

**Mac Minard
Public Testimony
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Anchorage, AK
February 8, 2020**

RC 39

Chairman Morisky and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, my name is Mac Minard, former ADFG biologist and manager, and it is my privilege and honor to stand before you today representing the Matanuska Susitna Borough at this important meeting. I reference PC 83 (page 6, page 8, and page 20), RC 29, RC 33 and RC 15.

In this very room in 2014, by unanimous consent, the Alaska Board of Fisheries took bold action to refine the application of terminal stock fisheries management in Cook Inlet. They focused the power of the commercial drift fleet in terminal areas, defined an orderly transition from sockeye management to coho management and took decisive actions that addressed conservation concerns related to Susitna sockeye and other stocks of concern.

The Board felt compelled to do so as they sought balance between an over-capitalized commercial fishery and the growing needs and demands of resident Alaskans who questioned a management system that emphasized strong-stock management at the expense of weak-stocks, and afforded harvest opportunity to a few over that of the many.

Those actions had immediate and positive benefits for the fish and the people of the Northern District, and I hope you will enjoy hearing others recount them for you today.

In 2017, in response to claims of inefficiency suffered by the drift fleet, many of those actions were eliminated; it was the meeting of “death by a thousand cuts”. Nothing by itself seemed onerous but when taken together the cumulative effect was to undo the progress made earlier.

Results of those actions were also immediate and profound. Harvest of northern-bound coho and Susitna sockeye by the drift fishery increased due to expansion of fishing area and time and the relaxation of the 1% rule. In response to salmon abundance in Northern District, harvest opportunities in sport and PU fisheries were restricted and Alaskans again questioned the priorities of the management system.

We are here before you in 2020 and ask that you focus your effort on balancing commercial harvest opportunity with the need to deliver fish to the Northern district and that you do so by;

- Enhancing the utility of the Conservation Corridor – **Proposal 133**
- Focus on an orderly and meaningful transition from sockeye to coho salmon management -
- Continue to protection measures for the stocks of concern, especially Susitna sockeye.
- Seek ways that will enhance Personal Use opportunities and place more Alaskan salmon on the tables of Alaskans – **Proposals 234 – 238.**
- Embrace the evolution of escapement goal theory for the Kenai and realize there is far more danger in low escapement than there is in over escapement. **Proposal 88.**

I thank you for your time and I look forward to assisting you during this meeting to attain these goals.