

**Good Afternoon Chairman and the rest of Board of Fish. Thank You so much for your service and thank you just as much for your attention today. My Name is Joel Doner and I'm before you right now representing the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The committee public noticed and met over multiple days creating our comments that have been submitted to you. We have a very diverse representation on the committee when it comes to Fisheries issues. We have members interested in commercial processing, sport, Subsistence, commercial, and personal use. The committee also entertained multiple members of the public in most of our meetings and incorporated their comments into those that were submitted.**

**Now, we know you have all the comments from all of the relevant Advisory Committees in front of you. And we trust that you're familiar with them and will use them to help guide your decisions in the days ahead. But we'd like to remind you a little about the community that This advisory committee represents.**

**RC 094**

## **For Personal Use**

**According to the Department's Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fisheries report by Adam St. Saviour made public last month, 92% of Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit holders are from Southcentral Alaska. Of the participants from Southcentral Alaska, most were from Anchorage (at least 58%), followed by the Kenai Peninsula (at least 19%).**

**Anchorage residents composed the majority of the Kenai River and Kasilof River personal use dip net fishery participants. Among Anchorage households participating in Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use, the average harvest was 19.7 salmon.**

## **For Commercial users**

**According to the State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission website, in 2018, there were 890 CFEC permits held by Anchorage residents. Those 890 permits landed approximately 96 million pounds of seafood distributed across the globe. In ex-vessel value alone, estimated to be worth over \$54 million.**

## **For Sport fishermen**

**We struggled to find information regarding the number of Sport fish licenses held by Anchorage residents, but I'm confident Anchorage has by far the largest number compared to other communities.**

**I suppose what we're trying to say is that not only is Anchorage the most diverse community in Alaska but we boast the largest general population in the State, Obviously. We have the most commercial fishermen. We have the most licensed Personal Use fishermen. And we have the most licensed Sport fishermen.**

**So as you look at and compare advisory committee comments, we want to remind you where these AC comments come from.**

**So first of all, the committee wants to make some general statements about Upper Cook Inlet management. We know that the issues are complex, but, and I quote, "These are Overly complicated management plans and when we have a politically inclined Commissioner, we leave no room for adaptive**

management" end quote. The Department hires expert area biologists but they are hamstrung when it comes to managing for yield. Why should the State spend precious monies on scientists when a super prescriptive management plan and an agenda seeking commissioner are apparently all we need?

Next, we would like to address the proposals relating to the 1% rule. We support proposal 186 and took no action on the rest of the proposals that deal with this issue. Proposal 186 eliminates the 1% rule in both the drift and set net Fisheries. The 1% rule is not the best management action available to determine the end of the commercial season. It goes against the concept of managing for yield; if there is a harvestable surplus, there must be opportunity for harvest. Managing to escapement goals using emergency orders is better used here. There are also too many variables that make the 1% rule an arbitrary method of closing the season. Entry patterns and timing, fishery participation, weather etc. Management should be based on run strength not what you caught yesterday or the day before. Also, as

participation in the fishery wanes, late in the season, it is often the local fishermen, the ones that live in the area, who are most affected by early closure.

The next suite of proposals we would like to talk about are the ones wishing to substantially increase the in-river goal. We oppose proposals 88, 89, and 90. When I asked the committee for input on priorities to communicate to you today, this was one of the highest. As the commercial fleet is restricted more and more each Board cycle, economic viability of those Fisheries is stressed. The Anchorage AC feels that Unreasonable expansion of these escapement goals is unacceptable and will likely make the industry unprofitable. If Alaskans were truly concerned about doing the right thing, a healthy industry is vital. It seems we have a habit in Cook Inlet of exceeding escapement goals anyways.

The committee also wanted me to stress our opposition to proposal 78. This proposal seeks to change the criteria you as a Board can consider while making allocation decisions. It has far reaching implications beyond Cook Inlet And It is not necessary to misalign

the allocation criteria between different regions of the state. It seems ludicrous to the Anchorage Advisory Committee for the Board to decide to force themselves into considering criteria a certain way. Not to mention using criteria differently from the rest of the State. If the Cook Inlet fisheries are re-allocated in such a manner it will set a dangerous precedent for all fisheries in Alaska.

Now, the Anchorage Advisory Committee worked hard on these proposals and speaking for the rest of the committee I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to help you in your task. We'd also like to invite Board members, or anyone for that matter, to our monthly meetings. If <sup>by</sup> can help you clarify our comments, I'd be happy to have a conversation or answer any questions. Thank You again.