

I oppose this bill
Rosemary Ludvick

Hi Mike,

I'm writing to express my opposition to SB42, and my general disgust with Bill Stoltze' endless attempts at end runs around the fish board process in Alaska.

As you know, I am your neighbor, just around the corner on Baldy Mtn Drive, so you know you don't have to go far to see the importance of commercial fishing to our community. I was born in Alaska, and have been fishing commercially since 1983, sport fishing since 1958, and I personal use fished here and there, although I consider personal use fishing just a glorified edition of sport fishing. Back before I started commercial fishing, my philosophy was that I could catch all I needed under sport fishing bag limits, and have fun while I was at it. The only time this was not true was when the many years of federal government mis-management had almost ruined the salmon runs by the '50s and early '60's.

Now here comes Bill Stoltze, bought and paid for by the sport guide (also commercial, but they won't admit it) industry, trying to make an allocation grab. Again. This is shallow, self-serving, irresponsible, high-handed, low-down, self-centered greediness, inexcusable in a public official. Of course, this is just my humble opinion. But what else can you call it? Here I thought public officials represented the public, not the largest donor to their election campaign; silly me.

While Mr. Stoltze doesn't have the corner on this kind of behavior, we have a very workable process in this state to address this issue. Please keep this in mind when you vote on this legislation.

Your humble & obedient servant, etc. etc.

Bob Mielke

Hello,

My name is William Robertson, I live in Palmer and have been a commercial fisherman for 52 years, 32 of those on the Copper River and PAWS. I think this is the 2nd or 3rd time I have been asked to comment on this issue. As I remember, it was through the Fish and Game Board process. I can't understand why these issues are taken away from the State agencies that have been formed to deal with them. Taking it through the legislature will only produce a result of popular opinion, not one based on what is best for the resource. If this is the case, then we should save the State some money and get rid of the agencies that take care of all the rest of the State resources. Roads by popular vote, ferry routes by popular vote, etc.

Every since I have fished the Copper River, ADFG as met or exceeded the upriver escapement, which included personal use needs and the upriver escapement has continues to rise with the increase of usage

by personal use and subsistence. As I call it "unlimited access to a limited resource", that is why limited entry was created on the commercial catch, so we could make a living and insure a future for the fish we depended on. If we have a bad run of fish in our area that our permit covers we can't go to another area. Personal use people can go to other areas if there isn't enough fish in one of the many rivers in the state.

I hope this doesn't go down the road it is on and is left up to the process that has served the fish and game of the state for many years. If it does come up for popular vote then I will probably have to get out of commercial fishing because I can't take the chance of which way the wind is blowing to swing the popular vote.

Thankyou, William Robertson

Senator Giessel and members of the senate resources committee, My name is John Renner I am a resident of Cordova, a Commercial Fisherman and chairman of our fish and game advisory committee. Please oppose hb 42 personal use was a concept that was introduced in 1982 as a way for urban resource users to access resources in times of abundance. All residents of Alaska already Qualify for a subsistence priority due to the Mcdowal decision in 1989. Please share the conservation burden between all other user groups. Fisheries management is full of unintended consiquenses the Pu fishery on the Copper river is located 9-to15 days of fish passage up river in front of the subsistence fishery a priority could adversely effect both fisheries on this vital resource thank you, John Renner

Dear Senator,

I am an Alaskan resident of 52 years, and have been a full-time commercial fisherman for the last 28 years. My 4 children have grown up commercial fishing with me, and they now each have their own boats and permits. We currently make our livelihood in the Prince William Sound drift gillnet fishery.

We also participate in sport, personal use, and subsistence harvests. The continuing good health of Alaska's fish resources is VERY important to me, and to the rest of my family.

It appears to me that the personal use needs are being satisfied under the current regulations. I highly OPPOSE SB 42 !!! I feel that this bill would unfairly, and unnecessarily take away more of the resource from the commercial fleet.

Thank you for your service, and for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,
Karl Backlund
Moose Pass, AK. 99631

My family is a third generation commercial fishing operation. The importance of small businesses in this state is huge. The middle-class is under attack from all sides and this is just another way for the far left wing to accomplish their goals.

Daniel Thistle

I AM HENRY KROLL AND I OPPOSE SENATE BILL 42 PERSONAL USE PRIORITY

Address: Soldotna, Alaska 99669

The personal use fishery will destroy the salmon runs if it is allowed to continue the way it is being managed. Few people know as much about the fisheries as I.

At age 71 I am author of ten books and currently a resident of Soldotna at Mile 105 Sterling Highway. I fished the same set-net site in Tuxedni Bay 65-years and still fishing. My father came to Tuxedni Bay to can fish in 1944 and we homesteaded the area in 1955. I owned the 72-foot Mary M and lived in Halibut Cove near Clem Tillion and fished king crab in lower Cook Inlet and Kodiak waters 23 years catching more than 3-million pounds. I also fished tanner crab, shrimp, halibut and thousands of tons of herring.

I fished and tendered millions of pounds of salmon into Seldovia, Port Grayham, Homer, and Kenai fifty five years. My web sites are: www.AlaskaPublishing.com and www.GuardDogbooks.com

I have seen several fisheries destroyed by oil tanker ballast water. 9 blowouts and state greed to sell oil leases in lower Cook Inlet.

KENAI RIVER SALMON

I fear that the Board of Fish policy of managing the Kenai River salmon based on getting the most money for the state, city, and borough governments with increased tourism is not in the best interest of the fish. If you allow the destruction of the last fishery in this area people will starve. Do not make the Personal use fishery a priority.

Having witnessed the destruction of other fisheries I now fear for the salmon. I studied the biology of salmon and fished salmon 65 years. I tendered many millions of pounds of salmon into Seldovia, Port Grayham, Homer and Kenai. The Board of Fish policy of extracting the maximum amount of revenue out of the fishery will ultimately destroy it.

One 50-cubic- inch displacement outboard motor (some displace more than 100 cubic inches) running at an average speed of 2000 RPM, (some operate at 6000 RPM or more when going up river) discharges 5,000 cubic inches of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, gas and oil residue into the river water each minute. Divide the number 5,000 cubic inches by the number of cubic inches in a foot $>1728<$ you get 2.8935 cubic feet per minute times the number of minutes in a 12-hour day (720 minutes) you get 2,083.32 cubic feet. Multiply that by the 400 or so outboard motors running up and down the river = 833,328 cubic feet of gas discharged into the Kenai River each 12-hour day. Multiply the above number by 30 days of constant dip-netting **you get 24,998,840 cubic feet per month of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide gas plus fish guts and other pollutants discharged into a three-mile stretch of the Kenai River that deplete and displace oxygen.** The mud stirred up by all that horsepower coats the gills of the fish making even harder for them to take in oxygen.

Do you think salmon hold their breath while they swim upstream??? How much carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide are absorbed into their blood stream while traversing that three-mile trip up to the bridge???. Will that lack of oxygen and increased carbon monoxide weaken the fish and ultimately affect the salmon eggs???. How much carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide will weaken the fish so that they can't make it upstream to spawn???. **Start your car in the garage and see how long you last in there!**

The river flows at an average speed of two nautical miles per hour downstream except when the tide changes then it actually makes the river water flow **up stream six miles for four hours** during flood tide. **So you have concentrated polluted river water flowing back up stream into the river mixing with more pollution at the exact time when the bulk of the salmon runs are trying to get past the hoard of dip-netters.** Salmon have to swim at least four hours with muddy gills taking in carbon monoxide and other pollutants into their blood stream. Will they have enough energy to make it up to the spawning beds? Will the carbon monoxide go into the eggs and have an effect on the young salmon? We don't know. It's safer to eliminate the water pollution before it destroys the salmon runs. The person use fishery has to use electric outboards and row dories!!!

DEAR SENATOR RESOURCES COMMITTEE;

My name is Dan Bilderback, I am a commercial salmon fisherman who fishes on the Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound. This has been my livelihood for 45 years. I also sport fish for salmon and enjoy it immensely. I currently live in Anchorage, AK with my wife Christine.

I would like to strongly urge you not to support SB 42 which would give the State of Alaska Personal Use category an equal access priority with the Subsistence users over the Sport and Commercial user groups. SB 42 is devisive legislation for Alaskan Residents.

Fish and Game has to Manage for brood stock and subsistence as a mandated priority. If the Personal User group is thrown into this mix it makes Management much more complicated for ADF&G to achieve.

Personal use was created by the Board of Fisheries to give the people of Alaska access to fish resources for recreational and household personal consumption. As such, Personal Use has been given a generous quota and access that has, due to its popularity, only increased with time. I believe that to circumvent the Board of Fish's authority to allocate resources within fisheries would be a detrimental to all users.

As I said, I have been in the fisheries for a long time and frankly I'm tired of seeing that some people feel that they are ENTITLED to the resource because they have the political clout at the moment.

I would be glad to clarify any of the points I have made.

Thank You Senator,

Dan P Bilderback,

Senate Resources Committee Chair Cathy Giessel and Committee Members,

I was not able to give public testimony at the Kenai LIO office on April 1st (fools day) because the committee ran out of time in part from the vast number of people from around the State wanting to testify in opposition to SB 42. Enclosed is my written testimony.

My name is David Martin. I have lived in Clam Gulch Alaska for the past 44 years. Under some peoples definition of Alaskans First I and most Alaskans do not qualify as an Alaskan. Contrary to an Alaskan that has one year of residency and therefor qualifies for personal use, I and most Alaskans are, second to them under SB 42.

I am strongly opposed to SB 42!

This bill is not in the best interest of the Alaskan's resources or Alaskan residents. It divides Alaskans and discriminates among resource users and consumers. There are plenty of opportunities for Alaskans to get their seafood whether they catch it or as most Alaskan seafood consumers do, prefer to purchase it. In 2008 alone the sports fishery in Cook Inlet caught and released, for recreation activity, over 650,000 salmon according to ADF&G data. SB 42 gives an entitlement and special privilege with no responsibility for the conservation or management of the resources. Everyone says they want politics out of Alaska's fisheries management and Alaska also tells the world their success to sustainable, healthy, abundant fisheries is because Alaska fisheries management uses the best available science for real time abundance based management and maximum sustainable yields.

SB 42 will give good political campaign slogans of "I gave you a personal use priority. Vote for me!" However SB 42 is contrary to reliable science and is in violation of Alaska State Constitution, Article 8, Section 15 "No exclusive right or special privilege of fishery shall be created or authorized in the natural waters of the State." I have not taken an oath to uphold Alaska's Constitution but legislators have. I would hope legislators represent all Alaskans. To me Alaskans First means every citizen of Alaska not just a one year Alaskan resident having priority over a life long Alaskan just because they dip net. Every Alaskan and non-resident who harvest Alaska's fisheries resource must also be held responsible for scientific management, conservation and sustainability.

Alaska fisheries resources and habitat are not unlimited and will become unsustainable with management dictated by allocative bills like SB 42.

The Legislature has more important State issues than spending time on bills that are self serving and pit Alaskans against Alaskans and undermine fisheries management and resource production.

Please kill SB 42.

Thank you.

David Martin

I am writing as a lifelong resident of Alaska who grew up commercial fishing with the rest of my family since the age of 6. I am now 48 and have continued to fish commercially with my brother who

took over the family operation about 15 years ago. My mother is still involved in fishing as well. I oppose SB42 because it contradicts everything my parents taught me. They instilled wonderful values by teaching us that everyone was responsible for the resources and that they were all tied together. They taught us to value not just the fish that we caught but the environment that enabled them to thrive. Commercial fishing is very important to me and my family, it's a way of life that I treasure beyond what many can understand. The whole experience is amazing. So many times I read about subsistence and personal use being such an important part of culture and way of life here in Alaska, about how it keeps us healthy on so many levels but what many don't understand is that for a lot of residents, commercial fishing is much the same. When I'm out fishing I feel the tie to the land, the ocean, and everything around me. My life is enhanced by the experience. As a personal use and subsistence user I also understand that aspect but to me they are the same, I value them the same and protect each equally. By protection I mean I care for the resource and what keeps it healthy. I think SB42 creates a divisive feeling in our communities and I think it's wrong to hold one user group primarily responsible for taking care of the resource we all use. As a commercial fisherman I feel we are taking good care of the resources we use, we are keeping it healthy for future generations of all users. There is a good lesson that everyone needs to be aware of when using a natural resource, don't take that lesson away from the personal use sector much less anyone else. Everyone needs to be aware of how their actions affect the resources and environment, putting blinders on one group, as SB42 would, will only hurt our state's resources as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Karen L. Johnson

Sitka, Ak. 99835
