

March 28, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate Resource Committee
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99811
Email: Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

RE: PVOA Oppose SB42-Personal Use Fishing Priority

Dear Chair Giessel and Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association is composed of almost 100 members participating in a wide variety of species and gear type fisheries. An additional thirty businesses supportive to our industry are members. Our members fish throughout Alaska from Southeast to the Bering Sea. Targeted species include salmon, herring, halibut, sablefish, cod, crab, and shrimp.

PVOA's mission statement is to:

"Promote the economic viability of the commercial fishing fleet in Petersburg, promote the conservation and rational management of North Pacific resources, and advocate the need for protection of fisheries habitat."

As our mission statement reads, PVOA's main focus is on the conservation and management of our states fishery resources. **Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association is opposed to SB 42 – Personal Use Fishing Priority.** We believe all three user groups; subsistence, personal, and commercial need to work together to ensure the continuance of our fisheries resources. All three groups need to share in the burden of conservation through fair allocations.

It is the state mandated obligations of the Alaska Board of Fisheries to allocate Alaska fishery resources amongst the three user groups. The Board is made up of representatives of all three-user groups in order to ensure balanced policies are formed. This legislation would gift priority to personal users and restrict the Board of Fisheries ability to fulfill their obligations. It would also restrict the Alaska Department of Fish and Games ability to manage and sustain fisheries through science based management.

Personal use fish is an important aspect of the livelihood of Alaskans. PVOA supports allocations going to this important user group. However, SB42 could reduce the economies and jobs that have traditionally been available to the commercial and sport user group. The Board of Fisheries works hard to maintain a balance between the needs of subsistence, personal use, and commercial every cycle. This legislation would

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eliminate the balance between the three groups created by the educated efforts of the Board members.

In closing, the Board of Fisheries is already charged with the concerns of allocating subsistence, personal use and commercial fish and has been very successful at their job. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan O'Neil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan O'Neil
Executive Director

cc: Senator Stedman
Representative Kreiss-Tomkins