

**From:** David C. Wartinbee [<mailto:IFDCW@kpc.alaska.edu>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:34 PM  
**To:** Louie Flora  
**Subject:** comment on HB 85

29 Mar 2011

Representative Paul Seaton  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK

Dear Representative Seaton:

I am writing this short note to add my support for House Bill 85 that is being commented-upon today. Mixing zones are a terrible idea at any time of year for any stream and most even worse they are a terrible idea in streams with spawning salmon. I whole heartedly support House Bill 85 that will prevent mixing zones in any freshwater spawning area.

We know that salmon eggs are very vulnerable to pollutants contained in waste water discharges. Those pollutants may be toxic compounds or perhaps simply fine particulates that clog the hyporheic areas of a stream. The hyporheic area of a stream is the area below the stream bottom surface that has water running through the gravels. These spaces below the stream bottom are where the salmon eggs are resting throughout the winter months. Within this area they are developing into Alevins and then into Fry. These life stages are also particularly vulnerable to pollutants or sedimentation so even when spawning ceases, for many months the young salmon are still there and still at risk. We must not allow this risk to the young salmon.

Remember that salmon are a major economic engine for the State of Alaska. We must protect these young salmon when they are at their most vulnerable state. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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