

# Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

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March 29, 2013

Alaska State Legislature  
House Fisheries Committee  
Representative Paul Seaton, Chair  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99811

## **RE: Oppose HB 98**

Dear Chairman Seaton and Fisheries Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) is a diverse group of over 100 commercial fishermen and businesses operating primarily in Southeast Alaska. Our members provide millions of meals to the public annually by participating in a variety of fisheries statewide including salmon, herring, halibut, cod, crab, black cod, shrimp, and dive fisheries. PVOA appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 98.

**PVOA is opposed to HB 98.** While PVOA would likely be opposed to this legislation, as currently written, were it to be presented as a proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, our main disagreement with this bill is because this issue should be taken up by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, not the Alaska State Legislature.

The Board of Fisheries was established for the purpose of the conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state and, as such, is the regulatory body best qualified to consider the merits of establishing technical definitions, procedures and protocols for determining sustainable salmon escapement goals. The Alaska Board of Fisheries process is uniquely designed for thoroughly vetting the technical aspects of proposals affecting the State's fisheries resources, specifically by having Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists and other technical experts present at all meetings to address those technical aspects. Unless the Legislature is going to dedicate the same amount of time and effort to duplicate or replace the duties of the Board of Fisheries we respectfully request that you do not move HB 98 out of the Fisheries Committee and allow this issue to be addressed and acted upon by the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If we can provide further information or answer any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Brian Lynch  
Executive Director