



February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I'm against Proposal 283. In order to protect and maintain a struggling king salmon return, we can not harvest our way back to abundance by allowing more fishing in the commercial sector.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Keith Holtan

Kenai
99612



March 03, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Lowering the escapement for Kenai Kings to help the Commercial Fisheries is robbing from Peter to pay Paul. Keep the escapement numbers where they are. I don't have a clue what people must be thinking to propose we take from the Kenai so commercial fishing has more options. We have not been able to fish for Kings for over 20 years in my family as we saw the numbers declining and quit fishing for them 30 years ago. We need to continue to rebuild the king salmon runs. . We do not have the proper escapement of Kings on the Kenai that we need to bring it to a healthy number. Do not make changes that will hurt the build up of Kenai King runs.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Kelly Sidebottom

Palmer
99645



March 1, 2022

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries
From: Kenai River Sportfishing Association
Date: March 1, 2022
RE: Opposition to Proposal 283

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) opposes Proposal 283 which ignores the Optimum Escapement Goal (OEG) adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2020 for late-run Kenai River King Salmon and liberalizes commercial gillnet harvest at a time of record low numbers and chronic inability to meet established escapement goals for this iconic stock of king salmon.

- Fewer than 13,000 large Kenai Late-run Kings returned to Cook Inlet in each of the last three years. This is less than one third of the long-term average of 42,000 per year.
- The 2022 forecast (16,004) is the lowest preseason forecast ever issued.
- Escapements have failed to reach either the OEG or SEG minimums in three consecutive years and five of the last nine.
- Recent data indicates that low King escapements continue to produce low returns under current conditions.

Proposal 283 seeks to allow the east side commercial set gillnet fishery to continue to fish within 600 feet of shore even when sport and personal use fisheries were closed due to critical low numbers under paired restrictions identified in the current management plan. Commercial set gillnet fishing would be allowed when the Kenai River late-run King Salmon escapement is below the current OEG established in the plan (15,000-30,000) but escapement exceeds to lower end of the SEG (13,500).

This proposal would effectively increase the commercial fishery harvest of Kenai River late-run King Salmon, reduce spawning escapement, and increase the imbalance in allocation of fishery impact in favor of the commercial set net fishery.

1. The proposal fails to adequately protect spawning escapement of the Kenai River king salmon.

The Kenai late-run King OEG was adopted at the 2020 Board meeting expressly to protect spawning escapements during poor run years. The OEG provides a 1,500 fish buffer relative to the SEG to avoid low numbers at the cliff edge of long-term conservation and yield problems. As abundance declines, every spawning fish becomes precious. The OEG recognized great uncertainties in productivity of Kenai Kings at low escapements where we have never been before. It also provides insurance for forecast errors - actual runs have been overforecast by 50-90% in the last three years.



Under this proposal additional commercial harvest would also be focused on the latter part of the run which includes a large percentage of large, gravid females whose harvest would have a disproportionate impact on the population's reproductive potential.

2. *The proposal prioritizes current yields of Sockeye over conservation and future yield of Kings.*

Protection of spawning escapements has long been the cornerstone of sustainable management in Alaska salmon fisheries. Yet, this proposal sacrifices higher King escapements now and higher future returns for increased commercial fishery harvest and revenue now. Low numbers of King spawners producing low numbers in the future will prolong the current low production cycle and perpetuate current fishery management problems. Resulting small increases in Sockeye yields now, come at the cost of continuing commercial limitations for years to come.

Proponents of this proposal will point to the sonar count of Sockeye salmon and claim that hundreds of thousands these fish have gone unharvested. While it is true that the Sockeye sonar counts are more than management objectives, it is not true that all the excess would be harvested with increased commercial set net fishing identified in this proposal. Fewer than 100,000 additional Sockeye would likely be taken. This would amount to less than 10% of the annual commercial harvest of Sockeye in the Upper Cook Inlet and far less than 1% of the annual commercial harvest of Sockeye in the State.

3. *The proposal violates the sport fishery management priority for late-run Kenai River King salmon and established Board policies for equitable sharing of the burden of conservation among fisheries, and precautionary management in the face of uncertainty.*

The proposal violates the express direction in the management plan [5 AAC 21.359 (a)] to "*manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions.*"

Paired restrictions in the Kenai Late-run King Salmon plan follow the express direction in the Board's Policy for the management mixed stock fisheries [5 AAC 39.220 (b)] "*the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern.*" Paired restrictions already allow for a disproportionate commercial harvest of Kenai late-run Kings in recent years when the sport fishery is heavily restricted. The proposal to set aside some paired restrictions will further exacerbate this imbalance. We also note that sport fishery impacts are calculated to include incidental catch and release mortality, while commercial fishery harvest estimates are likely underestimates of total impact because they do not consider any drop-off or delayed mortality that may occur.

The proposal is contrary to the precautionary principle in the Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries [5 AAC 39.222 (c)(5)] which directs that stocks and fisheries shall be managed conservatively in the face of uncertainty. The Kenai King run is in the midst of an unprecedented period of low abundance, declining fish sizes and poor productivity. They are in a hole they have never been in before and future prospects for recovery are the very definition of uncertain.



4. The process for proposal review, out-of-cycle with the normal Cook Inlet meeting, does not afford adequate opportunity to consider complex tradeoffs among finely-balanced management plans governing Upper Cook Inlet fisheries.

The normal Board cycle considers dozens of proposals representing a wide spectrum of viewpoints. The process allows for a thorough consideration of issues and tradeoffs. This is the sole proposal identified for Upper Cook Inlet in the 2022 statewide meeting which will not allow for a thorough consideration of all related concerns. The paired commercial and sport fishery provisions in the Kenai King-plan are the lynch pin in Upper Cook Inlet management during periods of low abundance. Pulling on that single thread will unravel the carefully-crafted fabric of interacting management plans and produce a landslide of unintended consequences throughout Upper Cook Inlet fisheries.

In summary, KRSA strongly opposes Proposal 283. It fails to adequately protect spawning escapement of Kenai River king salmon at a time of record low numbers and uncertain prospects for the future. It jeopardizes the future health of the Kenai King Run for the marginal benefit of catching a few more sockeye now. It violates long-established Board policies for equitable sharing of conservation burdens and precautionary management for sustainability. Finally, out-of-cycle consideration of a single issue will likely produce unintended consequences in the complex of existing Upper Cook Inlet salmon management plans.



February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Save Ar salmon, stop this bill in its tracks. Thank you

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Kent Smith

Soldotna
99669



February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Thank you for your service on the Board of Fish!

We need to protect the Kenai River King Salmón for the next generations. Please let the run rebuild.
Thanks Kevin Branson

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Kevin Branson

Anchorage
99508



February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Since 2008 i have spent a month in AK in July. I have seen the number of Kings drop in the Kenai. first size and then numbers. While i do not fish Kings in the Kenai i will tell you they are a National Treasure that must be protected!! also if they hit the endangered specie list look out. Then it will get shut down far worse than now. DO NOT DROP THE ESCAPENT NUMBERS!!!! Its clearly a sell out to comfiss.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

KEVIN GROSS

Becker
55308



February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

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Kevin McElhaney

Anchorage
99515



Submitted By
Kiley Thompson
Submitted On
3/9/2022 10:10:30 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9079526890
Email
thompsonsdp@aol.com
Address
P.O. Box 116
Sand Point, Alaska 99661

Members of the Alaska Board of Fish

My name is Kiley Thompson. I am a 29 year resident of Sand Point, AK. I am an Area M permit holder and have been involved in the salmon fishery since 1993.

I am very disappointed that Area M fishermen must again spend time, money and resources defending our fishery before the Board. In 2001, 2004, and 2006, the state prosecuted the WASSIP genetic work which became the standard for salmon stock identification in Western Alaska. WASSIP data clearly shows very low harvest rates on Chignik bound early run sockeye in both the Dolgoi and particularly the Shumagin areas of Area M.

In 2019, the Board took action that eliminated the seine fishery in the Dolgoi Island area in June completely. This was a compromise that that seine feet agreed to. The results of this action have not even had the time to be realized yet, as adult sockeye will not return until 2022 at the earliest from 2019 spawners. Since that action, Dolgoi harvests have fallen dramatically with no apparent benefit to Chignik early run sockeye.

The author of Proposal 282 clearly does not have the stated conservation in mind in writing this proposal. The drastic cuts presented by the proposer require the Area M fishery to be gutted in order to save a small amount of Chignik bound sockeye as shown by WASSIP data. The goal of the proposer is for Chignik to either hit the midpoint of early run escapement of 400,000 (ADF&G data indicates that since 1980, that has happened only 46% of the time) or have a commercial salmon opening.

Sadly, the fact is that the Chignik early run did suffer some setbacks recently. However, this is not the time or place to be making an allocation grab. The board has the opportunity to review all the data at its 2023 cycle when ADF&G will present much more in-depth information on the condition of Chignik sockeye stocks. It may be that the Chignik Management Plan has the ability to be adjusted to allow fishing time and recovery of the early run sockeye.

In conclusion, the Department retains its E.O authority and has used it in 2018 and 2020 with closures in both the June and July fisheries in Area M to protect Chignik early run sockeye. Board action every time a fishery doesn't meet an escapement goal undermines the Department's knowledge and authority in managing healthy fisheries across multiple areas.

Sincerely,

Kiley Thompson



February 18, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Kim Frederick

Providence
84332



February 27, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Kim Miller

Waconia
55387



To BOF ,
I'm a lifelong Alaskan who has enjoyed Spot Shrimp from PWS for decades .. (excepting a big lull for Exxon Valdez...)
I don't own a boat , so I depend on the Commercial folks...
This is the only way for me to get shrimp.
I hope you allow a viable commercial fishery so that
My family can continue enjoy the best shrimp on the planet.
Thanks,
Kirk McGee

Sent from my iPhone



March 04, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

My fiancé and his family own property on the Kenai and we spend every summer up there. I want our future children and their children to have these fond memories as well.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Kirsten Fuchs

Greenacres
99016



March 07, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please vote no on Proposal 283.

The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow PROJECTED escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. The estimates have been higher than actuals each of the last 5 years. Basing decisions on estimates rather than actuals is a death sentence to the Kenai King Salmon because it will enable commercial fishing before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

I am grateful the Board had the courage in 2020 to take action to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections while promoting the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Thank you for your continued courage and vigilance.

Sincerely,

Kristin Mellinger

Kristin Mellinger

Soldotna
99669



February 28, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

King Salmon numbers are declining. We must include conservation measures do all Alaskans have access to King Salmon.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

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Kristine Hutchin

Eagle River
99577



February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

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Kyle Spaulding

Apt 4 Anchorage
99502



February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

As Chair of the Washington State Academy of Sciences Working Group on Environmental Quality, Sustainability, and Climate Change and as Chair of the Washington State Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Reform, I strongly oppose Proposal 283 based on the Science.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Larry Dalton

Silverdale



March 12, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

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Larry white

KENAI



February 18, 2022

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Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

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Laura Edmondson

Anchorage
99516



February 23, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

We have a home on the Kenai River and are fortunate to be able to fish this river. I have not fished for the king salmon for 6 years due to the low numbers that return to spawn with holes that the return number will increase. Please do not lower the escapement, allow the king run to flourish once again.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Laura Tallman

Soldotna
99669



February 19, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I live in Anchorage, I've lived here since 1976. And I've watched as the Kenai River king salmon fishery has virtually disappeared. The number of large kings over 60 lbs has plummeted to almost nothing. I blame this on two things: commercial fishing and letting tourists fish and keep large fish. This is a world class of salmon, folks, and needs to be preserved. Why not limit the size of fish kept to promote survival of the big ones? I don't see why any tourists come to the Kenai to fish for king salmon. I've given up. There is still time to save this resource. Who knows, maybe in ten years it will come back to when I first came here.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

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Lawrence Hale

Anchorage
99516



Submitted By
Leah Jackson
Submitted On
3/9/2022 9:27:27 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-513-8240

Email
mrsjacksonteaches@yahoo.com

Address
52500 Leah St.
Kenai, Alaska 99611

IN FAVOR proposal 283

I am writing to let you know I am in favor of this proposal. It is crucial and critical for allowing local set net commercial fisherman to have a fair and ethical opportunity to harvest fish. The state constitution guarantees us this right, but in recent years we have not been granted the opportunity to fish as we should due to EXTREMELY unfair paired restrictions. This proposal gives me hope that we may see time with our net in the water yet again. Please, consider the local families who have fished these beaches for generations. Please, pass this proposal. Paired restrictions are based on politics, not biology- get rid of them entirely! Thank you.



March 07, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Lee Ann Ross

Bend
97703



February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Have fished the Kenai for years. Would be a shame for it to be more decimated for king fishing.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

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Lee Johnson

Baxter
56425



February 24, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Lee Stafford

Soldotna
99669



February 25, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

We are 53 year Residents of Alaska and have fished the Kenai , Homer and currently have a boat in Valdez and fish PWS. Please do what is right and oppose 283

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

3The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Leonard and Diane Jewkes

North Pole
99705



March 07, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I have fished the Kenai ever since the 1980's and remember what a thrill it was to catch kings over 60lbs. The Kenai today is still a great salmon river but the king fishing is a small fraction of what it once was. Please allow conservation to work and bring back the mighty king salmon

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Leonard Dullea jr

Peabody



February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Levi Forrest
Solditna
99669



February 23, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Levi Robinson



Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

February 14, 2022

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Please don't let other people catch too many of our fish because we need food too. We are running out of fish. Our parents and grandparents like to go fishing. Let's share the fish.

We like to smoke fish. You should try it someday. You should try it someday because it's yummy and good for you. It doesn't take many fish either. It doesn't take many fish because it is a small process. We also make this very sweet fish. We put brown sugar on it and bake it in the oven.

Sincerely,
Lillian Anderson
Chignik Lagoon
In 3rd Grade



March 11, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Linda Leary

Eagle River
99577



February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I am a forty-three year resident of the state of Alaska and have watched our fishing resource be managed to death. Every River on the road system from Homer to Talkeetna used to be full to the brim with fish. Now there are no fish to be caught in any river of the Susitna Valley, every river is closed to the taking of all salmon. I'm tired of the sportfisherman being totally cut off from harvesting to feed their families and the commercial fishermen are allowed to continue fishing. If you are going to close the resource to one group close the resource for all groups and allow the salmon runs to replenish.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Linda A Schmitt

Chugiak
99567



March 09, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Linda Schwanke

KENAI
99611



March 12, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please vote no on Proposition 283 and protect Kenai salmon.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Lorali Simon
Palmer
99645



February 26, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I have been spending the summer on the Kenai river for the past 15 years. Please Do not change the Kenai River plan in favor of commercial fisherman.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Lorie Crawford

Boise
83713



February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I no longer live in Alaska full time, but I was born and raised there and return every summer to spend time at my cabin in Willow and fish on the Kenai. Over the many years I lived in Alaska full time, one of the most enjoyable activities I regularly participated in was fishing for Kings in the Kenai. I would like to think that my grandson will have chances to fish for those world famous fish in the future.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk further damage to future runs by extending commercial openers that will exacerbate the problem of King Salmon by-catch.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Lorran Skinner

Burien
98166



February 23, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

My name is Lucas Noling. I was a fishing guide on the Kenai river every summer through college. I still visit from time to time. The kings on this river are amazing fish and must be protected at all costs. Please do not lower escapement goals. You are holding in your hands the last true run of king salmon with magnum genetics in the world. To do anything but protect them would be a tragedy.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Lucas Noling
Portland
97222



February 18, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

We own a home on the Kenai River and actively fish the river 9 months out of the year.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

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Thank you.
Lyndel Brady

Lyndel Brady

Sterling
99672



March 10, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

M Hausenfluke



March 08, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

We live in Kenai and have been fishing Cook Inlet water for 40 years. The sport fishery has done nothing but deteriorate under your management. It is time for serious change.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

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Mack Padgett

Kenai
99611



Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

March 10, 2022

Subject: Support Proposal 282

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

My husband is from Chignik and has fished there all his life. We have a home there and we all fish together as a family. We depend on salmon fishing for our livelihood. My oldest son is hoping to buy a boat someday so he can follow in the footsteps of his Great-Grandfather, his Grandfather, and his Dad. All 3 of my kids are trying to make enough money to pay for higher education as well. In reality, everyone in Chignik is dependent on salmon fishing in some way. The Chignik salmon fishery puts food on our table and a roof over our heads. The fishery funds the City of Chignik and thus keep the lights on in our houses and provides the fuel to heat our homes. It is the reason for Chignik's existence. Our salmon runs are essential for subsistence and commercial fishing. Our economy is built on our two sockeye runs, which have gone from historically strong to historically weak - especially the early run, which has not even reached the lower end of its escapement goal since 2017.

Proposal 282 is important to Chignik as it calls for the Shumagins and Dolgoi fishing areas to assist in our early run reaching its escapement goal. I think it's reasonable because we have 55 years' worth of data that has consistently shown Chignik-bound sockeye are caught in those areas, our early run has not reached the lower end of escapement goals since 2017, and thus far the burden of conservation has been shouldered solely by Chignik while Chignik-bound sockeye continue to be harvested in Area M.

While Chignik communities have small representation, we need you to help protect our sockeye run. Please make conservation of our early sockeye run a priority by passing proposal 282.

Thank you,

Magda Kopun



February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The Alaska fish ecosystem plays a huge role and I feel that that bill is being wreckless and not protecting wildlife.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Makinsie Davis
West Haven
84401



March 07, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please do not do anything to lower King Salmon escapement goals. The drop in numbers has had a devastating impact to sports fishing and tourism. Commercial fishing must be regulated

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Marc Walch

Soldotna
99669



February 24, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please do NOT approve Proposal 283. It's bad for King Salmon. Our Chinooks are gradually going the way of the buggy whip. I'd like to see them come back and thrive.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Margaret Nelson

Anchorage
99507



February 19, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please do everything in your powers to protect the kenai king salmon! I've never fished the Kenai for king out of a desire to see the run come back strong and thrive- please help me be part of the solution- lets leave some mighty Chinook for our great grand children!

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Maria Robinson

Anchorage
99516



February 24, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

My husband and I own Kenai river property. Approximately 20 years ago I caught my one and only king and it weighed 62 pounds bigger than anything my husband ever caught! I oppose proposition 283!

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Marjorie Newman

Eagle River
99577



February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Vote no. Save what's left of the Kings, do your job and protect the Kings.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Mark Arkens

Soldotna
99669



February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

This should never pass. We need to take care of a unique species of fish. Put fish first for all to use down the road

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Mark Cohen

Anchorage
99516



February 21, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Mark Glassmaker

Soldotna
99669



March 11, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

As 40 year user of this resource I am appalled that the once magnificent king runs will be further decimated by Proposal 283.

Alaska State constitution specifically puts resource conservation and public use before commercial harvest. Proposal 283 will put commercial harvest interests ahead of all else, primarily restoration of the gene pool of the once world famous Kenai kings.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Mark Kromrey

Chugiak
99567