



Alaska Trollers Association

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March 16, 2015

Representative Bryce Edgmon
State Capitol Room 410
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: SUPPORT HB 128 Alaska Wild Salmon Day

Dear Representative Edgmon:

Thank you for introducing HB 128 Alaska Wild Salmon Day – to be sure, this is a special occasion day that's long overdue in our great state!

What could be more natural (if not down-right wild) than for Alaska, the biggest salmon state-nation on the planet, to set aside one special day each year to honor the fabulous genus *Oncorhynchus*? Our member's resounding response is certain to be – 'not much'.

ATA represents Alaska's commercial troll fleet, one of the largest groups of salmon harvesters in the state. The troll fleet is 85% resident; about one of every 35 people in Southeast works on a trolling vessel and is supported by hundreds of other Alaskans working in the processing and support sectors. The success of our fleet and industry relies heavily on the health and welfare of salmon. In turn, residents throughout the state (even if they don't know it) benefit from the salmon revenue that flows through their communities in multiple ways and pays for a wide range of goods and services. This would simply not be possible if not for the humble - yet mightily impressive - salmon.

This is a Chinook and coho bill if ever we saw one – and who doesn't like kings, or silver? We urge you and your peers to vote HB 128 quickly through committee and straight on to the governor's desk. Mr. Walker will no doubt be pleased to honor in this way the great and storied salmon, which have fed and clothed generations of Alaskan's, while bringing significant joy, jobs, and revenue to each of our communities.

Best regards,

Dale Kelley
Executive Director