

Chairman Morisky, members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Todd Smith. I am a life-long Kenai resident who owns and operates a local small business. I am a Kenai River property owner, and an active sport fisherman. I also hold an interest in my family's small setnet site on Ninilchik Beach. I'm a previous board member of KPFA, and currently hold seats on the Kenai/Soldotna fish and game AC, and the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District. I am here today representing myself, and what I believe to be the best interests of my community. These comments will likely be the entirety of my input, as work and family obligations prevent me from spending 2 weeks far from home in order to participate in this process.

You've no doubt read Economic reports showing the contributions of different fisheries to our state and local communities. As an economics nerd I read them too, and must say that some are very optimistic, and lack peer review. A recent sportfish economic report suggest that average resident spending is nearly \$700 per resident angler day. I don't believe these numbers to be accurate, and if they are, sport fishing is a luxury reserved for only the wealthiest amongst us. Please take these reports with a grain of salt, and remember that in areas like mine, all fisheries are equally important, and the diversity of our fisheries is a major strength. I'd also ask you to consider the personal, social, and economic interests of the local communities surrounding these fisheries, and realize that these fishing communities often have a higher dependency on the resource than do communities further away. While we should all have access to our fisheries, I don't think my access to a fishery 200 miles away from home is always more important than the local economy of that area. You currently have the ability to take this into consideration when weighing the allocation criteria for our fisheries. I ask you not to give this ability away.

I'd like to thank you all for your service on this board, and also thank all of the dedicated public employees for their efforts at these meetings. Our regulatory process isn't perfect, but it's the best around, and I know how committed many of you are to this process and to managing our fish resources for common use.

That said, I'd like to express my disappointment in the lack of access my community has had to this public process. We have not seen a BOF meeting in our area for over 20 years. The public hasn't had local access to board members since the work session in 2016. As a member of my local AC, I can say that over the last year we have had no public interaction with BOF members or ADFG leadership, and I'm not aware of any public forum in my area which provided such access. This seems a stark contrast to the other areas of the state where board interaction is frequent. For example, the MSBFWC meeting minutes over the last year show that they have been able to work closely with ADFG leadership and BOF members in formulating proposals and game plan for this meeting. It is my understanding commission members were even able to work with Kenai River Sportfishing Association this summer in developing the roadmap and committee structure for this meeting. I'm not sure that is appropriate, and I would remind everyone that a 7 member board only needs 4 members to stop or change something they feel isn't right. I can't imagine the immense amount of political pressure you are all under. I wish you good luck, and ask that you keep in mind the deficit my community faces going into this process.

Thank you,

Todd Smith