

From: [Gary Hollier](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: [Sen. Jesse Bjorkman](#); [Konrad Jackson](#)
Subject: SB158
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 4:17:45 PM

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I am Gary Hollier. I am a 72 year life long resident of Kenai Ak. I own and operate a multi set net permit operation in Cook Inlet. Our multi -generational family fishing business, set nets on North Kalifonsky Beach, just south of the Kenai River (stat area 244-32).

I started fishing this area in 1971. I received an original set permit for Cook Inlet in 1974, from CFEC. Our family set net operation now owns 8 permits, all held by family members. I have fished this area for 54 years.

For many years there has been legislation brought forward to the Alaska State Legislature, to help the East Side Set Net (ESSN) ,find some solutions to help our fishery remain viable.

For the better part of the last 15 years, the ESSN fishery has been under considerable duress. The biological and more so political climate, has brought our fishery to its knees.

The ESSN fishery in 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 have been declared a Federal fishing disaster. The 2024 and 2025 fishing seasons have also met the criteria to be fishing disasters.

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) to the Kenai River is 750,000-1,300,000 late run sockeye. The in-river goal, depending on the size of the run, is anywhere between 1,000,00-1,600,00 late run sockeye to the Kenai River. In 2025 the in-river sonar count was 4,200,000 million late run sockeye. This is OVER 2.5 times the in-river sonar goal.

On February 11, 2026, ADF&G issued Emergency Order # 2 closing the ESSN set gill net fishing for the 2026 season.

I urge the Members of the Senate Resources Committee to pass SB-158!

This bill is a small step, but is desperately needed to help the ESSN fishery. In making the ESSN fishery its own fishing section, it would give the 400 small business owners, in this very unique fishery, some ability to self regulate its fishery.

The Commercial Fishery Entry Commission has the authority to make these changes to the set net fishery in Cook Inlet.

Additionally there is no fiscal note to the State of Alaska, with passing of SB-158.'

I thank you for your time and efforts for serving the State of Alaska,
Please pass SB-158 out of committee.

Gary L. Hollier
Kenai Ak.

To: Members of the Alaska State Legislature

From: Dan Norman

Subject: Support for SB 158

Date: 10 FEB 2026

I am writing in support of **SB 158** and its importance to the continued viability of **commercial fisheries in the East Side Set Net (ESSN) area of Upper Cook Inlet**.

ESSN fishermen operate in one of the most highly constrained and intensively managed fisheries in the state, where conservation concerns, particularly for Kenai River Chinook salmon, have resulted in significant and repeated restrictions. SB 158 provides needed statutory support for adaptive, science-based management tools.

For ESSN permit holders, this bill represents an opportunity to improve management efficiency and explore more selective, effective harvest methods that can reduce unintended impacts while maintaining access to surplus sockeye salmon. Supporting innovation and flexibility is essential to sustaining family-owned fishing operations, preserving working waterfronts, and maintaining the economic contributions of the ESSN fishery.

SB 158 recognizes that conservation and commercial fishing are not mutually exclusive. With the right tools and oversight, Alaska can protect vulnerable stocks while allowing responsible harvest where abundance exists.

I respectfully urge your support for SB 158 and for policies that keep Alaska's commercial fisheries viable, locally managed, and conservation-focused.

Sincerely,

Dan Norman