

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:	<u>Roni Carmon</u>	
REPRESENTING:	<u>Self</u>	
BILL # or SUBJECT:	<u>SB 90</u>	
COMMITTEE:	<u>SRES</u>	DATE: <u>3-29-19</u>

So, as you can see today in the paper Governor Dunleavy appointed new Board of Fisheries members, some done with their 3 years, so maybe not.

But I urge you to look at what's happening. Board of Fisheries has their own set of rules. Fish & Game has their own set of rules.

Senate lawmakers have a set of rules.

But the Board of Fisheries and the Governor rule us commercial fishermen. And Fish & Game takes their rules and the Board of Fisheries' rules and they control us fishermen.

But over the last 30 years, the fish stocks seem to be going down. The sockeye salmon are the targeted fish now that the king stocks have been depleted. The guides hit all waters in Alaska, 300 days a year if not more.

The guides hit the Kenai Peninsula and other areas 175 days for salmon.

Never would you do that in a commercial fishing environment.

Board of Fisheries didn't hear my plea.
The Governor didn't hear my plea.
They dance to a different kind of music.

Their ears are tuned to sport fishing, guide fishing, and subsistence fisheries. Commercial fishery is a dirty word.

But the commercial fishery, managed correctly, is balanced, fair, and good for the fish's future, while guide fishing, sport fishing, and personal use goes unregulated.

The commercial fishery gives an income to the state of 146 million a year. And if the Cook Inlet fisherman could fish, another 70 million to the general fund or 210 million.

The Senate and the House now know this. You all should be ashamed of your selves. To do this to our fish, our people, our schools. We are broke, as a state, only 770,000 people in Alaska and broke.

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I'm hoping you Senators and the House of Representatives top the guiding and personal use this year. Until you get a guiding license in place and until you all recover some taxes for the resource, I recommend about 44 billion dollars for the last 30 years.

I'm saying it again, as I just left testimony last week.

But the governor appointed a new Board of Fisheries. A new set of rules will be coming, and it's going to be against the commercial fisherman.

I believe if you stop the 300 days of fishing around the clock onslaught of fishing stocks will rebound. The rivers become a womb for spawning fish not the blood sport of catch and release. At the same time, you can receive money to the general fund by letting the commercial fleet fish. None of this is in the minds of the governor or the Board of Fisheries or Fish & Game.

But you legislators Have to stop this raping of Alaska and the raping of the fish stock and zero income to the state.

Please remember, Fish & Game never collected a license fee from guides and sunset rules are in place. \$1760 for the full license with requirements for 6.4 million guides possible.

On the Kenai River alone - 870 guides.
On the Kenai Peninsula - a total of 1082 guides.
In Alaska - unknown but all hit the water 300 days a year.

But 13 million fish on the Kenai Peninsula has transferred from the commercial fishery to guides, sport, and dipnet fishermen.

You stop the guide and dipnet fishery until you figure a way to recoup the lost income.

Let's give the fish a rest. If you get back the \$22 billion you could have earned from the sport fishery (guides) and the dipnet fishery, things could change a lot for the state. Nobody that deals with revenue would give away so many dollars. It's just plain dumb.

The Board of Fisheries and the Governor have no intention of regulating anyone but the people that are doing the fishery correctly and according to the law and every fair-trade agreement, if there is such a thing for a commercial fisherman.

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There's no intention of changing a thing.

I ask the Senate and the House to stop guides until they get a license.

I ask the Senate and the House to recover the resources income never collected.

I ask you take that money the resource has earned and pay off all the bond debt and balance the budget.