

My name is Larry Edfelt and I have resided in Juneau for 53 years. I am a retired F&G biologist and administrator, a retired charter boat skipper from the 80's and 90's, a former three time appointee to the Board of Fisheries, a member of the Pacific Salmon Commission's Transboundary Rivers Panel, and a long time member of the Territorial Sportsmen, a Juneau-based conservation organization with more than a thousand members, whom I represent here today. I'm speaking from RC_____ about proposal 259.

There is a resident preference built into the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management plan. It has remained essentially unchanged by any board for more than 30 years.

The management plan's preference provides for uninterrupted sport king salmon fishing in salt water with minimal restrictions on residents. There is additional language which instructs the department to manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents unless the treaty cap is imminent.

Resident preference is addressed in the Alaska Constitution which requires that resources be managed for the maximum benefit of Alaska residents.

Additionally, since fresh waters are closed, the only means for residents of Southeast to directly access king salmon for food is from the salt water sport fishery.

Since residents and nonresidents share one quota, the biggest threat to the stable resident king salmon fishery is the unlimited unrestricted nonresident king salmon fishery. More than 75 percent of the sport harvest was taken by nonresidents in 2023, and the fishery exceeded its quota by 17,000 fish. The nonresident fishing power in outside waters is now capable of catching the entire sport quota before the end of June. Residents in inside waters can't begin fishing until mid June or even July because of stock of concern restrictions on local runs.

A review of the allocation criteria argues for residents, as the troll and resident sport fisheries are long standing and stable, while the nonresident sport fishery has no participation limit and, in 2023, no inseason management. The resident food fishery and the commercial troll fishery both have history, personal use for sustenance, and local economic importance on their side

Reinserting the two words (Sport Fishery) that were somehow removed from the board's regulation adopted last March, is the only fix that is necessary at this

meeting (proposal 259), plus the housekeeping provisions of either proposals 257 or 258. I can assure you that the Territorial Sportsmen would not have signed off on the agreement if this substantive allocative change had been included.

If the longstanding 80/20 allocation split between trolling and sport fishing means anything, proposal 259 has to be adopted, or the management plan is essentially meaningless.

The choice now is yours. Resident protection or unrestricted nonresident harvest. We ask you to apply the allocation criteria fairly and consistent with the Alaska Constitution.

Thank you.