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Cordova AK 99574

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Written Testimony For The Record,  
Address to:  
Senator Giessel, Chair  
And Members of the Senate Resource Committee

## 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