

## Testimony to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Submitted by Mac Minard, Fisheries Consultant for the Matanuska Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission

My name is Mac Minard; I serve as the fisheries consultant to the Matanuska Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission. I am a former Alaska Department of Fish and Game Biologist with 27 years' experience in Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet and AYK where I served as Regional Supervisor.

At Statehood of the Alaskan fisheries Governor Eagan said ***"On the ruins of this once great resource we shall rebuild"***. Of course at that time he was describing the plight of Alaskan salmon fisheries in 1959 resulting from decades of Federal mismanagement and fishing with fish traps.

In 2014 this Board, by a vote of 7 to 0, started on the journey to rebuild the stocks of the Northern District that have over a generation of management been neglected and in some cases "written off".

Today we celebrate examples, proof positive that the Conservation Corridor and terminal stock management approach adopted last board meeting is working. Staff reports yesterday highlighted:

- An "uptick in Susitna Sockeye harvest in the Northern district set net fishery
  - RC 4 tab 3 slide 18
- Expanded terminal harvest areas were shown to be extremely effective at targeting harvest on Kenai and Kasilof sockeye salmon based on genetic samples taken from the Northern test fishery.
  - Willette and DuPaw report
- The 57% exploitation of Susitna sockeye in the 2012 disaster is a reverse example from a year where the ESSN fishery was closed and the drift fleet allowed in the Conservation Corridor
  - RC 4 tab 4 slide 10.
- Perhaps the biggest benefit of the Conservation Corridor is the documented and crystal clear reduction in interception of Northern bound in coho salmon as evidenced by
  - Reduced CPUE in the drift fishery
    - PC 42, Figure 17, Page 30 of the Mat Su booklet.
  - Reduction in exploitation rates in drift fishery as evidenced by the genetic stock ID sampling
    - RC 4 Tab 10

Going forward we ask you as Board members to simply consider the following question when making decisions during this meeting. ***"Will the action you are being asked to take aid or interfere in the rebuilding of Northern District salmon stocks?"***

- Maintain the use of terminal fishery management in Kenai and Kasilof
- Resist expanding late season fishing for pinks at the guaranteed expense of coho
- Avoid management conditions where provisions in the UCI Salmon management plan are sacrificed in the interest of maximizing commercial harvest of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye salmon

Thank you for your time and thank you for your service on this Board.