

Dear Representative Stutes,

I urge you to support House Bill 199. I am a 44 year old life long Alaska resident; a second generation commercial fisherman born in Anchorage who lives in Unalaska.

Salmon have been an integral part of my life for as long as I can remember. My father has commercially fished in Bristol Bay since before I was born. I started fishing with him at the age of 11 and have fished there every year since, owning and operating my own boat and drift permit for the last 17 years. I also enjoy sports fishing. I have spent many springs with a pole in my hands trying to catch king salmon on the Kenai Peninsula and many falls on the rivers around Unalaska Island in pursuit of silvers. The lessons I learned during these adventures, both while working and playing, played a large role in shaping who I am today. They fueled my successes and gave me the strength to overcome many obstacles.

Alaska's salmon runs are facing an increasing number of threats. It scares me to think about how much will be lost if these runs are destroyed. It is important that Alaskans have the opportunity to weigh in on any decisions that might impact our salmon and the fragile ecosystems they depend on. Please support HB 199 because Alaska will no longer be the place we know and love without salmon.

Thank You,

Zachary Nehus
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