

Timothy Clark

From: page herring [inletgirl@ctcak.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 3:22 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: HB266-OPPOSED

To: Bryce Edgmon
RE: HB266

Dear Sirs,

My name is Page Herring, I grew up in Anchorage, AK, lived in the Mat-Su for 22 years and now reside in Cordova, AK. I fish commercially in Cook Inlet at Pt. Mackenzie, which the author of this bill, Mr. Stolze, can see from his district.

The Northern District Set Net fishery is over 100 years old, is 100% Alaskan and 100% **OPPOSED** to HB 266.

The personal use fishery in Cook Inlet last year took approximately 475,000 fish. My little commercial fishery would have to fish for five seasons to equal that number

From where I (and the other set netters that sit on the beach), it looks like the personal use fishery already has a priority

Page Herring
Northern District Set Netter, Cook Inlet.
PO Box 2404, Cordova AK
907-351-5883

Timothy Clark

From: lloyd Montgomery [petdahl@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 6:47 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: Re:HB 266 ---Personal Use Priority

Dear Representative Edgmon

as one of there very few last alaskan native permit holder as a gill netter of (area e) and once a permit holder of a seine permit , never missed a season on the copper river,I have seen a lot of changes, we at one time fished from st Elias to cape suckling , that was taken from the copper river fisherman ,for some years now we have lost more area, the whole inside of the copper is not available for the copper river fisherman,and now this what has happened to the real ALASKA , the way of life for a commercial fisherman provide a very special product , for many to enjoy across the united states , come may 15 there's a lot of people looking forward to a nice RED salmon and King salmon meal , which provides income for the commercial fisherman and many of the local merchants, canneries and cannery workers.Most of all a boost to the Moral of a fisherman knowing they are feeding hundreds of people all over the world. What did we do to deserve to have our life style that We have had for many who depend on may I ask, the present system has been working now for a long time and there has been an escapement year after year , if the system is changed with no management up the copper the life cycle of the salmon will trampled on ,Thats where there will be no more returning of the salmon. so please consider not in favor of HB266 , the present fish and game has been doing a very good job in cordova alaska on management why change somethiung that is working for the best interest of all LLoyd Montgomery wasilla ak 19078413394 [petdahl@gamil.com](mailto:petdahl@gmail.com)

Timothy Clark

From: dundas@ak.net on behalf of James & Dea Dundas [dundas@ak.net]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 6:49 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: OPPOSE HB 266 Personal Use Fishing Priority

Importance: High

February 15, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon
Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol Room 424
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE HB266 Personal use Fishing Priority

Dear Representative Edgmon,

I was born and raised in Cordova and now am raising my family here. We are a commercial fishing family. I am writing to let you know we oppose HB 266- "Personal Use Fishing Priority".

My family and our community is very dependent on the commercial fishing industry. This bill would devastate our family and our community.

We oppose HB 266- Personal Use Fishing Priority.

Dea Dundas
5 Mile Loop Road Copper River Highway
PO Box 133
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907)424-5901
dundas@ak.net

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Timothy Clark

Subject: FW: Oppose HB 266

From: Dave Branshaw <davidbranshaw@gci.net>

Date: February 15, 2010 7:00:13 PM AKST

To: "bryce edgmon"@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: CDFU Rochelle van den Broek <cdfu@ak.net>, "timothy clark"@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: Oppose HB 266

Sirs,

As a 30 year Alaska resident and commercial fisherman I strongly oppose HB 266. This bill is an attempt by special interest to circumnavigate the board of fisheries process. We here in Alaska have the strongest and best managed fisheries on the planet. Our system works because it is somewhat insulated from policies. I Live in a rural community that has limited economic opportunity. Commercial fishing for salmon is our economic mainstay. Allow the board of fisheries process to run its course.

respectfully

David Branshaw
F/V Callamar
PO Box 2241
Cordova Alaska 99574

Timothy Clark

From: dundas@ak.net on behalf of James & Dea Dundas [dundas@ak.net]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 7:28 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: Oppose HB 266 Personal Use Fishing Priority

Importance: High

February 15, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon
Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol Room 424
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE HB266 Personal use Fishing Priority

Dear Representative Edgmon,

I am an Alaskan citizen and I have been Commercial Fishing out of Cordova for 30 years. I live in Cordova, a rural community and I am raising my family here. We are a commercial fishing family. I am writing to let you know we **oppose HB 266- "Personal Use Fishing Priority"**.

Cordova is very dependent on commercial fishing. Our towns economy is supported by commercial fishing. I support my family by commercial fishing. This bill would devastate our family and our community.

We **oppose HB 266- Personal Use Fishing Priority**.

James Dundas
5 Mile Loop Road Copper River Highway
PO Box 133
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907)424-5901

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Timothy Clark

From: brent davis [bdavis_ak@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 8:06 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Timothy Clark
Subject: Comments on HB266

Members of the Special Committee of Fisheries,

I urge you to oppose HB266. I am a commercial fisherman. Myself and my family live in Cordova. Our livelihood depends on a healthy salmon resource. We are blessed to have a healthy salmon resource. The Dept. of Fish and Game have done a wonderful job of managing the salmon resource. Please don't compromise the Departments' ability by legislating a personal use priority in times of scarcity. We all should share in times of abundance and share in times of scarcity. The Board of Fish is also taking up this issue in March. Why not allow them to make a qualified decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

Brent Davis
200 S. 2nd St.
PO Box 1171
Cordova, Alaska 99574
907-424-7655

Timothy Clark

From: david blount [dkblount@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 12:04 AM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: oppose HB 266

Dear Representative Clark

Please table House Bill 266. This action will allow the Board of Fisheries to settle the issue of fishing priorities. That is what the board was set up for and this system has worked well for many years. All Alaskans have a right to their fish and game when stocks are healthy. However, some people "need" to have access to these resources for their very survival. My family and community of Cordova depend on fishing for our economic survival. Many upstream people who are traditional subsistence users "need" access to these fish to survive. The "wants" of people who choose to live in cities hundreds of miles away from the resource should not take priority over these people who need access to the resource to live. Thank you for your time and consideration of my family and community's plight.

David and Donna Blount
Box 1912
Cordova AK 99574

Hotmail: Trusted email with Microsoft's powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

Timothy Clark

From: Tim & Peggy Moore [seascape@alaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 12:18 AM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: HB266

Dear Representative Edgmon:

My name is Timothy Moore and I live in Homer Alaska. I am a commercial fisherman and have participated in this endeavor around the state since 1984. I raised my four children in Alaska and three of the four still reside in Alaska with their spouses. Our entire family sport fishes the entire year and personal use fishes when the opportunity presents itself. We all enjoy the wonderful fish resources of this great state.

In regard to HB266 I would say that the legislative and political process of our state can only say one thing. No action! On many other occasions politicians have taken opportunities to sponsor Bills to in effect circumvent the Board of Fish process to change allocation of fish or game in Alaska. When this occurs sound policy should ensure that the emotional and political driven Bills that change not only the allocation of Fish and Game resources but replace the work of the Board of Fish should be avoided.

After participating and observing many Board of Fish meetings that require days and days of work by the Board, I would think that the legislature would carefully consider taking on allocation decisions of Fish and Game.

I chose to not discuss the merits of HB266 because I believe it is more important for the Board of Fish process to be maintained and for this reason HB266 should see no consideration.

Sincerely,
Timothy J. Moore
PO Box 1646
Homer, Alaska

Timothy Clark

From: cliffw@att.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 6:09 AM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: HB266

Cliff Ward
204 1st. St
Cordova, AK 99574
(907)424-5188
cliffw@att.net

2/16/2010

Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Special committee on fisheries
State Capitol Rm. 421
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Sir,

I'm writing in opposition to HB266 as a resident subsistence resource user and commercial fisherman of the river w/it's terminus closest my town. I'm also a supporting member of CDFU and agree with it's submitted statement of opposition.

I'd like to point out however that Cordova and other communities of PWS not only have traditionally relied on the resources in our midst but have a proven track record of defending the eco-systems that help the state to sustain their continued health in abundance . Cordova our other neighbors in the Sound are on constant call to respond to oil spills, the EVOS being 1st case in point. We are first responders in that regard and are striving to win citizen oversight of the ailing 31+year old 900 mile long Trans Alaska Pipeline....that transits many areas that could drain into tributaries of the Copper River...should there be a rupture and spill. Prevention is key to all user groups' well-being and continued access.

Traditional use of resources should remain unchanged to enable continued protection of the State's resources and help enable ADF&G it's highest level of management.

Changing personal use access now for more urban residents that may move to the state is not sound management practices.

Thank you for all your good work and consideration.

Sincerely,
Cliff Ward

Timothy Clark

From: Diane Wiese [windybay@ctcak.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 7:53 AM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: Re: HB 266

On Feb 8, 2010, at 5:29 PM, Diane Wiese wrote:

> To Timothy Clark
> I live at 6.5 mi, Copper River HWY Cordova, AK. Born and raised in
> Cordova and grew up on a commercial fishing boat with my parents
> fishing for salmon. We also subsistence fished halibut, clams and
> salmon. As a local user of salmon for subsistence and a commercial
> fisher, I oppose HB 266. The thought that a personal use fishery could
> be given priority over commercial and sport fishing doesn't set with
> me well. We already have a federaly mandated subsistence fishery that
> kicks into play in the time of need and is followed by a state
> subsistence fishery that reins priority over PU, sportfish and
> commercial. I believe that in the time of shortage there won't be
> enough to allow a PU fishery and achieve the goals of subsistence and
> salmon spawning escapement. The timing of reporting requirements of
> fish catches in a personal use fishery could easily wipe out a run of
> wild salmon before ADFG would be able to respond to catch data. I
> don't believe the PU fishery has been denied fishing oppertunity in
> the past so why should they be given any priority status? Our
> community primarily relies on commercial fishing as a source of income
> and a large number of commercial fishermen are Alaskans. We also have
> a large number of young people that are either directly involved or
> indirectly involved in the commercial fisheries that help to put
> themselves through collage and other avenues that guide them through
> life. I don't think the PU fishery will suffer a great loss when this
> bill is denied for they will travel to where ever the larger runs of
> fish are entering!
> Thank you for your time.
> JOHN P. WIESE

Timothy Clark

From: newirth@ak.net on behalf of Fred Newirth [newirth@ak.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 8:14 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Cc: Timothy Clark
Subject: HB 266

Dear Rep. Bryce Edgmon, i strongly oppose HB 266. i have been living and commercial fishing in cordova since 1976. i have raised 2 children here. cordova and other coastal towns depend solely on comm. fishing. subsistence should have the only priority over comm, personal use , or sports in time of shortages. sincerely, fred newirth, p.o. box 1102, # 4 blacksheep dr. cordova, ak. 99574 907-424-7670

Timothy Clark

From: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 10:28 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: FW: Oppose HB266

From: Chris & Vicki Johnson [mailto:mofish@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 7:48 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: Oppose HB266

February 15, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon
Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: House Bill 266 – Personal Use Fishing Priority

Dear Representative Edgmon and House Special Committee for Fisheries,

I am writing to oppose House Bill 266, which gives personal use fisheries priority over sport and commercial fisheries. I am a commercial fisherman, as were my father and his father. I have fished the Copper River since 1982. I hope that one of my sons will be able to keep our family tradition alive by participating in what is a traditional fishery.

The participants of the commercial fishery support the economies of Cordova, Chenega, Valdez, and many other towns and villages across Alaska. The economic damage that would be caused by creating a personal use priority is not justified. True subsistence does, and should have priority, but it should not be expanded to include what is basically a sport fishery.

The Board of Fish is where this issue should be resolved and they are scheduled to address it at their next round of hearings. Please let them do their job and table House Bill 266.

Respectfully,

Chris Johnson
PO Box 1665
711 6th Ave.
Space #1
Cordova, AK 99574

Timothy Clark

From: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 10:28 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: FW: HB #266

From: Bill Bailey [mailto:fvshiloh@copperriverseafood.com]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 7:59 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Cc: Rochelle van den Broek
Subject: HB #266

Dear Rep. Edgemon,

I am writing this letter in opposition of House Bill #266. To give the Personal use Fishery priority over the Commercial Fishery would be an economic blow, not only to the State, but all the Coastal Communities and their residents, that depend on the Commercial Fisheries in one way or another. This bill was brought on to the floor by a group of people that want access to more salmon, not because they need them to survive, but for the sport of doing it. In saying this, I believe that the personal Use Fishery is, and should be classified as a sport fishery, and should follow under those rules and regulations. Subsistence and Commercial Fisheries should have preference over all other user groups. Personal Use fisherman do not depend on the fishery to pay their bills and support a family. Once again it is a question of want not need, and little economic gain to the State of Alaska. I have lived in Alaska for 64 years, I am a Subsistence user, a Commercial Fisherman, and one of the owners of a fish processing plant called Copper River Seafood Inc. If you really want to help, lets pass a Bill that would generate more money for the Department of Fish and Game to better manage the fishery, which is why we have them. Thank you for the opportunity to speak out against this Bill.

Thank You,

Bill Bailey III

Vice President
Director of Value Added Products
300 Cannery Row
Cordova, AK 99574
Ph: 907-424-3721 Fax: 907-424-7435
Cell: 907-253-7652
bbailey@CopperRiverSeafood.com
www.CopperRiverSeafood.com



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Timothy Clark

From: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 10:28 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: FW: HB266

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

From: mwei@xyz.net [mailto:mwei@xyz.net]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 9:35 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: HB266

Dear Sir,

My father started commercial fishing the Copper River and Prince William Sound in 1966, I grew up fishing with him starting 39 years ago, and currently own purse seine and gillnet operations in PWS and Copper River. My three sons also grew up fishing with me and all currently have their own gillnet operations, they want to be commercial fishermen for the rest of their lives. We, as a family, are fully invested and committed to the fisheries that would be affected negatively by HB266.

Subsistence users have and always should have priority over personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries. This bill seeks to give preferential treatment to one non-subsistence user group over others in times of shortfall in fish runs. Unless personal use is reclassified as subsistence use, it(personal use) is no more or less deserving than sport or commercial fishing in times of run shortages.

To my knowledge, when I started fishing 39 years ago the personal use fishery did not exist, certainly not in its current form or at anywhere near its current volume. I am amazed that these relative 'newcomers' would attempt to secure for themselves a priority that should only be reserved for historical and traditional users, residents of the river drainage who have truly subsisted for generations on the fish of the Copper River.

I strongly oppose HB266, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has proven to me that for the past 27 years that I have fished the Copper River on my own, they are fully capable of managing this river system very well, in fact it has been the most stable red salmon fishery in the state that I know of. The Copper River has consistently experienced escapement numbers well in excess of the maximum sustained yield escapement guidelines established by the Board of Fish and ADF&G biologists.

In 2008 the commercial fleet caught an extremely small amount of red salmon in the Copper River fishery and yet escapement still exceeded guidelines by a generous amount. I was returning from a sheep hunt on August 16th of 2008, and was amazed to see dozens of photographs at the Glenallen tourist information center of groups of people displaying limits of red salmon all of which were caught in the previous two days. The information center was advertising the great fishing as still in progress... this occurred even while commercial fishermen recorded their lowest catch in decades. The point is that even in times of shortage, the fisheries managers at ADF&G did a good job of making sure that escapement for the future was not jeopardized by the commercial fleet. And for any who were willing to make the trip to the upper Copper River in August, there was an abundance to harvest, that according to the Glenallen information center.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Tutt

Steve Tutt, Eric, Joel, and Colten Tutt

P.O. Box 1105
Homer, Ak. 99603

Timothy Clark

From: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 10:28 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: FW: HB266

From: Danny Carpenter [mailto:ambergris905@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 9:09 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: HB266

Dear Rep. Edgmon and House Special Committee for Fisheries,

I am corresponding with you today in opposition to HB 266. I've resided in Cordova and owned and operated a commercial driftnet operation for 25 years. Cordova has depended on commercial fishing for over 100 years and after the Exxon Valdez oil spill we were especially dependent on the Copper River gillnet fishery for almost a decade.

My biggest concern with HB 266 is that this legislation does away with subsistence fishing by giving every resident in the state the same access that the current subsistence groups have. I support the subsistence fishery as it currently is managed, but there will be no end to the problems created by the unlimited subsistence this bill will create.

If you look at the management of the Copper River fishery it has been one of the most stable, best managed fisheries in Alaska based on consistent escapement. In 2008 the commercial fishery was closed for 3 weeks to insure adequate escapement on the Copper. This was a hardship for the commercial fleet, but we understood that upriver escapement for stable returns was most important. Incidentally the personal use limits were increased that season due to over escapement due to this closure.

This legislation will undermine the current Board of Fish process by legislating allocation, involve the Feds by giving subsistence to any and every state resident rural and urban, create insurmountable obstacles to management for Fish and Game, and most likely destroy an economic sector that cannot drive from fishery to fishery like the current personal use fisherman due to area restrictions and limited entry. Do you really want to put more people out of work in this economy, especially many folks that have significant state loans on boats and permits?

I think all Alaska residents have a right to adequate access of fish and game. I also think this bill will create many more problems than it will solve and that the regular Board of Fish method of proposals and hearings is a much better way of dealing with these matters. One last thing. When was the last time that there were not adequate fish for all upriver users and are there currently any truly accurate numbers for the upriver take on Copper River salmon?

Respectfully, Danny Carpenter
507 4th Street
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Timothy Clark

From: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 10:29 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: FW: Personal use fishery

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

From: westwind@ak.net [mailto:westwind@ak.net]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 9:55 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: Personal use fishery

I am a commercial fisherman from Cordova whose livelihood depends on the Copper River salmon. My family depends on the modest income I receive from fishing the "flats" and also from the fish I bring home to fill the freezer to feed my family.(less than 30) The whole town of Cordova has been relying on the Copper River for its livelihood since the early days of its' history. You might say our community subsists on the Copper River and its' wonderful supply of salmon. The fishery has a direct impact on me and my family's life so please consider us and do not place personal use ahead of us in order of importance. It would have very negative effects on the economy of many families and businesses of Cordova. Thank you for your consideration. Erik Kokborg, po box 1754, Cordova, Alaska. 99574.