

RC12



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA DELEGATION

31ST ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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PALMER
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February 5, 2020

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Mr. Reed Morisky, Chair
Attn: Glenn Haight—Executive Director
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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

*TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC
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Dear Chair Morisky and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

As the members of the Matanuska-Susitna legislative delegation, we support the recommendations of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's (MSB) Fish and Game Commission.

As you know, this region is the second largest and fastest growing in the State of Alaska. In addition, eight of the sixteen identified "stocks of concern" are in this region.

This Mat-Su Borough Fish & Game Commission is an eight-member volunteer board that is appointed by the Borough Mayor. These citizen volunteers come from numerous and varied communities throughout our region with the common mission and dedication to the health and preservation of our salmon resources. The Commission is very experienced and diverse and which has a record of putting the resource first: the current chairman is a participant in a commercial fishery; three members are past fishery biologist/managers (two of which served as members of the Board of Fisheries); two are members of the MSB Assembly representing large sections of the Susitna drainage; another member is a MSB School District employee; and, one member is a guide.

The Commission has worked diligently holding numerous meetings and thoughtful deliberations with the public, ADFG, the MSB Fish & Game Advisory Board (including its fishery subcommittee) and other participants and make thoughtful and knowledgeable recommendations on behalf of nearly 107,000 MSB residents, but more importantly, the salmon resources.

As the elected legislators representing the MSB and all Alaskans that reside within its boundaries, listed below is a summary of essential issues or actions we hope will be addressed at the upcoming meeting:

- Enhance the conservation corridor; this is an essential item;
- Establish orderly transition from Sockeye to Coho management;
- Establish in-river optimal salmon escapement goals;
- Address stocks of concern, particularly Susitna Sockeyes;
- Personal use/dipnet fishery: Maintain or extend opportunities for Alaska residents; and
- Adopt Chinook management plan and strategies that addresses early runs in the Upper Cook Inlet.

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We would like to emphasize that our continued alliance with the MSB demonstrates a long-standing, strong commitment to not only prioritizing, but securing funding for research and remediation efforts to address the challenges faced in the Susitna Drainage. Locally, the MSB has been a conservation leader through capital investments to replace culverts and other remediation efforts, at considerable expense, as part of our commitment to protect and rebuild our salmon resources.

In closing, as you embark on these important decisions, we hope you will consider our comments and especially those of the MSB Fish & Game Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to submit our comments on issues that you will be considering.

Respectfully,



Rep. Colleen Sullivan – Leonard
Delegation Co-Chair
House District 7



Sen. Shelley Hughes – Delegation Co-Chair
Senate District F



Rep. Mark Neuman
House District 8



Sen. David Wilson
Senate District D



Rep. George Rauscher
House District 9



Sen. Mike Shower
Senate District E



Rep. David Eastman
House District 10



Rep. DeLena Johnson
House District 11



Rep. Cathy Tilton
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