

## **Lynne Smith**

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**From:** Jimmie Jack's Alaska Lodge <jimmiejack@jimmiejackfishing.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2013 4:12 PM  
**To:** Sen. Peter Micciche  
**Cc:** 'Jim Drath'  
**Subject:** SR 5

Dear Senator Micciche,

I support HR 6 and SR 5.

Chinook salmon is critical to subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries, and a major contributor to the economy and culture of Alaska.

As a (commercial halibut fisherman, charter operator, sport salmon fisherman, subsistence fisherman, consumer of salmon, etc.)

I strongly support reductions in Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries.

Chinook salmon have declined severely throughout Alaska: commercial fishery failures and disasters were declared for the Upper Cook Inlet, Yukon River and Kuskokwim River. While by-catch isn't the only cause of the decline, it's critical that we reduce all sources of mortality on our prized Chinook salmon.

· We have operated a charter business/lodge in Kenai for over 18 years. The Kenai River king salmon fishery used to be world class when I was growing up in the early 1980's. I remember as a kid there were so many kings in the river we could catch them with no bait, and we did not have to have any expertise, or put in 8 hours! Now I send 4 guide boats out daily in July, and we get 1-3 kings in 8 hours. It is very sad to me and my family, but if we continue doing things the same way, we will kill the LARGE Kenai River king salmon. Oh we will have kings, but we may not have the big ones.

· Now the Kenai River only has a world class size king salmon that is so hard to catch that typical peak season bookings are way down from historical numbers. For example, the month of July has historically been the peak of large Kenai River kings with a large run. Currently, August silver salmon bookings are just as strong as July, while in the past July would have been filled first.

· This is the first year that I have had guests bring up the fact that the July returns are down, and through the media they are aware that the Kenai River king run is struggling. One group the other day, was deciding between Mexico and Alaska, and opted for Mexico for better fishing, and a lower price. We will never beat Mexico on price, so we should ensure we offer a quality sport fishery.

All other users have to reduce their harvest to conserve Chinook salmon in years of low returns, the trawl fisheries must do the same.

The Council's actions have a direct impact on the state of our salmon returns: it's critical that the State of Alaska plays a leading role in advocating for by-catch reductions.

Fish for fun,

Jimmie Jack

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