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

**Subject: Opposition to Proposed Regulation Change in 5 AAC 55.022 Prohibiting Charter Operators and Crew from Retaining King Salmon and Rockfish**

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing to represent the voices of charter fishing operators and crew in the Seward area to express our opposition to the proposed amendment to 5 AAC 55.022, which seeks to prohibit charter captains and crew members from retaining king salmon and rockfish while clients are on board. This proposal, while aiming to address increased harvests in the North Gulf Coast/Prince William Sound, unfairly impacts local charter operators and crew members who contribute to sustainable tourism, conservation, and the local economy.

The regulation proposal cites a rise in sport harvests over the past decade, suggesting a direct correlation with charter fishing activities. However, it is essential to recognize that the sport fishing sector has already made strides to incorporate sustainable practices and adapt to previous regulations. Charter operators and crew members rely on reasonable access to local resources. With already being restricted from the retention of Halibut, this additional restriction makes it challenging for these anglers to feed themselves and provide for their families.

Prohibiting crew members from retaining personal limits while on board with clients diverges from the established ethos of fair access and undermines morale among charter crew members who are integral to the fishing experience in Alaska. This proposal does not account for the nuances in charter operations in the North Gulf Coast, where we face distinct ecological and operational circumstances compared to Southeast Alaska or Kodiak.

I urge the Board to consider alternative measures that balance conservation needs with the livelihood of those involved in the charter fishing industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our perspective. I look forward to a decision that upholds the principles of fair access and sustainable management for all involved.

Sincerely,

Chance Miller  
Port Captain, President  
Miller's Landing Inc, Seward Alaska