

April 1, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801
Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

RE: OPPOSE SB 42, PERSONAL USE PRIORITY

Dear Senator Giessel and committee members,

I participate in all types of fisheries in the State of Alaska. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 42. All Alaskans have the opportunity to share in the abundance of our fishery resources and when, at times, they are not as bountiful, all Alaskans must share in the burden of conservation.

SB 42 is divisive among all Alaskans who participate in any or all of the various types of fisheries. This bill would upset the balance currently in place and unnecessarily remove needed management tools for area biologists. The language contained in the Bill is vague and if passed there would certainly be unintended consequences.

Please vote no on SB 42.

Sincerely,
Paul Warner
Sterling AK 99672

I oppose SB 42. I'm Marty Remund p.o. box 8147 Port Alexander, AK. 99836. I'm a 42 year AK. resident, commercial, personal use, subsistence, and sport fisherman. All harvestors need to be responsible for the health of AK. fish resources. Sincerely, Marty Remund

My name is Diana Riedel, I live at 305 Observation Ave Cordova , AK 99574, and I oppose SB 42. I was born and raised in Cordova and have been an Alaskan resident for 32 years. I have been commercial fishing for 25 years, since i was 7 years old. Commercial fishing is how my family makes a living, and is able to keep its roots in our hometown.

In addition to commercial fishing our family also fishes for subsistence and sport. My two daughters ages 9 and 7 months old love eating salmon. It is by far the most cooked food in our family. As a commercial harvester and subsistence harvester my needs for salmon are adequately met.

This action pits Alaskans against Alaskans at the expense of our fishing resources. All harvesters need to be equally responsible for the health of Alaskas fishing resources, this includes sharing the burden of conservation.

Thank you,

Diana R Riedel

March 31, 2015

Dear Chairman Giessel and Committee Members:

I am writing as a longtime resident of Cordova, AK and fourth generation Copper River / Prince William Sound commercial fisherman. My family has resided in Cordova, AK and has depended on the robust commercial fisheries on the Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound in South Central Alaska since 1896.

The Board of Fish process and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game management tools are working. Moving SB 42 forward will greatly impact the rural and urban communities and their residents whose livelihoods and way of life depend upon the economic viability of the commercial fisheries; sustainability is of their utmost concern.

Personal Use needs to remain as what its initial intention was for under 5 AAC 77 --- to be allowed when that taking does not jeopardize the sustained yield of a resource and either does not negatively impact an existing resource use or is in the broad public interest. (pg. 81 of ADF&G 2013-2014 Subsistence and Personal Use Statewide Fisheries Regulations)

I also support CDFU's testimony written on March 20, 2015 regarding the organization and its memberships **OPPOSITION** to SB 42.

Thank you all for your service to the Great State of Alaska and please **OPPOSE** SB 42.

Sincerely,

Eric Carleton Lian
Cordova, AK 99574

The Alaska Salmon Alliance (ASA) wishes to provide additional new technical information on the impacts of SB 42, Personal Use Priority for the Senate Resources Hearing, April 1, 2015.

- Implementation of SB 42, would be complex and impose significant costs for ADFG and the Board of Fisheries, as there are over 120 fisheries throughout the State with FMPs that would need to be changed.
- Significant economic impacts and disruption to Southcentral Alaska commercial fisheries are anticipated with further restrictive allocations and regulatory instability that will arise with Legislative approval of SB 42.
- Southcentral Alaska is home to over 2,300 Alaska residents that are commercial salmon permit holders that depend for their livelihoods on salmon and longline fisheries of cod and halibut.

New information soon to be published shows there are a total of 3,400 Anchorage and MatSu Borough workers directly employed in the commercial fisheries of Alaska, and 2,900 comparable FTE workers, at an average salary of \$49,500. The payroll in the region, derived from these fisheries is closely estimated at \$150 million per year, based on 2013 data.

For the Southcentral AK region as a whole, inclusive of the Kenai Peninsula, Cordova, Valdez, Anchorage and MatSu, there are 11,600 workers in fishing, processing, support companies and government employees, with an equivalent of 8,000 FTE jobs, and a total payroll of \$430 million.

Arni Thomson

Executive Director

Alaska Salmon Alliance

www.aksalmonalliance.org

Kenai and Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Chair Giessel and committee members,

My name is Clay Bezenek, and I live in Ketchikan Alaska. I am a 33 yr commercial fisherman.

My son graduated from the U of Idaho a couple years ago, and also bought into the drift gillnet fishery here. This letter represents our common interests, and the interests of one daughter who crews with us in the summer, paying for HER college education.

We OPPOSE SB 42.

In these times of everybodys budgets getting hit, why in the world would a bill like this be proposed anyway??

Proposed by a rail-belter, AGAIN, that really is about Cook Inlet problems, real or percieved.

Sorry to disappoint, the salmon world doesnt revolve around that little muddy inlet, neither should
FLAWED laws that will affect the real salmon producing areas of the State!!!!

The author, and anyone else who even half-way believes this law is meaningful or necessary, should get
to work on REAL issues.

Leave the management of the coasts resources to the coasts, and the people whos livlyhoods depend on
them!!!

Manage the Moose and the Oil!

Thanks for your time.

Clay Bezenek

Ketchikan, Ak

Please know that I oppose sb42, the personal use priority bill. I am a 24 year Alaska resident and
commercial salmon fish for a living and think this bill will be detrimental to my livelihood. Please do
what you can to oppose it. Thank you, R. Scott Bottoms

Senator,

First, thank you for your work in our district and for the state.

I'm writing to urge you to oppose SB 42. (Personal use priority bill).

I have lived and worked in Seward for most of my life. Making a living through thick and thin as a
commercial fisherman for 30 years, has been my main source of income to support my family. This bill
jeopardizes small businesses, not just mine and other fishing families but also the businesses that
support the fishing industry in many coastal communities, such as mechanical and gear suppliers,
shippers big and small, processors big and small and all their workers, welders, mechanics, boatyard
businesses and their workers, net builders, along with other general small businesses in these coastal
communities that depend the fishing fleet and all the workers from the related businesses that support
their business. The communities' tax base derived from the fishing industry is also jeopardized and with
fiscal issues in out state government as they are, this is no time to threaten the financial health of these
small communities even more. Fish runs will always fluctuate, and in times of smaller runs, all users
groups need to be equally responsible for the health of the resource.

This bill is anti-industry, anti-resource development and most of all anti-small business and anti-family.
Please vote NO.

Thank you,

Tom Missel

Seward

April 1, 2015

Dear Chairman Giessel and Committee Members:

I oppose SB 42 sponsored by Senator Stoltze. I am a lifelong resident of Alaska and subsistence user. This will be
my 6th season running my own commercial fishing operation. Senate Bill 42, titled the Alaskans First Fishing Act
seeks to reallocate an already fully allocated resource to Personal Use Fisherman. Alaska's fisheries are complex
and allocation is already considered by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, which has been regulating fisheries allocation
since statehood. There is no need for the legislature to do the job of the Board Of Fisheries.

The Board of Fisheries created personal use fisheries in 1982 so Alaska residents could harvest salmon when there was an available surplus of fish. There are ample opportunities for Personal Use fisherman to go fishing in various locations around the State of Alaska. It is not subsistence fishing, but a valuable opportunity that Alaskans are lucky to have when extra fish are available.

If SB 42 is enacted, it gives Personal Use fisherman an economic priority over commercial fisheries. Many Alaskan families rely on commercial fishing for their primary income. These jobs are very important, especially in rural areas where other work opportunities are scarce. This is very evident in my community of Cordova. The commercial fishing dollars made in waters here and in other coastal communities like it, fuel local economy as well as major hubs like Anchorage.

The danger of SB 42 is not when fisheries are strong, but when there is a conservation concern. Weaker runs are times that Alaskan families that rely solely on commercial fisheries especially need the income. This is also the time that SB 42 wishes to take our income away by putting personal use fisherman as a higher priority than commercial fisherman in times of shortage. Conservation should be shared by all user groups, and that is how Alaska's fisheries are currently structured. We have the best managed fisheries in the world.

Our Alaska Department of Fish and Game and our Board of Fisheries are working hard to keep our fisheries strong. Let's leave the job of fisheries management and allocation to those already tasked with it.

Sincerely,



Mike Mickelson
Cordova, AK

Cathy

As a 30 year alaskan that utilizes Alaskas natural resources we can not afford to put the management of them in the hands of the voters. Too many people are only interested in their immediate gratification. It is unfortunate but that is todays reality. This leads to ballot box biology which is not best for the resource. We need to keep management priorities(as much as it pains me to say it) to fish and game and their biologist.

I am a personal use person but too many people misrepresent recreation for personal use. Way too many resources rot in peoples freezers. Let fish and game decide when there is enough for that to happen. Not a person who only thinks about salmon when they are killing them or eating them. Resource management is a year around, long term science not a weekend warrior. Please consider what is best for the resource first and foremost. Bruce Petska Homer Ak

Hi my name is Dennis Reutov and I am a commercial fisherman from Wasilla,ak. I commercial fish for salmon in the prince William sound and the copper river flats. I have been fishing for 12 years and my father and grandfather have been commercial fishing for over 35 years. That is the only source of income that we have so we try an make the best of it every year. So I strongly oppose the bill SB 42, the personal use priority bill. Thank you

Cathy, I live in Hoonah and fish PWS. I strongly oppose SB 42.

Thank you,

Tom Hlavnicka

Hoonah, Ak 99829

Why do they think they deserve to catch the fish not use em ,I see them rotting in garbage dumps in the spring time. After sitting in the freezer not being used ,they just get the thrill of catching but not using any of it ,the other thing I think is ...25 fish per head house hold is way to much. That needs to be stopped. Pu ,have everything on their side. What more do they want. Stop sb42 is what I'm saying. And they call the commercial. Fishermen greedy. Talk about greed from matsu Seems like making a penny to feed your children is not priority. But dumping yur fish in the dumpster is. Do everything you can in your power to stop this nonsense. Nick. F/v. Reliance

My Name is Kenneth Carlson. I Live at 2172 Stanford Dr. Anchorage, AK. 99508. I am in Senate district I . I am in house district 17.

I oppose SB 42 The Personal Use Priority bill.

I am a Alaska Resident. I have been a commercial fisherman for forty years . Fishing contributes a significant amount to our family's income. My fishing business is based out of Cordova which greatly depends on commercial fishing.

Thank you, Kenneth Carlson

As an avid fly fisherman, personal use participant and commercial fisherman my entire life - PLEASE OPPOSE SB 42.

This bill is reckless, divisive and problematic. There is ample opportunity to obtain fish, but this bill could effectively destroy the balance of fisheries, livelihoods and communities

Respectfully, Brent Western - Anchorage

Senator Giessel,

As one of your constituents and an avid fly fisherman, personal use participant and commercial fisherman for my entire life — I request that you OPPOSE SB 42.

This bill is truly reckless, divisive and will only create more problems within our management plans. These management plans already provide for escapements and in-river users that are more than adequate, often excessively exceeding goals. The opportunity to obtain fish for the general public is wide spread and abundant, but this bill could effectively destroy the balance of fisheries, livelihoods and communities across the state.

The sponsors of this bill have an agenda that is not in the best interest of the state as a whole and I urge you NOT to support it.

I could speak more to this bill, but understand all our time is valuable, thank you for yours.

Respectfully,

Brent M. Western

13021 Montego Circle

Anchorage, AK 99516

Senator Giessel and Resource Committee Members,

I OPPOSE SB 42 the Personal Use Priority Bill

I was born in Cordova, AK. In 1957. I am an Alaskan resident and have commercial fished in PWS for over 48 years. My mother and father were also commercial fishermen, who raised there 6 children, working with them on their family fishing operation. Commercial fishing and living a Subsistence lifestyle was and still is a way of life for many coastal communities. I've raised 2 sons who fished with me while growing up. One is a commercial fishermen that lives in Anchorage with his wife and daughter. The other lives in Cordova and works for the ADFG on a research vessel. They both live a Personal Use , Commercial, and subsistence life style by harvesting fish and game to help supplement their income.

Commercial fishing is the main source of income for Cordova and like many other coastal communities, the city, relies on taxes from commercial fishing to operate school and city operations. Our city received 1.4 million in Commercial Fishing business and landing taxes and Commercial Fishing created 4.4 million in resident fish processing wages. Doesn't look like a great time to disrupt a renewable resource while oil revenues are plummeting!

I am a Personal Use, Sport, Commercial and Subsistence user. This bill parts Alaskans against Alaskans, because most Personal Use harvesters have there needs met currently. In Dec. 2015 the BOF gave Personal Use fishermen a 25% increase of fish allocation in Upper Copper river while leaving the Subsistence allocation the same. It is the only place in the state where the Personal Use allocation is higher that the subsistence allocation. How can that make sense when you have a lesser prioritized fishery receiving a larger share than a higher prioritized fishery. Something stinks and I am sure its not the fish! All users groups need to be equally responsible for the health of the Alaskan fishing resources.

The Management Plan now being used by ADFG is working in most places and has been working for many years. The primary goal of the Management Plan is to protect the sustained yield of the states fishery resources while at the same time provide equitable distribution of the available harvest between the various users.

Similar attempts have been made to over-prioritize the Personal Use fisheries have been voted down in the past and is the right thing to do because the Personal Use has really not suffered for its needs.

Senate Bill 42 has the ability to destroy rural communities and their families who depend on commercial fish for a way of life and a major source of income.

PLEASE VOTE NO on SB 42

Thank you for your time:

JOHN P. WIESE

Melissa DeVaughn

Eagle River, AK 99577

Dear Chair Giessel and Committee Members, April 1, 2015

I am a resident of Alaska, a commercial fisherman and my family takes part in the personal-use fishery. I oppose SB 42.

My small, family-owned fishing business supports my family and the many people with whom we work in the course of doing business. This includes fish buyers, truck drivers, mechanics, cannery workers and the owners and staff of the stores and markets where we shop throughout the salmon season.

My business also helps to provide salmon to the vast majority of Alaskans who do not take part in the personal-use fishery by selling to processors who provide salmon to Alaska restaurants and markets.

Under the current ADF&G management plans, personal use already has a priority when there is a shortfall of fish, and to set in statute a personal-use priority will reduce ADF&G's ability to manage fisheries. It would also remove the Board of Fisheries' ability to set allocations based on science and public input. The intent of the Board of Fisheries in establishing personal-use fisheries is clear in 5ACC 77.001 (4) (b), which states "...allowed when that taking does not jeopardize the sustained yield of a resource and either does not negatively impact an existing resource use or is in the broad public interest."

I support personal-use fisheries – as I said, my family takes part in the personal-use fishery. However, the fishery must stand on equal footing with sport and commercial fisheries. That way, all users will share in the responsibly of conservation.

Establishing a personal-use priority pits Alaskans against Alaskans, does

not guarantee that fish will be in the rivers when people want to catch them and does not consider sound science above all else. I urge you to leave the prioritization of fishery allocations to the Board of Fisheries, and the sustainable management of fisheries resources within ADF&G.

Sincerely,

Melissa DeVaughn Hall

Chugiak, Alaska

Senator Giessel-

My Name is Paul Hearn from Cordova, AK and I urge you to oppose SB42. The State has a clear recognition of the subsistence priority already and this bill seeks to change that. There is no need to revisit this again. Thank you...

Paul Hearn

March 31, 2015

Dear Senator Giessel and Senate Resource Committee Members,

I strongly urge you to vote in OPPOSITION to SB 42, the Personal Use Priority Bill. In my decade as a resident of Alaska, I have made a living commercial fishing (as a seiner in Kodiak waters and a halibut longliner in 3A), I have regularly enjoy sport fishing throughout the state, and I have also participated in personal use fisheries (Kasilof gillnetting, China Poot dipnetting). My wife is a lifelong Alaskan, grew up in a fishing family, and holds a M.S. in Fisheries from UAF. We have experienced firsthand the value of each of these fishing 'sectors', as individuals, for our young and growing family, for our community of Homer, and for the entire state of Alaska. However, to prioritize personal use fisheries over commercial and sport fisheries seems unwise, unfair, and harmful at all of these scales. I fully support prioritizing subsistence fisheries over commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries; however personal use fishing should never be confused or associated with subsistence fishing- the two are completely different, and should be treated as such.

My family and I support fisheries management that seeks to maintain healthy fish returns and robust marine ecosystems for the long term. Our entire family income and much of our table fare and recreational enjoyment relies on good management. We expect all fishing sectors to cooperate in effective and equitable management. The burden of good fisheries management should be shared between fishing groups- this should be a united cause, and not a divisive quarrel pitting Alaskans against Alaskans.

As a resident and active fisherman, I thank you for your service and ask you to vote against SB 42.

Sincerely,

Brad and Katie Marden
Midnight Sun Seafoods, LLC

Senator Giessel,

Firstly, Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on sb42. I strongly oppose sb42. It is arrogant and irresponsible for Senator Stoltz to tamper with a management regime that has successfully and sustainably ensured access to our State's fisheries resources for all user groups and all Alaskans, regardless of how we choose to procure them. It's outrageous to suggest that those choosing to harvest with a dipnet should not share the burden of conservation with those harvesting with a fishing pole or

those who prefer to buy a fish from the market. This bill will not benefit the majority of Alaskans. I urge you to ask the DFG during committee what Maximum Sustained Yield management means, what is the role of commercial fleet in MSY management, and how meddling with the management regime in this manner may compromise the DFG's ability to continue managing for the benefit of all user groups.

Respectfully, Curt Herschleb

RE: OPPOSE SB 42, PERSONAL USE PRIORITY

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 42. All Alaskans have the opportunity to share in our bountiful fishery resources and when at times when they are not as bountiful, all Alaskans must share in the burden of conservation.

SB 42 creates many problems and solves none.

Please vote no on SB 42.

Thank you for your consideration.

Audrey Salmon

Kasilof, Alaska

Senator giessel

Legislators are neither fisheries scientists nor managers. When you pass laws to allocate fish you are contradicting our constitution as well as making the job of our actual fisheries managers much more difficult.

Omar John Gucer, Kenai Peninsula resident

Dear Chair Giessel and committee members,

I'm an Alaskan resident and I've been supporting my family commercial fishing for 28 years. I oppose SB 42. My small, local, family-run fishing business supports not only my family, but my crew and their families, the workers and tenders of my processor, and the many local marine trades business.

Under the current ADF&G management plans personal use already has a priority when there is a short fall of fish, and to set in statute a personal use priority will reduce ADF&G's ability to manage fisheries. Creating a personal use priority will make management plans even more complicated, which reduces flexibility. It would also remove the Board of Fisheries ability to set allocations on a case by case basis based on science and public input. There are over 100 personal use fisheries in the state and the long term effects of SB 42 to this broad range of fisheries are unknown.

This bill would limit access to fish for the many Alaskans who get their seafood from sport fishing, grocery stores and restaurants. It pits Alaskans against Alaskans. The intent by the Board of Fisheries establishing Personal Use fisheries is clear in 5ACC 77.001 (4) (b) which states "...allowed when that taking does not jeopardize the sustained yield of a resource and either does not negatively impact an existing resource use or is in the broad public interest." **Although the original intent was for personal use fisheries to not negatively impact the other uses, I fully support personal use fisheries, but on an equal footing with sport and commercial fisheries.** When there is low abundance all user groups should share in the responsibly of conservation.

Establishing a personal use priority will do nothing to ensure run strength or timing, and does not guarantee that fish will be in the rivers when people want to catch them. I urge you to leave the prioritization of fishery allocations within the Board of Fisheries, and the sustainable management of fisheries resources within ADF&G.

Thank you for your time,

Steve and Jenny Roth & family
Owner Alaskan Mariners

Dear Chair Giessel and committee members,

As a wife and mother who has been managing our small, local fishing business from the ground side for 12 years, I oppose SB 42. My particular consideration is for the future of sustainable management of fisheries resources within the ADF&G. Our three children, and each of our young Alaskans deserve the opportunity to have a future in the commercial fishing industry- to earn a living for their own families be it as captains, crew, tendermen, processors, biologists, or marine trades professionals.

Personal use already has a priority when there is a short fall of fish under the current ADF&G management plans. To set in statute a personal use priority will reduce ADF&G's ability to manage fisheries. It would also remove the Board of Fisheries ability to set allocations on a case by case basis based on science and public input. There are over 100 personal use fisheries in the state and the long term effects of SB 42 to this broad range of fisheries are unknown.

I implore you to leave the sustainable management of fisheries resources under within the ADF&G, and to leave the prioritization of fishery allocations to the Board of Fisheries. As we know personal use priority has nothing to do with run strength or timing: only nature can determine that. Let Alaska continue to lead the way in sustainable, science based resource management and fair allocation of fish. Oppose SB 42.

Thank you for your time,

Renee Weddle Alward

Alward Fisheries

House District 31

Dear Senator Giessel and committee members,

I participate in sport, commercial and personal use fisheries.

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 42. All Alaskans have the opportunity to share in our bountiful fishery resources and when at times when they are not as bountiful, all Alaskans must share in the burden of conservation.

SB 42 is divisive and reckless. This bill would upset the balance among user groups that has been the result of an actual process of decision making.

The actual language contained in the Bill is so vague that if this legislation is passed, the unintended consequences could threaten every fishery across the State. For instance the Bill states "when the harvest of a stock or specie is limited to achieve a management goal the BOF shall place restrictions on all other fisheries before restricting PU fisheries".

What does "all other fisheries" really mean? Who would that affect? Is that all other fisheries across the state or just in that management area or just for a particular river system?

Are those restrictions limited to only that particular stock or specie and how would that apply to mixed stock fisheries? Many fisheries across the state are mixed stock fisheries.

The Bill also uses the term "management goal" and then offers a constrained definition for that term. What effect would this new definition have on existing management plans?

SB 42 creates many problems and solves none.

Please vote no on SB 42.

Thank you,
Erik Huebsch

Dear Chair Giessel and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 42. Fishery policy and management needs to be left to the Board of Fisheries and ADF&G. Legislation like SB 42 may sound nice and be popular but it would open a Pandora's box of problems regarding the 100+ personal use fisheries in the state. The state legislature and ADF&G staff members have bigger issues needing their attention right now.

Respectfully,

Catherine Cassidy

Kasilof, AK 99610

Senator Giessel,

My name is Marie Hermansen. I am a lifelong Alaskan and lifelong East Side Setnetter. I have participated in this fishery for 45 years, minus however long I was in diapers. My family has fished Cohoe Beach since the Territorial days of Alaska, multiple generations having invested in this fishery, in this small family business.

I have witnessed many changes over my lifetime. The history of our fishery is a history of loss. From the appearance of commercial guides to the creation of the dipnet fishery as a way to deal with overescapement, our fishery and livelihood has been steadily curtailed. Our season has been shortened from months to weeks, to more recently, hours. Our very existence is now threatened.

Many have called for our demise in an effort of reallocation under the guise of conservation. The commercial guide industry is trying to vote us out of existence, using low king returns as a smokescreen. This is disingenuous, as they first officially proposed the end of our fishery in Project Us in 1988 when king returns were at, for the time, record levels. If the setnet fishery was responsible for the low king numbers, the early run Kenai king returns should be strong, as we have not fished this run in over 50 years. In reality, that run has been struggling more than the late run in meeting its escapement goals.

The latest threat to our existence is the push for dipnetting priority. When this fishery was created, it was to deal with overescapement. Over time it has grown, and now much of the state puts concentrated environmental pressure on the systems of the Kenai Peninsula. Dipnetting opportunities are not lacking. This measure is unnecessary.

The East Side Setnet fishery has the highest percentage of Alaskan resident participation, the majority of which reside in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Unlike the other fisheries, the money earned by the East Side Setnetters, for the most part, is supporting our communities, our neighbors, year round.

Unlimited pressure cannot be placed on a limited resource without seeing its decline. The commercial fishermen are the oldest user group in the system, and the only ones limited in numbers. The burden of reallocation and conservation measures has largely fallen on our fishery. East Side Setnetters have fished these beaches for about 130 years, and during that time, we have seen a drastic loss in fishing

time. Lifetimes have been spent building our businesses, investing in our fisheries and our communities. Please let that not be in vain. Please oppose the proposed dipnet priority. Please support our businesses which support our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marie Hermansen

Dear Senator Giesel and committee, please don't pass SB 42. don't fix what's not broken! concerned Alaskan. Dionici Reutov. thank you!

Senator Giessel,

Please do not support SB 42. As Clem Tillion once told me, when biologists manage fisheries, they sometimes make a bad decision. When politicians manage fisheries, they ALWAYS make bad decisions! Let the biologists do their jobs, vote no on SB 42. Sincerely, Brian Harrison Homer, Ak

Haines, AK 99827

Alaska Resident since 1969

Raised in Barrow, AK

I've fished my SE Alaska Drift Permit for the last 14 years out of Haines. I support a family of six. My wife and four young children.

Commercial Fishing, along with cruise ship visitors are the summer life-blood for our community. We have probably 20 gillnetters and 8 trollers in Haines that make their living commercial fishing. Of the Sport fishermen, there are many, but I don't think their livelihood depends on fishing. There are a couple charter fishing boats in the harbor that cater to the non-local sport fishermen. To give these out of town/out of state sport fishermen priority seems a bit wrong headed to me. I can see how the local charter operators need to make a livelihood but the number of commercial fishermen far out number them and should, in my book, receive priority.

I do no sport fishing, as I don't have the time. I do keep some of my commercial catch for my family, as you might imagine. I also have a number of friends who do subsistence fishing and value that use of our resources.

I really think that if we want to increase the King return all over SE Alaska, we should try eliminating night fishing in all fishing in SE Alaska for five years. That's right, no gillnetting, trolling, or seining at night. I know, as a gillnetter, I catch WAY more kings at night then during the day: both Jack kings and full grown. Do this, and I believe the Kings will rebound and flourish.

Respectfully--Matt Davis

Senators,

As a full time, 38 year resident of coastal Alaska I oppose SB 42. I'm also slightly insulted by the title, but thats for another day. As it now stands, the regulatory process already allows ample opportunity for Alaskans to harvest what they need for their personal and subsistence use. As a commercial fisherman and small business owner, I'm proud to be involved in an industry that pays its way and contributes a not insignificant amount of dollars to the states economy, as well as provides food security to the thousands of Alaskans who don't choose to catch their own fish. We add to the well being and livelihoods of people far beyond our own.

With the looming fiscal crises it makes no sense to add further uncertainty to the financial waters of our coastal communities which will likely see cuts in the upcoming budget. To quote a former Fairbanks/North Star Borough Mayor, "we can't all move to Anchorage and Fairbanks to do each others laundry".

Respectfully,

John Bocci
Cordova, Alaska
99574

To whom it may concern;

Concerning the Personal use priority bill.

My name is Michael Chase and I have been an Alaskan resident since 1982. I have been a commercial fisherman since 1984. I live and work on the Kenai peninsula and have witnessed the destruction of a once viable fishery by politics. This new initiative is just another attempt to drive a stake in the heart of commercial fishing in Cook Inlet. Our commercial fisheries support our community as well as provide an income for our family. To give priority use to personal use fishers goes against our state constitution as well as being biologically devastating.

Personal users take out more than they need now and give nothing back to the resource. We, the commercial fishers, support and give to the resource to preserve it's sustainability. To manage this resource politically instead of biologically is just wrong. This is an example of "tragedy of the commons" where people who can get something for nothing will take all of the resource so someone else can't get it before them and they leave nothing in their wake. They have no vested interest and they don't live here so they come, destroy and leave. We need to get the politics out of this fishery and let the biologists manage it using the commercial fleet as one of their tools, just like they have done successfully in the past. This bill or initiative or whatever it is needs to be thrown out.

Sincerely
Michael Chase
Kasilof, AK 99610

My name is Elizabeth Chase, Kasilof, AK 99610

And I strongly oppose SB 42 that would make the NEWLY formed personal use fishery a priority in our state.

As a wife and mother of a commercial fishing family, permit holder in the Cook Inlet region, and resident on the Kenai Peninsula for over 30 years.... I believe that I am qualified to say that I have seen the destruction of the delicate habitat that rears our salmon by the weekend crowd that comes down from Anchorage.

Even though I don't "own" the rivers here, I am directly effected by the ever increasing numbers that come down here to "wreck-reate" We have lost our clamming beds due to over harvest, our King salmon runs due to over harvest, and now this bill is going after our livelihood.

Where other states have some kind of agriculture, Alaska has its fisheries. Which by the way is listed under the agriculture arm of government. Its sad to think that we can be displaced by the stoke of a pen... all under the guise of "Public Interest".

Commercial fishing is not a lifestyle for us, but a way to make a living and to better our local economy while helping our State through the license, permits, and taxes that we pay to run our small family business.

Our industry has had its ups and downs over the last 126 YEARS (1889, when it came to Cook Inlet) In the beginning, without oversight, our runs were raped by outside interest to the point of no return, but through proper management under State control our runs were built back up and Cook Inlet saw it first million return ever in the early 1980's.

Commercial fishing went to "LIMITED ENTRY" in 1972, so our numbers are set. Our runs became stronger, larger, healthier, and more predictable. In 1988, 1989 our runs topped 6 million, again, largely due to the excellent management plans that our local biologist put into place including our escapement goals of 850,000 for the Kenai.

Today, with all the sport pressure, tourist pressure, dip net pressure, increase escapement goals, petitions to eliminate commercial fishing in urban area's.... we just have a lot to worry about. We are Alaskan, we vote, we do matter to the "public" we harvest for, and I hope we matter to you as well.

I would rethink all this if the personal use folks could not feed themselves or did not have the money to buy the salmon they give away..... by the way, much of the salmon they harvest for themselves is sent to family outside of Alaska, sold for personal gain, or wasted because they could not consume everything they harvested.

Last year alone, more tickets were given to violators then in the last 10 years combined! Please vote NO on SB 42.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Liz Chase

Sen. Giessel,

I am writing to you to express my opposition of the SB 42, the personal use priority bill. The Personal Use group was established because they don't fit the criteria for sport or subsistence. They want to take

larger limits than sport and they do not meet the "need" requirement of subsistence, and yet they still want more and more. The Board Of Fish denied this very proposal at their last meeting. Personal use bag limits are quite large on reds so the reason they want priority is to be able to take king salmon. Increasing their bag limits would not guarantee this even, but it would result in more strain on the salmon resource. With 6 to 10 thousand annual Personal Use fishermen this would be devastating to an already declining king population. As commercial fishermen, we have lost our inside fishery in an effort to restore King populations. We have done our part and abide by this regulation, even though it was a substantial and costly restriction that we took. The commercial fisheries should not be the only responsible user group to be restricted. 98% of Personal Use permit holders come from urban locations such as Anchorage or Fairbanks. I do not believe this is a resource that the Personal Use permit holders can't live without. They drive hundreds of miles, leaving other salmon opportunities to come to this resource. Cordova is sustained by this resource, that is a fact. We do not have the same opportunities to sample from and the Copper River salmon are not just a luxury item for us.

Please think of our family in your decision making during this matter. Our lively hood (not our luxury) depends on this. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Sincerely,

David, Sheryl, Travis, Tristan and Shelby Glasen

Lifelong Cordovan & Fishing Family

Honorable Senator Giessel,

I would like to express my strong opposition to SB 42. I've been an Alaskan resident for over 35 years.

I have commercial fished for 25 years. I have trolled in the past and presently fish a SE Drift permit as well as longline for halibut. Commercial fishing is also the corner stone of the economy for the small, rural community that I have lived in for 30+ years, Craig on Prince of Wales Island.

I also hunt, sport fish and utilize our fish resources by subsistence harvests and am a strong proponent of subsistence harvesting opportunities

I am concerned that laws prioritizing subsistence harvests will bring about unintended complications to our overall fisheries management. I would strongly encourage working toward a broader consideration of individual and community subsistence needs. I realize this a challenging and often frustrating effort but we must continue on this path. Refine and focus the process where necessary but continue with this approach to management of our fisheries resources.

The economic and legal consequences of this proposed change to management will be significant and will only serve to create more tension between the many who utilize our fish and game resources, in many different ways.

Respectfully,

Michael Kampnich

FV Kristina

Craig, Alaska 99921

Dear Senator,

I am a resident of Cordova, AK and have been commercial fishing here and around the state for the last 12 years since I was 13 years old. I now own two boats and permits and am working hard to pay for them. The vast majority of the money I make I reinvest into my fishing operation and spend right here in Cordova; hiring people to build nets, help me install new equipment etc.

I have also gone subsistence fishing with my father for as long as I remember bringing home salmon for us to eat for the winter so I understand the connection alaskans have with salmon and we all want to have access to it. I believe that salmon belong to all alaskans and my job is to harvest it for them as efficiently as possible.

If we start prioritizing personal use fishing over commercial we are saying that the salmon don't belong to everyone they only belong to those with the knowledge and ability to catch them themselves. This is wrong, If someone is incapable of going and participating in a personal use fishery because of health problems or any reason they should still have access to that fish and a well managed commercial fishery is the only way to give them that.

This so called "Alaskans first fishing act" is nothing more then a allocation grab and does not put all Alaskans first it puts personal use Fishermen first. I do not see why a resident of Alaska with the time off, money and ability to go fishing should be able to feed their children salmon but a working mom who doesn't have any of that shouldn't be able to stop into costco on her way home and buy that same copper river salmon for her kids. However if this bill passes that is exactly what could happen if there is a small run of salmon.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Ezekiel Brown

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to express my opposition to prioritizing personal use fisheries over commercial and sport fishing throughout Alaska.

I was born here and have watched this fishery grow and accommodate the demand for salmon from thousands upon thousands of Alaskans. At the same time, I am a commercial fisherman who setnets for Sockeye in Cook Inlet, providing salmon for the vast majority of Alaskans who do not take part in the Personal Use Fishery by selling my fish to processors who in turn sell to restaurants and markets throughout Alaska.

I think this legislation is shortsighted and will decimate my fishery, and others throughout the state. In my opinion it should be voted down before it advances any further.

If you feel, as a representative of the people of the state of Alaska, that it should be considered, I hope you will move cautiously and consider carefully the impacts that this legislation could have on Alaska's fisheries.

I have many questions regarding its potential effects.

How will creating a priority for more than 80 personal use fisheries around the state impact ADF&G's ability to manage for sustained yield as demanded by our constitution? I think it will be difficult since PU catch reports are mailed in over the winter, if at all, and there is no way to keep track personal use harvest inseason. Demanding that Personal Use be given priority puts Fish and Game managers in an untenable position given the lack of hard data collected in season.

Is there a need to establish statutory priority for these fisheries?

Management plans already prioritize personal use. Last summer the Kenai River dipnet fishery was open every day, for 21 days straight. The Kasilof River fishery saw similar hours. This while sport and commercial fisheries throughout the inlet and its drainages were curtailed dramatically in order to assure adequate Chinook escapement into the Kenai Rivier.

The personal use fishery has never been closed before any commercial fishery was closed. In fact, emergency orders have exclusively closed commercial fishing first, often with just a few hours warning. At the same time the personal use fishery on the Kenai remained open for three weeks straight.

The personal Use fishery on the Kenai Peninsula tremendously important to the tens of thousands of Alaskans who take part in it, however the fishery is not conducted in an orderly manner. It is well documented that the beaches where these fisheries take place are trashed, adjacent private property overrun, the boat launches are backed up for hours, and the lower Kenai River is packed with small, often overloaded boats. Waders stand chest deep, nets extended as commercial boats try to move up river without swamping the dippers. It's only a matter of time before a tragedy occurs.

In addition to the chaotic nature of the fishery, there are the many legal violations issued to those participating. I've been told anecdotally that every other personal use fisher contacted by Alaska State Troopers during the summer of 2014 was found to be in violation of the law.

I can't verify that percentage of violators but I have attached a listing of all of the fishing citations issued by the Alaska State Troopers on the Kenai last summer. This includes commercial, sport and personal use fisheries. While there are a few tickets issued to sport fishermen, guides, and commercial fishermen, the vast majority were written for personal use fishing violations. The document spans 32 pages, but the trend is established early, and remains constant throughout.

Senator Giessel, until the ramifications of this legislation on Fish and Game's ability to manage to sustained yield are assessed; until personal use fisheries can be monitored in a timely manner; until the impact on the river environment can be cleaned up; until the conduct of the participants can be brought into the compliance with the law; how can the Alaska Senate possibly consider placing these disorderly and violation plagued personal use fisheries above either the commercial or sport fishery?

Thanks for taking the time to consider my concerns and I hope you do the right thing and vote to reject this terrible piece of legislation.

Andy Hall

Chugiak Alaska

My name is Mark Hazeltine, I am an Alaska resident and have been commercial fishing and personal use fishing my whole life. I have been an Area E permit holder for 8 years. I strongly appose SB 42 the Personal Use Priority Bill.

Dear Senator Giessel, I have been a Cook Inlet drift fisherman for 37 years. Our fisheries managers have enough trouble managing our fisheries without this added burden. Alaskans already have ample opportunity to fill their freezers. Please oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time, Chris Kempf

I oppose SB42. I commercial fish and also fish for personal use. I have done so for 40 years. During those 40 years I have supported my Family, State and Community with my commercial fishing business. I have also never had a problem meeting my personal use needs. The current system is working and I see no reason to change. I oppose SB42.

Thank You, Richard Curran, Sitka, Alaska 99835
