



# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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February 22, 2017

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

### **RE: Letter of Support for Fish and Wildlife Commission's Proposals and Recommendations to the Alaska Board of Fisheries**

On Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly voted unanimously in favor of support of the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission's (FWC) proposals and recommendations to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF)

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has submitted four proposals for BOF consideration:

- Proposal 213: Close commercial fishing within one mile of the Little Susitna River when the Little Susitna River sport fishery is restricted to no bait.
- Proposal 214: Close commercial fishing within one mile of the Little Susitna River when more than half of the Northern District streams with King salmon escapement goals are closed to sport harvest of king salmon or when the Little Susitna River sport fishery is restricted by emergency order.
- Proposal 220: Establish sport fishery closure times in the Larsen Creek drainage.
- Proposal 230: Create a Deshka River King Salmon Management Plan.

In addition, the FWC has submitted a report to the BOF with four recommendations to enhance fisheries resources and management in Upper Cook Inlet. Their recommendations are:

1. Continue to protect Stocks of Concern- particularly Susitna sockeye.
2. Maintain the conservation corridor in the Central District drift gillnet fishery – it is working as designed.
3. Limit commercial drift gillnet fishing in August to avoid excessive Coho harvest.
4. Continue to provide robust personal use opportunities where stocks permit.

We fully support the Fish & Wildlife Commission's belief that the sustainability of Upper Cook Inlet salmon runs and fisheries is at risk due to the overfishing by commercial fisheries of the Central District. Current sport and personal use fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet do not meet the fishing demand by our growing population. Fishery management and harvest allocation in Upper Cook Inlet is out of step with the economic and cultural realities of today.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports the Fish and Wildlife Commission's proposals and recommendations to the BOF fully and we strongly support your adoption of these policies which will enhance and sustain Upper Cook Inlet fisheries.

Sincerely,



Vern Halter  
Mayor  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough