

To: Senator Cathy Giessel and Senate Resources Committee

From: Mary Bishop,

Date: April 3, 2015

Please support SB 42, raising the importance and priority of “personal use” fishing – and help restore an historical promise.

Over the decades I have kept an index card about the first state subsistence law – introduced as HB960 on 5/1/78 and signed into law by Governor Hammond on 7/22/78. It did not have the word “rural” in it then...although it said “customary and traditional use”. In May of that year, on the House floor, Rep. Charlie Parr of Fairbanks asked (and I’m almost quoting) “How would this law affect my Fairbanks Chitina dipnetters?” Rep. Nels Anderson, the bill’s sponsor I believe, from Dillingham answered (again I’m almost quoting)...”It will protect their use of that resource.”

Well, so much for that bit of history. The dipnetters are squeezed between 1) the rural subsistence users’ federal legal priority and 2) the commercial fisherman who have dominated the Board of Fisheries since Statehood. The dipnetters (and sport fishers) are left with whatever those two user groups grudgingly deign to allot them.

We are “personal use” fishers. Our family has net a few king, coho and many chum salmon in the Tanana since about 1965. Yes, if you can’t get kings or reds, Tanana chums are quite eatable...especially fall chums. Our 3 adult sons also “personal use” fish for their families -- some in the Tanana but more often for reds down at Chitina.

Please support SB42 and good nutritious food on Alaskan’s plates. A most sincere “thank you” for your service to this great state.

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RE. Senate bill 42 personal use priority. At this time of cuts to everyone, perhaps a personal use priority would be a GOOD idea.

Thank You for your service.

Ray Starzec.

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Totally support this bill

Pete Devaris

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