

Good Morning,

My name is Stefan Hinman. I represent the Mat-Su Borough as a staff member for the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission. I'd like to thank the Board for this opportunity to share. I'd also like to recognize the Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission, who's incredible dedication to this valuable resource is bearing fruit today in helping to bring more fish to the Northern District. I've never met a more sincere, selfless group of individuals in my life and am proud to say that I've played a small part in helping them get their message out.

I've been an Alaskan Resident for 32 years and lived in the Mat-Su for 20. I'm a father of 4 kids and believe in raising kids who understand the value of a fresh caught salmon verses one wrapped in plastic at a super market. The struggle an individual feel on the end of a line or in the bottom of a dipnet, represents so much more to those who experience it. There is a real responsibility felt in not taking that life sacrificed for granted. As a Mat-Su resident, this incredible gift has been nearly taken away and is still under threat.

The Conservation Corridor was merely a concept drawn on a piece of paper before it was put in place in 2011, however, it wasn't fortified with any real regulations to make it viable. But this was progress and a great start.

Three years later, in 2014, an earthquake inducing 7-0 vote gave the Conservation Corridor the regulatory teeth it needed for some real change. That change didn't just show up on spread sheets and charts. It showed up in the most

important and impactful way; in the rivers, in the coolers, on the dinner tables, in the guide boats and in my case,... on the smiling faces of my 9 year old girls. They had limited out on large, bright, non-net marked co-ho. They had never even caught a fish before. That day was one of the greatest of their young lives and it was the summer of 2014, the time the conservation corridor regulations sunk their teeth into the central district, letting those fish past the commercial nets.

In 2017, the Board added, what was thought to be a small change. They gave one additional 12 hour district wide opening to the drift fleet and on July 31 of that very same year, they exercised that new regulation. On a single day, over 30,000 coho were taken in the central district followed by over 40,000 on the next 12 hour opening that same week. That was more than the entire sportfishing harvest for the season. The Department made in-season adjustments to try and off-set the damage, but the numbers didn't lie.

The Conservation Corridor is proving itself to be a valuable management tool and should be strengthened to maximize it's benefit to the Northern District by putting more fish in the rivers.

It's you, the boards, constitutional obligation to maximize the benefit of fisheries for all Alaskans. Healthy, sustainable fisheries should be the goal for ALL users. The Conservation Corridor is the biggest piece of that and Proposal 133 restores, strengthens and refines it.

Thank you