

Timothy Clark

From: James Mykland [jl_mykland@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 8:38 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: HB 266

To Representative Edgmon,

I am strongly oppose to HB 266. I have been a commercial fishermen based out of Cordova, AK since 1974. I do not work for Alyeska, I do not have a 401K retirement plan.

Subsistence is the only priority, period. Personal use fisheries do not have more right to the State's fish resources than sports or commercial.

Thanks for your consideration,

James Mykland

PO Box 1241

121 W Davis Ave

Cordova, AK 99574

907 903 8251

Timothy Clark

From: Dennis McGuire [nelliejuan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 5:08 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: HB266

To the Special Committee for fisheries,

I am a 9-10 month resident of Cordova Alaska, and lifelong commercial fisherman. I am heavily invested in the Copper River fishery and in the town of Cordova. Most every penny I make stays in Cordova and Alaska, as I have an outside commercial building in Port Townsend, much of what I make in Washington winds up in Alaska as well. I have fished the Copper River for 30 years and have watched the fishermen of this town work closely with the Department of Fish and Game to keep the Copper River Run strong. I am appalled at HB266. I spoke with the Ak. Dept of fish and game at their booth at Fish Expo in Seattle and came away with the understanding that they really do not have the resources for proper enforcement of the upriver fisheries, albeit they do the best they can with what they have. It appears the Personal Use Fishery is growing at such an alarming pace, the River will not be able to sustain all user groups.

The Gillnet fleet is the best management tool Fish and Game has to allow the appropriate escapement upriver: We are the front gate, and The Department of Fish and Game can regulate the gate to achieve the proper representation of the run curve upriver. Please leave the status quo as is. It's been working well over all these years and will work well long into the future.

Thank you for your time,
Dennis McGuire

Timothy Clark

From: micah ess [micahfishes@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 12:17 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: Regarding HB 266: A statement of opposition.

Hello Mr. Edgmon,

My Name is Micah Ess, and I am writing to you today because I am very concerned about the ramifications of House Bill 266. I was raised on a houseboat in Prince William Sound and have spent my whole life on the water. I am now 29 years old and have had my own gillnetting operation for 6 years. I am known in my community for my unbiased view points and for not just towing the commercial fisherman's party line in issues concerning allocation and resource management. I want all residents of Alaska to have access to our resources.

That being said, I feel that HB 266 is a big step in the wrong direction. Personal Use is an important, albeit vague, allocation, and it is currently a way for many Alaskans to get fish in the freezer. Make no mistake though, this is an issue of WANT, not NEED. Subsistence users and Commercial users need to have priority access to the fish on poor run years. It is our way of life. We need to make a living. Without fishing, we have no income, and the economy suffers. Can Personal Use fishermen make that claim? No. Personal Use fishermen WANT equal access to fish stocks because it stings to be told that they can't harvest fish on poor return years. This is a sad situation and I feel for them, but it is simply not a necessity for them to harvest those fish. It is not a part of their traditional lifestyle.

Furthermore, the management of the Upper Copper River right now is non-existent, and I have heard very troubling rumors of over-harvesting and degradation of spawning areas. This situation should be looked at more closely and a proper management plan, including funding for enforcement, should be looked into. The lion's share of Copper River Fishermen are indeed Alaskan residents and many of us are 2nd and 3rd generation fishermen. I humbly ask that you take the time to properly review the motives and intentions of this proposed Bill and assess the potential for these "Personal Use" fishermen to be crusading sport-oriented fishermen who would like the River to be as full of fish as possible.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Micah Ess

Timothy Clark

From: Makena OToole [makena_otoole@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 12:42 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: House Bill 266

To whom it may concern,

My name is Makena O'Toole I am a resident of Cordova and a Copper River commercial fisherman. I am 24 years old and have a 7month old baby with my fiance. I depend on the copper river fishery for the majority of my income. I am just one of many young Alaskan fishermen starting families who depend on this resource. When you consider that permits are currently over \$100,000 and a decent boat runs about the same. Many of us will not even be able to make our payments if we lose our priority in the fishery. The people who count on this resource for survival are the subsistence and commercial users. Our communities survival depends on it. The personal use users don't NEED this resource they just want it and have more resources to try to obtain it. I hope that you will consider the communities that will be effected by this at both ends of the river.

Sincerely, Makena O'Toole

Timothy Clark

From: tim cabana [timcabana@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 8:39 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon

Be carefull here, these laws although ment to do one thing often end up with different results, Does this mean ADF&G will have to see how many PU fisherman show up and what there catch is in some faraway creek or river before managing for openers? We have the best managed fisheries in the world, watched and used as examples of good management around the globe, leave them to do there job. This seems to be aimed at the Copper River fishery and is to be taken up at the march Board of Fish meetings. Let them sort it out there instead of affecting the entire State. Thank you for your time, Tim Cabana Life time Alaskan, and Fisherman, sport personal and commercial.

Timothy Clark

From: Tom Carpenter [whiskeyridge@ctcak.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 9:01 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: Fw: hb266

----- Original Message -----

From: Tom Carpenter
To: bryce_edgmon@legis.state.ak.us
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 12:16 PM
Subject: hb266

Dear Rep. Edgmon, I write to you in opposition to HB 266. This proposed legislation would completely change the way the state manages its fisheries. This bill would circumvent the unique board of fisheries process that makes this states management system so personal to all users. Commercial fisheries are one of this states top economic forces, utilizing our natural resources and creating thousands of jobs in coastal communities. Allowing personal use fisheries to have priority over commercial fisheries would have devastating effects on all coastal communities in Alaska. Currently, in times of shortage, subsistence fisheries would have the highest priority, followed by commercial fisheries. If this bill were adopted, commercial fisheries would be curtailed, thus having a catastrophic effect in coastal communities. This would cause high levels of unemployment in an already badly damaged economy. In stead of creating divisive legislation, maybe it is finally time for the state to deal with the subsistence issue.

Sincerely, Tom Carpenter
Cordova

Timothy Clark

From: Frank Mullen [mullenf@alaska.net]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:30 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: SJR22 and HB266

Dear Rep. Edgmon;

I urge you to NOT SUPPORT SJR22 and HB266.

Both of these items are simply political grandstanding, and a continuing effort by many to displace the commercial fishing industry in the State of Alaska.

There is a fundamental concept of law at play here: The Feds (not the State) own our anadromous fish! (see: Magnuson Stevens Act) I believe Federal law prevails.

When the above concept is understood and combined with the FACT that the State of Alaska, over the years, has mismanaged fisheries (especially Cook Inlet) based on political whim rather than good fisheries science, you can see that SJR22 and HB266 are illogical and transparent attempts to gain constituent favor by the sponsors. Hmmm.. is this an election year?

Thank you,

Frank Mullen
Homer, Alaska

Timothy Clark

From: William Lindow [williamlindow@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 9:01 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: HB 266

Dear Representative Edgemon and House Special Committee for Fisheries:

I am writing in opposition of HB 266 regarding a "personal use fishing priority". This bill seeks to grant essentially the same access privileges to personal use fishermen that are currently enjoyed by subsistence fishermen under state law.

The negative impacts of this bill will chiefly be felt by the commercial and sport fisheries in those regions of the state with road accessible personal use fisheries such as the Kenai, Kasilof and Copper rivers. As a commercial and sport fisherman from Cordova, I am very dependant on my access to the salmon of the Copper River. Putting a subsistence-like priority on the personal use fisheries, will, in times of poor salmon returns, cause additional restrictions to the gillnet fleet. This will result in very significant economic hardship to all of the 500-plus permit holders, the city of Cordova, and all the other Alaskan cities where these fishermen reside.

I imagine that every Alaskan would like to qualify as a subsistence user, but I feel that this would not be just or prudent for the state to allow this. Subsistence priority should be based somehow on need rather than want, and should not be granted to all who wish for it. The negative effects to other users of the state's resources are simply too great.

I hope you will join me in opposing HB 266.
Sincerely, William Lindow
P.O. Box 1612
Cordova, AK 99574