father has been a commercial drift gillnetter in Alaska for over 52 years, and has passed on this way of life to my brother and me. Commercial fishing is not only our livelihood, it is what defines my family as Alaskans. As a young woman, I have observed the salmon allocation disagreements in Southcentral Alaska my entire life. This has deeply troubled me, as I believe taking action in protecting and preserving the salmon resource is far more important than re-allocation at the expense of others. Proposal 171 seeks to do exactly that – prioritize the salmon resource for the personal use and sport fisheries over the commercial fishing industry.

I had the opportunity last month to attend the Board of Fish hearing for ADF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang. One statement Commissioner Vincent-Lang gave strongly resonated with me. He made a point to mention the importance of supporting the young commercial fishermen of Cook Inlet and working to secure the future of their industry. I sincerely hope that this support of my generation of commercial fishermen will become apparent in the coming years, under Commissioner Vincent-Lang's leadership and through the Board Members' recommendations. But Proposal 171 will not secure this future. It will instead put an end to the already diminished commercial fishing industry of Cook Inlet.

I am currently in the process of financing a Cook Inlet drift permit myself, and have future plans to purchase my own boat so I may continue the way of life my father has instilled in me. However, this proposal has given me pause with these endeavors. I fear that if the commercial fishing designation is reduced in the manner this proposal intends I will not have a future in the industry I wish to pass on to my future children.

Drastically altering the salmon allocation criteria for the fisheries of Cook Inlet is not the direction we need to be taking as Alaskans. I support unity and collaboration between all user groups of this area, with a focus on conservation, preservation, and celebration of our salmon. As members of this Board, I urge you to reconsider the direction the Department will take in this critical time. Is it one of supporting the next generation of commercial fishermen? Or is it one that will continue to wedge a divide between the Alaskan people, one that will destroy the future of so many small family businesses that make up the commercial fishing fleet? I urge you to consider the message you will be sending and the future you will be creating if you approve this proposal. Thank you for your time.

Submitted By
Hannah Harrison
Submitted On
2/20/2019 6:32:11 PM
Affiliation
Fisheries research

I wish to register my strong opposition to the BoF proposal put forward by the Kenai River Sportfishing Association that requests to reprioritize the allocation of Kenai River and Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Prioritizing any one fishery/gear type over another will have deriser social, environmental, and economic consequences for the region and inflame an already heavily contested fishery. Please reject this proposal.

Submitted By
James Pahl
Submitted On
2/20/2019 7:22:34 PM
Affiliation

I oppose this proposal 171. As a Cordova resident (for 43 years) and having supported family, city, and self from commercial fishing most of those years. I feel there should be no user group priority, that we should all share the burden in times of bad returns. NO PRIORITY to one user group.

Submitted By
Joel Doner
Submitted On
2/18/2019 7:20:26 PM
Affiliation

I am strongly opposed to proposal 171. There is no need for this to become regulation. This proposal is short sided and disregards BOF members from utilizing the best and historical uses of fish resources. This proposal is an end run around the typical Board process.

Submitted By
John Stack
Submitted On
2/20/2019 2:14:33 PM
Affiliation
None

I am a salmon gillnetter and resident of Cordova. Both my livelihood and that of Cordova relies heavily on allocation issues. I oppose proposal 171 for the following reasons.

Currently, the BOF has seven criteria to base allocation decisions on per AS. 16.05.251. This is well compiled list of impartial criteria used to make fair allocation decisions. Allowing for a special interest group to determine the priority of these criteria would no longer be impartial to all user groups. Further more, limiting the history to the last 20 years will also serve to unfairly bias decisions by not realizing the historical impact the commercial fisheries have had on the state economy. Also, the fact that commercial fisheries have been limited entry, fixing the number of participants, where the personal use and sport participants have grown in numbers would also skew the data set.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Stack

Submitted By
Joseph Leman
Submitted On
2/19/2019 10:25:46 PM
Affiliation

Phone
(907) 947-0100
Email
sockeye82@gmail.com
Address
12101 Graiff St
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Board of Fisheries,

I was saddened to hear of yet another attempt by KRSA to gut the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery through Proposal 171. This is deceitful tactic to take away a fishery and eliminate a very important user group.

My family has been commercial fishing in Ninilchik since 1912, when my great-grandfather first used setnets in the same area we are fishing today. My wife and I are raising our 5 children on the beach in Ninilchik each summer. They are 5th generation fishermen, learning the skills and work-ethic that has been passed on through each generation.

In addition to training our young children how to fish and work hard, we employ 6 young men each summer to help out in our operation. The Cook Inlet shoreline is fished by others like us who have a small family business. Proposals like 171 are an attempt to eliminate these small businesses.

As for the hunger issue that Proposal 171 claims to address, the reality is that this will do absolutely nothing to fix any hunger issues. If somebody wants to go fish, there is nothing stopping them from grabbing a fishing pole or a dipnet, and catching personal use fish. I would even say that the limits are too high! My family of 7 could limit out at 85 reds. We put away about half this amount, and are still able to eat fish one to two times a week.

I strongly urge you to reject Proposal 171.

Sincerely,

Joseph Leman

Submitted By
Karen and Richard McGahan
Submitted On
2/18/2019 7:33:54 AM
Affiliation
Individuals

PROPOSAL 171 Opposed (The comment period is open until April. This form online did not give the opportunity to select the Board of Fish meeting after that deadline.)

Dear Board of Fish Members:

We are writing to object to Proposal 171 submitted by the Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

This Proposal is misnamed and is not actually hoping for more food for Alaskans. There has been no lack of fish for food for Alaskans. Look at the numbers of permits for the personal use fishery on the Kenai River and the very generous amounts of fish per permit. This, again, is an anti-commercial fishing proposal.

The Kenai River Sportfishing Association is an organization of guides and lodge owners. If this idea were actually wanting salmon to only be for Alaskan's tables, the members of this group would need to cancel all their out of state trophy fishing clients. They would also need to cancel the Kenai River Classic fishing tournament. The list of people attending the "invitation only" fishing tournament includes many out of state politicians and out of state contributors to this organization.

We ask you not to pass Proposal 171.

Karen and Richard McGahan
54025 Kenai Spur Hwy.
Kenai, Alaska 99611

physical location: Nikiski, Alaska

907 776 8240



Kodiak Salmon Work Group
c/o Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association
104 Center Ave., Suite 205
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

December 31, 2018

Chairman Reed Morisky
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Comments Regarding Proposal 171

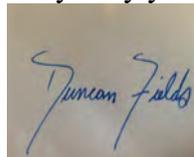
Dear Chairman Morisky and Board Members,

The Kodiak Salmon Workgroup is a coalition of Kodiak salmon stakeholders interested in the management and support of Kodiak Island's salmon fisheries. We strongly support the Board's current allocation criteria and the Board's ability to equally balancing of all of the criteria when making an allocative decision. We oppose changes to the Board's Allocation Criteria and especially establishing a hierarchy of the criteria both of which are envisioned by proposal 171.

First, there is no need for changing the Board's allocation criteria. The Board has proven adept, with the current allocation criteria, at making difficult allocative decisions some of which have favored sport and personal use fishermen and others which favor Commercial fishermen. Balancing between user groups is what was envisioned when the Alaska Board of Fisheries was established at statehood. The Board's allocation criteria are simply a tool developed by the Board to more easily obtain the underlying goals set out for the Board by our legislature. Those advocating for a change to the Board's allocation criteria are hoping to guarantee a particular result rather than enable the equitable balancing between competing user groups for which the Board was created.

Proposal 171 moves beyond changes in the Board's allocation criteria to create a ridged scale regarding which criteria are of greater and lesser importance. Differences in circumstances, history and resource levels as well as changing environmental conditions all suggest that flexibility and adaptability is required when the Board applies its allocation criteria. Moreover, Alaska's constitution, in both our "common use" and "sustained yield" clauses does not create a hierarchy between Alaska's resource users. Although subsistence use has subsequently been given elevated status, Proposal 171 allocation hierarchy would further prioritize competing user groups, in conflict, we believe with Constitutional intent.

Very truly yours,



Duncan Fields, Chairman

Submitted By
Nathaniel Rose
Submitted On
2/20/2019 10:28:13 PM
Affiliation
Kodiak Seiners Association

Kodiak Seiners Association

PO Box 8835

Kodiak, AK, 99615

February 19, 2019

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Re: Opposition to Proposal 171

Dear Chairman Morisky and the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

The Kodiak Seiners Association adamantly opposes **Proposal 171**, which seeks to modify the criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries.

Kodiak Seiners Association (KSA) is a representative group of 70 Kodiak Salmon Seine permit holders. We represent fisherman from the coastal communities of Kodiak, Homer, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Old Harbor, and Larsen Bay, as well as fisherman residing in Anchorage, Washington and Oregon. Our membership participate in one of the most historic commercial fisheries in the state, and do so under an extremely complex management plan designed using the policy for sustainable salmon fisheries (5AAC 39.222) and the policy for management of mixed stock fisheries (5AAC 39.220).

By ordering the allocation criteria, coastal communities and the dependence of commercial fishing as an economic driver to those communities are put at a disadvantage to urban areas of the state. Many communities in coastal Alaska, including communities represented by our membership are losing residents fueled by the out-migration of our youth to urban areas for employment opportunities. Meanwhile the number of sport fish licenses being sold in the State of Alaska continues to increase, fueled in part by the same out-migration from the aforementioned coastal communities, and from the influx in tourists that come to the state for sport fishing. For many of these communities, commercial fishing is the primary economic driver, and they stand no chance in a game of numbers of dependents of a resource against the growing number of urban users of the same resource. This proposal attempts to skew in favor of areas of the state with large population numbers the need for access to fish.

This proposal also seeks to limit the BOF's ability to use historical precedent and importance by confining History to the last 20 years. The historical dependence of the coastal communities of Alaska cannot be limited to 20 years, as many of these communities have relied on commercial fishing since pre-statehood. The motive behind limiting history to the last 20 years lies in the dissatisfaction of the proposer to BOF decisions that occurred outside the 20 year scope, and in essence, tie the Board's hands from using previous board decisions and compiled data in historical record to help educate and guide Board member decisions. Perhaps an analogy would make the issue more relatable: If a federal judge had to make a decision concerning civil rights in America, but was limited to the history of the past 20 years, the decisions of that judge would be drastically different than a judge that was not limited to the past 20 years of civil rights history, and it could be argued the judge with limited historical data was uninformed and uneducated on the topic in question.



KSA respectfully requests the Board of Fish reject this proposal unanimously, as it is precedent setting, and in addition to the aforementioned grievances, would create the need to revisit a significant number of historical BOF allocative decisions which is costly and an unnecessary burden on the already busy agenda of the Board. We appreciate the opportunity to voice our opposition to Proposal 171.

Sincerely,

Nate Rose

KSA President

Submitted By
Loren Leman
Submitted On
2/20/2019 4:00:37 PM
Affiliation
Leman family

Phone
243-2000

Email
loren@lorenleman.com

Address
PO Box 190773
Anchorage , Alaska 99519-0773

I am opposed to Proposal 171.

First a bit of family history. I fish in essentially the same area just north of Ninilchik that my grandfather and father fished, starting 107 years ago. I imagine my Kvasnikoff ancestors before that fished near there too ever since the community was founded in 1847. That is, when they were not fishing with nets and other means directly in Ninilchik River and Deep Creek. In effect I am now the patriarch of our fishing family with third, fourth and fifth generation participants. My point is that history is important to our family, as well as the hundreds of other small family businesses that fish in Cook Inlet and elsewhere in Alaska. Proposal 171 diminishes the importance of history.

Second, and perhaps even more important, is that a proposal needs to solve a problem--not create a larger one. Proposal 171 targets commercial fishing in Cook Inlet ostensibly to solve a non-existent problem. One of the first things I learned when studying engineering in college was to define the problem. Then apply the various means and options to solve it. Food unavailability or insecurity is not a problem for nearly all residents of southcentral Alaska. And for those for whom it is, we have support networks and opportunities for them to get fish. We already have tremendous opportunities for people to catch fish. I'm fine with that, except for when it is abused by some.

I just don't know why the Board of Fisheries would want to limit itself on the importance of factors to consider for proposals. The existing system works--albeit not perfectly. Proposal 171 would create more problems than it would solve and should not be adopted.

Submitted By
Lynn Deakins
Submitted On
2/20/2019 3:19:03 PM
Affiliation

I am NOT in favor of KRSA's Proposal 171. Current regulation lists the factors that BOF members "may" take into consideration in their deliberations. The KRSA proposal 171 dictates which factors that board members "shall" prioritize in their deliberations. It is odd that a special interest group would be able to be prioritized over every other resource use. This is a drastic change from current regulation that allows board members to consider each proposal based upon their expertise as they weigh all evidence and circumstances.

BOARD MEETING: Statewide Finfish 2/20/2019

NAME: Margaret Moore

CONTACT PHONE: (907) 399-4200

ADDRESS: PO Box 1646 Homer, AK 99603

AFFILIATION: PWS Salmon Seine

EMAIL: bottomline.ak@gmail.com

COMMENT: OPPOSE PROPOSAL 171

Proposal 171 lists criteria for allocation fishery resources among personal use, sport and commercial fisheries. By nature, the Personal Use fishery is an allocation of salmon resources to Residents ONLY! However, it is curious how many Out of State license plates are evident at the mouth of the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers during the Personal Use dipnet and set gillnet fisheries. This is an expansive fishery that allows 25 fish per head of household and 10 for each additional family member. So that means that a couple would utilize 35 salmon over the course of a year. A whole salmon would provide 3-4 meals for two people so that would mean that a couple would eat salmon 105-140 times a year or 2-3 times a week. That seems like ample opportunity, especially when there is virtually no Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery during the Personal Use dipnet fishery!

A February 17, 2019 Must Read Alaska article by Suzanne Downing reports KRSA's assertion that "15% of people living on the Kenai Peninsula are experiencing food insecurity or actual hunger" as a reason for making its Proposal 171 to prioritize the food needs of Alaskans over commercial fishing interests when allocating Alaska's seafood resources.

Although the 15% food insecurity figure may or may not be accurate as of this date, using it as justification for Proposal 171 is misleading! I feel I am qualified to address this issue after serving 8 years as a Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Board member and an additional 4 years as its Executive Director. I cannot begin to tell you the number of times the Food Bank was able to offer salmon to clients who came for help. Although not all, but many of those individuals declined salmon (both frozen and canned) because they had plenty of salmon in their freezers. What they really needed was other staple foods so they could provide nutritionally balanced meals to their families. As a matter of fact, we received many calls each spring from people wanting to donate their old salmon to the Food Bank so they could replace it with fresh salmon!

I think it is shameful for KRSA to use food insecurity as a justification for Proposal 171! The second criteria listed for fishery resource allocation is sport fishing. KRSA members are predominantly Commercial Guides who profit from their business of providing Nonresident sport fishermen opportunities to harvest Alaska's salmon resources. Based on the ADF&G's Alaska's Nonresident Anglers, 2009-2013 October 2014 report by Southwick Associates, an average of 56% of Nonresident sport fishers utilize guides for their harvest opportunities. Of all the Nonresident anglers who use guides in fresh water, 82.1% fish in South Central Alaska (Predominantly rivers and streams in the Cook Inlet Area – KRSA's home turf), 11.1% in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area and 6.9% in Southeast Alaska. Saltwater guided trips are broken down to 39.9% in South Central Alaska and 60.1% in Southeast Alaska.



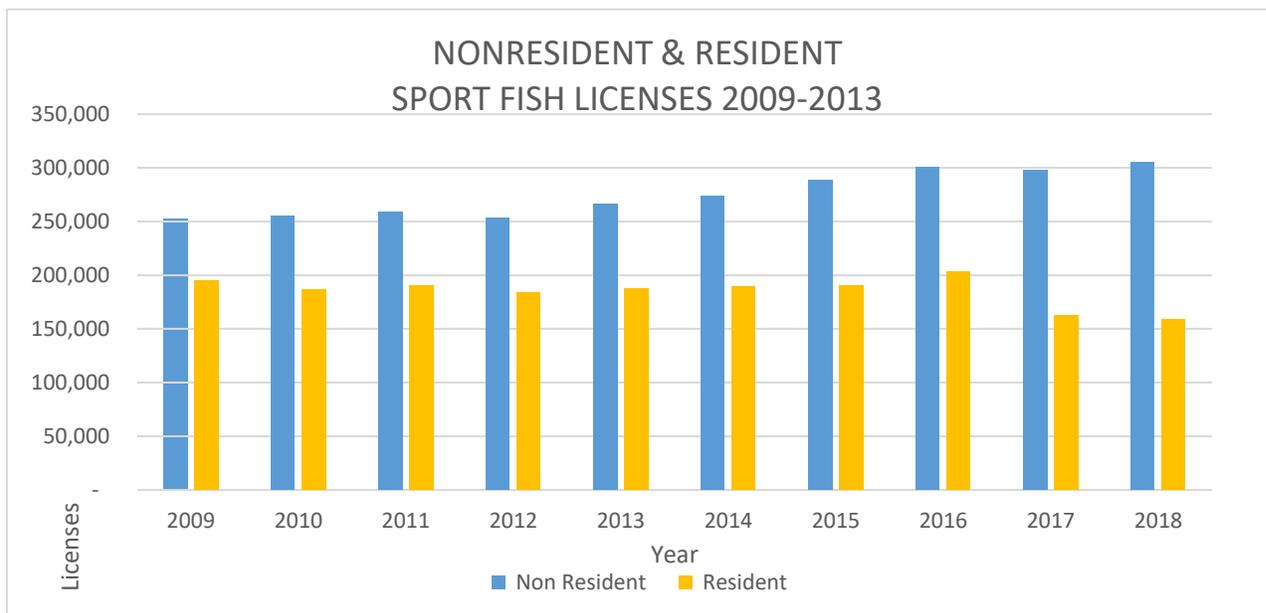
NONRESIDENT & RESIDENT SPORT FISH LICENSES 2009 - 2018

SOURCE: ADF&G Calendar Year License Sale Statistics 2009-2013

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Sport Fish Licenses</u>				
2009	447,085			56.46%	
2010	442,209			57.76%	
2011	448,988			57.65%	
2012	437,419			58.00%	
2013	453,778			58.68%	
2014	463,075		40.93%	273,535	59.07%
2015	479,281	190,366	39.72%	288,915	60.28%
2016	504,275	203,413	40.34%	300,862	59.66%
2017	460,664	162,513	35.28%	298,151	64.72%
2018	464,798	159,426	34.30%	305,372	65.70%

NOTE: 2009-2013 Average of non residents who use guides is 213,253 or 55.9%

SOURCE: Source: ADF&G Alaska's Nonresident Anglers, 2009-2013
October 2014 by Southwick Associates



It only stands to reason that KRSA would want to curtail commercial fishing to provide additional fish into the rivers and streams to satisfy their affluent Nonresident customers who are here on vacation. It is unreasonable that residents who are food insecure can afford to hire a Commercial KRSA guide to hook a salmon. As a matter of fact, the percentage of Resident sport fishing licenses has declined over the last 10 years as the percentage of Nonresident sport fishing licenses has increased. Please see the attached Nonresident and Resident Sport Fish Licenses 2009-2018 chart and graph. Resident sport fishers are being displaced by Nonresidents!

Conversely commercial fisheries provide salmon resources to Alaskans as well as consumers throughout the United States and the world markets. In fact, commercially caught salmon provide canned salmon, frozen salmon fillets and frozen salmon nuggets to USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Programs (CSFP) throughout the United States. Food insecure individuals have access to commercially caught salmon through the following USDA programs:

- Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Alaska's commercial fisheries have NOT expanded since 1974-1975 when Limited Entry went into effect. Commercial salmon fishing opportunities have been severely reduced over the years to accommodate expanding sport fisheries. Fishery resources used to be managed biologically for sustainability to ensure Alaskans have sufficient access to the resource for generations to come. ADF&G's current management/allocation has produced one of the most productive salmon fisheries in the world! Reallocation of commercially caught fish to in-river fisheries jeopardizes fish habitat, subjects river systems to over escapement, reduced health and size of out-migrating fish and increased mortality, not to mention overcrowding and in-river conflicts.

Proposal 171 certainly does not address RESIDENT access to salmon or food insecurity! It seeks to increase salmon harvest opportunity for KRSA's commercial guide Nonresident customers! Furthermore, Proposal 171's proposed criteria #2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 ask the Board of Fisheries to specifically consider Nonresident anglers' demands for salmon as equal to those of Alaska Residents' when allocating Alaska's fishery resources. Proposal 171 requests ADF&G change to an "Adaptive Management" that is "relevant to current conditions and needs". This is absolutely a reactive management style that would put fisheries management into a constant state of turmoil. It is a dangerous management style because it does not rely on scientific biological management to ensure sustainability of the resource. Adaptive Management based on periodic review of public opinion, resource popularity and political pressure is NOT responsible management! I urge you to protect our fisheries resources and maintain Alaskan Residents priority to harvest those resources – I urge you to REJECT Proposal 171!

Submitted By
Matthew Alward
Submitted On
2/20/2019 8:25:00 AM
Affiliation

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

February 18th, 2019

Re: Opposition to Proposal 171

Dear Chairman Morisky and Board of Fisheries Members,

I am an Alaskan coastal community resident who owns and operates a commercial salmon fishing business and I oppose proposal 171 that would reprioritize allocation criteria in non-subsistence areas. Proposal 171 seeks to set an arbitrary ranking of allocation criteria and limit the considered history of fisheries to 20 years. All users need to be held accountable for the health of our shared marine resources.

That means sharing in the ups and downs of abundance because fisheries fluctuate naturally.

Setting a ranking of the allocation criteria which always gives one user group priority will go against the sustainable salmon policy 5AAC39.222(c)(4)(D) that states "the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to each fisheries' respective use, consistent with state and federal law." If this proposal was adopted it could force the board to violate the sustainable salmon policy. Also If you set a ranked order to the different criteria that the board must take into account when setting allocation you are limiting the board's ability to address each unique allocation situation based on the criteria as appropriate to particular allocation decisions.

If proposal 171 was adopted then hundreds of allocations across the state would have to be readdressed causing the board countless days to be spent on top of an already full agenda.

To limit the history that can be considered for allocation purposes to 20 years completely ignores the actual history of all Alaskan fisheries.

The commercial fisheries were limited through legislation in 1976 and as a result i have not grown any over the last 43 years. At the same time the state population has grown and thus the number of sport and personal use participants has gone way up. When looking at allocation issues it is imperative that the entire history of fisheries is considered.

In closing I think that proposal 171 if adopted would greatly limit the boards flexibility and authority to set allocations based on each particular situation and I encourage the board to not pass it.

Sincerely,

Matt Alward

Submitted By
Nathaniel Patsos
Submitted On
2/19/2019 1:43:03 PM
Affiliation

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9079533369

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Address
28172 Spruce Park Circle
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

I strongly oppose proposal 171. It's true purpose is to allocate fish away from hardworking local Cook Inlet Commercial Fisherman. Commercial fishing in Cook Inlet has been a major source of income for my family since the 1960's. It continues to provide jobs for anyone willing to work fishing a sustainable salmon resources. Also the proposal seeks to limit the process in which Board of Fish members come to a decision. Members should have the freedom to be able to consider each proposal based upon all evidence and circumstances.

Submitted By
Toby Sullivan
Submitted On
2/20/2019 12:11:05 PM
Affiliation
Northwest Setnetters Association

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9073608837
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tobysullivan@gmail.com
Address
PO Box 870
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Re: BOF Proposal 171

February 18, 2019

Dear Chairperson Morisky,

We, the members of The Northwest Setnetters Association, representing more than a hundred commercial salmon setnet permit holders in the Northwest District of Kodiak Island, oppose Proposal 171, submitted by the Kenai River Sportsmen's Association. NWSA was founded in 1989 and includes families and individuals who have fished since the 1960s.

We oppose Proposal 171 proposed by Kenai River Sportsmen's Association (KRSA). This proposal takes aim at AS 16.05.251 and claims a problem exists because "...No action has been taken to amend or improve the regulation," since it was adopted in 1991. However, no regulation we are aware of says this statute must be updated. KRSA also identifies no problem of conservation, sustainability, or allocation which the proposal might address. Given this lack of a problem, the Board should dismiss Proposal 171.

However, should the Board decide to consider Proposal 171, we respectfully submit the following:

AS 16.05.251, the statute Proposal 171 seeks to amend, recognizes a set of seven factors which a Board member "may" take into consideration when addressing allocation issues. However, by replacing the word "may," with the word "shall," Proposal 171 would limit the Board from considering any other factors. The statute does not currently prevent board members from considering other factors. KRSA gives no good reason why this change should be made, other than the fact that the statute has not been recently updated.

The proposal also explicitly prioritizes the seven factors it would limit the board to considering, by saying that "the Board shall consider those factors listed in this section in the following order of importance with the degree of importance descending from criteria 1 through 7." The proposal decrees the most important to be: "The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption." This prioritizes a factor which was not prioritized before. Again, no reason for this proposed change is mentioned, other than that the statute has not been recently updated.

We believe it is unwise for Board members to be limited in the number of factors they may consider, and that it is even more harmful to prioritize them, without giving a good reason for doing so. The Board process works best when Board members are given the leeway to use their wisdom and experience and to think for themselves in the face of variable issues and circumstances.

Proposal 171 also explicitly diminishes the importance the history of use of any particular fishery to fifth place in the list of seven factors it would allow the board to consider in making allocative decisions. This degrades the ancient legal and ethical principle of "first in time, first in right," which the existing statute implicitly recognizes, which has guided the Board of Fish since statehood, and which has helped courts in the U.S. decide resource questions for centuries.

Proposal 171 further weakens the principle of "first in time, first in right," by arbitrarily limiting any consideration of fisheries history to twenty years previous to the present. Commercial fisheries have operated in Cook Inlet since the 1870s. There is no sound argument for excluding 130 years of fishing history from consideration when that history might help the Board of Fish make better allocation decisions.

These proposed changes diminish the ability of BOF members to use the deep level of experience and judgment they were appointed to bring to the board process. This is bad policy. The intent of the people of Alaska has always been that board members use their experience and judgment to weigh each proposal, and to factor in all available evidence and relevant information. Proposal 171 would destroy that deliberative process and reduce board members to tallying score sheets.

The proposal also limits itself to "the Non Subsistence Areas of the State." By definition these would be Cook Inlet, and areas around Juneau, Ketchikan, and Fairbanks. Given this limited geographic, combined with the proposed prioritization of harvesting fish for "personal and family consumption," the proposal would instantly give sport and personal use fishermen in Cook Inlet allocation priority over commercial fishermen there. This is a bold and legally perilous attack on Article 8, Section 15 of the Alaska Constitution which says, in its entirety:

"No exclusive right or special privilege of fishery shall be created or authorized in the natural waters of the State. This section does not

*restrict the power of the State to limit entry into any fishery for purposes of resource conservation, to prevent economic distress among fishermen and those dependent upon them for a livelihood and to promote the efficient development of aquaculture in the State?*²
[Amended 1972]



In closing, we again point out that Proposal 171 presents no issue of conservation, sustainability, or allocation, to which it might be a solution. By inflicting draconian and artificial constraints on the board deliberative process, the proposal would interfere with the intent of the founders of Alaska and subsequent Legislatures, and hinder the ability of board members to bring good judgment and experience to that process. It seeks to negate the long history of fisheries in Cook Inlet, and it appears to have no other purpose than to give an exclusive allocative precedence to sport and personal use fishermen in Cook Inlet at the expense of commercial fishermen there, an effect which is explicitly outlawed in our state's constitution. The proposal is breathtaking in its hubris and potential harm to the BOF process. We urge the Board to reject it.

Respectfully submitted by the

Board of Directors, Northwest Setnetters Association

PO Box 870, Kodiak, AK 99615

Submitted By
Paul Warner
Submitted On
2/20/2019 11:57:05 AM
Affiliation

Regarding Proposal 171: I am opposed to prioritizing personal use fish over any other user group. Firstly, many residents rely on commercial fishing as an income stream, whether they be crew on the vessels, processors, marketers, etc. as well as many residents who work as sport fish guides. Secondly, there are numerous unchecked abuses in the personal use fisheries, such as non-resident participation, overharvesting, etc.. Lack of law enforcement personnel make it difficult to catch all the abuses that happen in all aspects fo salmon fishing. To prioritize this one kind of fishing to the detriment of others is un-Alaskan and should not be considered. Please reject Proposal 171.

Submitted By
Philip Sheridan
Submitted On
2/19/2019 5:23:12 AM
Affiliation

I am very much opposed to proposal 171. The idea that folks don't already have incredible opportunity to harvest fish is absurd. I personally use fish every year in June (on the Kaslof river beaches) and get my freezer full, and so does anyone else that even tries. I recreationally fish on the Kenai River and have never had a problem getting all the fish I need. We have more opportunity to harvest salmon all over the Kenai Peninsula than anywhere else in the world. This proposal seems like just another ploy to hurt the commercial fishing industry which is vital to our local economy and has been for about a century now. Please don't consider proposals that are unnecessary and designed to purely hurt other users. Thank You.

Submitted By
Reid and Rena Kornstad
Submitted On
2/19/2019 11:18:06 AM
Affiliation
KPFA members

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Address
46701 Joyce Circle
Kenai, Alaska 99611

As setnetters, we are in oppositon to Proposal 171. This is another way that the sportfishing group in Southcentral Alaska is seeking to destroy setnetting opportunities and jobs for Alaskans who have invested in their communities for decades.

Submitted By
Reid
Submitted On
2/19/2019 1:11:21 PM
Affiliation

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rkornstad@kpbsd.k12.ak.us
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46701 Joyce Circle
Kenai, Alaska 99611

I would like to comment on why I am NOT in favor Kenai River Sport Fish Association's Proposal 171.

1) This proposal essentially targets solely commercial fishing in Cook Inlet to solve a virtually non-existent problem on the central peninsula. If food security were a problem on the central peninsula, then the in-river commercial fishery user group should restrict itself as well in order to become a part of the solution. If KRSA is concerned about food security, then it should include its constituents in a paired restriction together with other Cook Inlet commercial user groups. Furthermore, if we are trying to solve a (virtually non-existent) problem in a localized area in Alaska, then we need to look at where all of the fish is going after it is captured in Kenai. Anyone who has spent an hour along the river mouth can observe that a large portion of fish captured are leaving the central peninsula. It is absurd to think that the entire state can "subsist" on the Kenai river.

2) Current regulation lists the factors that a board member "**may**" take into consideration when deliberating. KRSA proposal 171 *dictates* which factors that board members "**shall**" use to decide, and *mandates* the weight that each factor must be given. This is a drastic change from current regulation that allows board members to consider each proposal based upon all evidence and circumstances.

Board of fish members should be allowed to use their knowledge and discretion to fully consider all relevant information in their decision-making process, and should have the latitude to decide which factors are most important. What is the purpose of a board of educated thinkers if a proposal is allowed to "dictate" and "mandate". This seems disrespectful to me.

3) It can be noted that salmon returns were not in low abundance since the abolition of fish traps until the last 25 years. It can also be noted that in the last 25 years, commercial fishing in Cook Inlet has only ever been increasingly restricted while the in-river commercial fishery and sport fishery and subsistence fishery users have only ever grown. Why is there such a refusal to see the strong positive correlation between the massively increased in-river pressure in the last 25 years and the decline of run strength? Yet KRSA in its proposal would have you ignore relevant data prior to 20 years ago. Again, disrespectful.

I am NOT in favor of KRSA's Proposal 171.

Submitted By
Revelle Russell
Submitted On
2/20/2019 2:25:34 PM
Affiliation

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9072993387

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aktadpole@mac.com

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60143 Lookout Mt. Lane
Homer, Alaska 99603

I would like to go on record opposing Proposal 171. I dont believe in re-prioritizing the criteria for allocation. I believe it would it would lead to over escapement due to the fact that dipnetting and sport fishing cannot havest all the salmon swimming up the Kenai. Over escapement would than lead to diminshing returns. The Upper Cook Inlet drift fleet is the best management tool Fishand Game have. Use it! Thank you.

Submitted By
Richard Thompson
Submitted On
2/20/2019 11:14:35 AM
Affiliation

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captrich99@yahoo.com

Address
35555 Spur Hwy.#390
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear Sirs, I would hate for personal use to take priority over commercial fishing in Cook Inlet. Cook Inlet Commercial fishing has been a long time employer in the area and is able to show younger participants good work ethics and the rewards of hard work. The cook Inlet also helps pay for many post secondary educations and I would hate to lose it. Thanks Richard Thompson

Submitted By
Robert Deakins
Submitted On
2/20/2019 3:22:47 PM
Affiliation

I am NOT in favor of KSRA Proposal 171.

Submitted By
Robert Eckley
Submitted On
2/20/2019 8:19:24 PM
Affiliation
commercial fisherman

I oppose Proposal 171

It appears confusing as to how it helps the BOF make better decisions by reducing there ability to decide whats working. I feel the proposal has a complex way of steering the management decisions in favor of the personal use fisheries that have grown with ever changing guidelines and oversight. The language in the proposal seems more restricting than the original wording.

Thanks

Robert Eckley

Submitted By
Stephanie Schmit
Submitted On
2/20/2019 7:34:32 PM
Affiliation

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po box 15428
Fritz Creek, Alaska 99603

I do not support proposal 171. This proposal would prioritize personal use fisheries and sport fish over commercial fisheries in Cook Inlet. I am an Alaskan resident and dipnetter. I have had no issues getting my personal use fish through the years. If personal use and sport fisheries were prioritized over commercial, escapement in the rivers would be exceeded and personal use fisheries would then be unpredictable and likely unproductive.

My household owns a commercial salmon permit for upper Cook Inlet. However, I still enjoy dipnetting (personal use) and that is how we put fish in our own freezer for our consumption. I understand that the Department of Fish and Game relies on commercial fishermen to manage escapement in the river. If personal use is prioritized over commercial harvest, it is likely escapement goals would be exceeded before commercial fishermen are allowed to fish. In the long run this would lead to a less productive fishery in the Kenai River and less harvest for personal use, sport, and commercial fishermen.

Submitted By
Taylor Evenson
Submitted On
2/20/2019 12:42:39 PM
Affiliation

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4020 CROSSON DR
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am deeply concerned by proposal 171, authored by the Kenai River Sports Fishing Association. As a 3rd generation Alaskan, whose family homesteaded in North Kenai, this feels like another allocation attack on our historical and cultural endeavor of commercial fishing in Cook Inlet. I and my family are still deeply tied to the community of Kenai; a community that has subsistence users, sportsman, commercial fisherman, and dip-netters. I am happy and supportive of all these users having access to the salmon resource of the peninsula, but this bill like so many others is not about access it's about re-allocation. Our commercial fishery has already endured an incredible amount of "re-allocation" to other fisheries in this area, and I am concerned that we are on the verge of destroying this fleet of small businesses. Again, when my family decided to be pillars of the Kenai community there was no personal use, guide, or sports fishery; we have moved aside for the use of others on many occasions, but our historical and culture way of life has been squeezed to the brink of destruction, this is not hyperbole it is truth.

Further, I have a concern that the dip net fishery is less about filling freezers and more about another sports fishery. I say this from experience. My business, Alaska Salmon Fertilizer, collects fish waste from the Kenai dip-net fishery and uses it for production of organic fertilizer. From a business standpoint, expansion of dip-netting would help me personally, but I am deeply concerned about the amount of salmon waste from dip-net caught salmon. Our business cannot process the amount of salmon waste produced, and my heart drops when I see the amount of protein left on fish. If people were fishing to feed their family they would not leave pounds of good protein on the vast majority of fish. I ask you all to come down to the Kenai during dip net season to look at the fish being thrown into dumpsters or back into the water, for some it's about having good protein for others it's another shot at fish fever. The issue here is not more fish but better utilization of the fish that are already caught.

I am an Alaska Salmon Fellow, as such I believe that it is my duty to bring people together around salmon, to help solve our human issues in regards to salmon. I hope to be one who speaks for salmon, speaks for the preservation and celebration of a fish that gives us so much; from this perspective I ask for us to change our focus away from these clearly allocative actions and refocus on utilization and preservation. Please do not doubt the true intention of this proposal, and know that you can provide leadership away from this present game of allocation and move us in to the substantive realm of protection; protection of an incredible resource and protection of many ways of life. All of us users of salmon are stronger together, direct us away from fracturing action and bring us into consolidation around the fish we all hold so dear.

Submitted By
Timothy J Moore
Submitted On
2/19/2019 4:39:45 PM
Affiliation
Commercial Fishermen

Dear BOF Chairman Moriskey and fellow Board members,

The proposal I am directing my comments to is Proposal 171.

The allocation criteria policy that is being addressed in this proposal has enabled Board of Fish (BOF) members to effectively address allocative proposals for many Board cycles. It has allowed BOF members to analyze allocation issues brought before them and to apply the individual criteria components to come to a vote on these tough allocative proposals.

The uniqueness of different state-wide management plans bring to mind the different considerations that BOF members have to deal with in this process. The primary uses of harvestable salmon by different user groups in these unique plans need to be considered on a case by case basis. Thus the history of user group's harvest of fish resources with different management plans is important.

By rating the individual criteria components on level of importance is a bad idea. This would not allow the individual BOF members to apply the allocation criteria to the allocative proposals that are dealt with to effectively address different areas around the State. There are different levels of use from stakeholders and different fish resources in size and species. Difficult allocative decisions made by the BOF requires complicated analysis by individual Board members. This proposal would impede that analysis and not be in the best interest of the people of the State of Alaska.

For these reasons I request that the Board of Fish reject proposal 171.

Submitted By
Todd Smith
Submitted On
2/20/2019 2:43:50 PM
Affiliation
Resident

Hello from Kenai! Sad to year you won't make it down our way for the second decade in a row, but I'd like to submit a comment on Proposal **171**, which arranges the Board's 7 allocation criteria in numbered order of importance, listing personal harvest for family consumption as the #1 most important allocation factor in ALL non-subsistence area fisheries. This proposal would put the BOF's allocation criteria in conflict with your constitutional mandate to manage our resource for common use and maximum benefit of the people of Alaska, because every fishery is different. Proposal 171 also likely conflicts with federal law requiring that conservation measures for anadromous fish must not discriminate between residents of different states. The proposers are making a food security argument, despite studies showing that access to a diversity of fisheries - and also to commercial available seafood - is the best way to ensure Alaskan food security. They make the harvest disparity argument between sport/PU and commercial fisheries, but their argument makes the (unproven) assumption that there is a latent demand for harvest for personal consumption, and their economic arguments make the assumption that there is a linear relationship between availability of the resource and fishing effort/expenditures, while ignoring the economic impact of nonresident spending in all fisheries. This is bad policy. The Board of Fish needs to maintain the flexibility to evaluate each fishery on a case by case basis and weight the importance of each of the allocation criteria to that fishery. If this proposal passes, how would the board respond to a proposal to allow priority harvest of 2 Kings per person in the Kenai PU fishery? 5 Kings in the Kasilof PU fishery? Will we allow Steelhead and Trophy Trout harvest at the expense of the catch and release fisheries? After you listen to KRSA's nonresident consultants tell you what they think the highest and best use of our resource is, please vote no on this proposal because it is ridiculous and not in the best interest of Alaskans. Hope to see you make it down to the Peninsula sometime. It's a pretty nice place. Thank you, Todd Smith

Submitted By
Tony Jackson
Submitted On
2/19/2019 2:14:41 PM
Affiliation
McJack Fishing

I believe that one of the greatest tools and pieces of information any scientist wants is to have as much longitudinal data as possible. A century of commercial fishing on the Kenai Peninsula is just that. KRSA's proposal #171 has many aspects that are bad for Alaska, bad for Alaskans and bad for fishery management. One of these issues is the fact that KRSA is asking to minimize history and the long standing, sustainable commercial fishery. Please **do not** allow any of proposal #171 to even start to have a foothold within the AK Board of Fisheries or fishery management.

Submitted By
Tracey Nuzzi
Submitted On
2/18/2019 2:31:07 PM
Affiliation

I oppose Proposal 171 - reorganizing the priorities of Nonsubsistence users of a fishery.

While complicated to understand it in application, I believe the goal is essentially to prioritize Personal Use users over Commercial users by saying Alaska households depend on these fish. Commercial households are Alaskans too- hard working business owners trying to make a living each year with variable run sizes.

For instance last year on the Copper River, we had a very weak run. We sat on the beach and didn't fish. This is what you do because salmon and their future come first!!!! It is a burden of conservation that we all share in.

Subsistence users have a higher priority but also restrictions that PU fisheries do not have (i.e. no charter operations). It would be unfair for the BOF to prioritize one commercial use over another, as well as not expect all user to take a hit when runs are very weak, like 2019 sockeye run on the Copper River.

Thank you.



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February 19, 2019

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Re: Opposition to Proposal 171

Dear Chairman Morisky and the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) opposes Proposal 171, which modifies the criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries in non-subsistence areas.

UFA is opposed to arbitrary ranking of the proposed allocation criteria, which inherently favor, by regulation, any individual gear group(s) in nonsubsistence areas. In current regulation there is an expectation that the board will hear the public and make an informed decision that will be guided by statute.

This proposal is in conflict with 5 AAC 77.001(b) 'that taking...does not negatively impact an existing resource use.' This proposal has far-reaching consequences and could significantly alter and negatively impact how fisheries around the state are allocated and managed.

In addition, this proposal introduces and defines "Adaptive Management." It is not clear what the adaptive management process would be based on and when the re-evaluation process would happen. The proposal specifically mentions "current condition and needs" but does not provide any further guidance. Guidelines found in AS16.05.251 provide guidance and include the term "may" which allows for board's discretion to weigh the importance of each factor. This allows the board to assess each of the considerations equally while the proposed language appears to take away that flexibility.

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

Sincerely,

Matt Alward
President

Frances H. Leach
Executive Director

Submitted By
Victor Jones
Submitted On
2/19/2019 2:36:33 PM
Affiliation

There is no reason to change the historical allocation criteria with Proposal 171. It has been working well for 30 years. Commercial guides need to be recognized as commercial users of the resource. They are not doing anything to fill Alaskans' freezers.

Submitted By
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Chairman and Board of Fisheries: I OPPOSE Proposal 171, which deems to redefine the allocation criteria for fishery resources in non-subsistence areas. Reordering the allocation criteria as a priority list as the authors suggest clearly is meant to give preference to recreational fisheries STATEWIDE over commercial fisheries. The current emphasis on allocations based on historic use is important as is the ability of Alaska resident to harvest fish for personal and family consumption. I do not support this new language. I do encourage the Board to keep the regulation as it is now and to apply it consistently, something which isn't always accomplished.