

THE CHITINA DIPNETTERS ASSN. “A non-profit advocating for the 7,000-10,000 Alaska residents who annually dipnet salmon from the Copper River to supplement their families’ food supply.”



4-16-2025

Alaska House Resources Committee

Alaska State Capital Bldg.

Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear House Resources Chair Niayuq Burke and Committee members:

The Chitina Dipnetters Association is in opposition to HB125 (BOF membership) as written. As written, this bill makes no reference to “personal use” designation and affords no representation on the BOF for the some 40,000 Alaska residents who annually partake in the Chitina and South Central Alaska salmon dipnet fisheries nor Alaska residents who participate in the various other state personal use fisheries. Although akin to subsistence, Personal Use classification was established to recognize fisheries where larger bag limits were set so residents could stock their freezers for the upcoming year. These fisheries usually do not meet all 8 criteria established by the BOF to identify subsistence uses, and thus the designation of “personal use”. Personal use participation is Alaska residents only. Sport and Commercial have both state resident and non-resident participants. Commercial sell their harvest, PU fishers by law cannot. Past sport representation on the BOF has usually been by sport fish guides or charter owners who have very little knowledge of personal use fisheries. We ask that HB125 be amended to give representation for “personal use” users.

Thank you,

Chuck Derrick, President

Chitina Dipnetters Assn.

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