



Chitina Dipnetters Association
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April 16, 2026
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 125 – Designated seats on BOF
Opposed as written

Dear Chair Senator Merrick and committee membership,

The Chitina Dipnetters Association (CDA), a non-profit 501(c) (4) organization, representing the 9,000 annual Alaska resident personal use dipnetters, who supplement their families' food supply by harvesting salmon from the Copper River, is opposed HB125 as written.

HB125 would designate BOF seats 2 commercial, 2 subsistence, 2 sport and 1 scientific. This bill as passed by the House in 2025 gives no representation or voice on the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to Personal Use (PU) fishery users. Some 40,000 Alaska residents annually partake in the Chitina and South Central salmon dipnet fisheries, not to mention the large numbers of Alaska residents who partake in statewide Personal Use fisheries to harvest other finfish and shellfish. Representative Jimmie, sponsor of this bill, misspoke to House Resources Committee when referring to PU as a fishery use not deserving of a seat on the BOF. She inferred that PU use was not prioritized or defined in the Alaska constitution or statute. Although subsistence use is the only use given priority over other uses, PU is clearly defined in AS16.05.940(27) as a separate fishery use as are commercial and sport in the same statute. Over 100 Personal use fishers sent in comments to the House Resources Committee (HRC) to amend HB125 to designate at least 1 if not 2 representative BOF seats to personal use users. HRC chose to ignore these messages to amend and sent the bill on to the full house where it passed along party lines.

PU fisheries are 100% Alaska resident participation. Please consider amending HB125 so that PU use is given representation on the BOF in the bill you are taking up today.

Thank you,
Chuck Derrick
president- CDA