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Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 416
Juneau AK, 99801
Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

RE: Oppose HB 110, Personal Use Priority

Dear Chair Stutes and Committee Members,

April 7, 2015

I respectfully oppose HB 110. I am resident of Wrangell, Alaska and have worked in the seafood industry for over 20 years. My fishing business supports not only my family, but supports the workers and tenders of my processor, and the many local maritime support sector businesses.

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 on a case by case basis 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 (my family participates in 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 service.



Julie Decker