

March 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5524

Attn: Art Nelson, Executive Director

Chairperson Carlson-Van Dort and Members of the Board of Fisheries,

I am writing to you on myself and my family, David, JoAnn & Daniel Wichers. We have been set netting in the Kenai District on the Eastside of Upper Cook Inlet for over 30 years. We support finding an **Emergency** on RC3, RC4 and RC33 Emergency Petitions that were submitted for consideration at this Statewide meeting. Each one of these RC's offers possible relief for the Eastside Setnet fishery the 2023 season. Each one has merit.

We are in support of the Alaska Board of Fish finding an emergency on RC 3, RC 4 and RC 33 based on the cycle change of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Upper Cook Inlet fisheries being delayed due to COVID 19.

We feel that an emergency indeed exists based on the regulatory relief that our fishery has been denied. The board could not have foreseen or expected that a pandemic that would require a drastic change in the schedule that our commercial fishing families have come to rely on with our regular board cycle. We believe that this delay will threaten a fish and game resource, potentially resulting in large sockeye over-escapement into the Kenai and Kasilof rivers as was the case in the 2021 and 2022 seasons.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important request.

Sincerely,

David, JoAnn & Daniel Wichers

Kenai, Alaska