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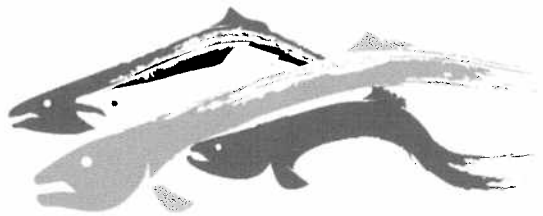
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KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING
ASSOCIATION

April 3, 2009

Senator Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 177

Dear Senator Kevin Meyer:

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) is a 501(c) 3 charitable non-profit dedicated to fishery conservation on the Kenai River and in Alaska. Our programs focus on habitat conservation, fisheries management, research and education.

KRSA is in full support of SB 177, which would repeal the sunset of the sport fish guide licensing program through ADFG. We feel that the sport fish guide licensing program is an essential component of fisheries management that should continue without sunset. The program provides sport fish guides with minimum professional standards and gathers valuable information on the numbers of guides, clients, and harvest levels and patterns, which can be used in sound management of our recreational fisheries.

We support timely reporting requirements of log book information from guides, and the efforts of ADFG process such information into real-time data that then can be used in a timely manner by fisheries managers.

We would like to see implementation of an electronic based log book reporting system, which would remove the current bottleneck of having to enter the paper-based log book information into an electronic database management system. Access to and the ability to use data from the log books should mirror the timeframe of the weekly guide reporting requirements. Unfortunately at this time with the paper-based system that is not possible. This leaves fisheries managers in the position of having to use forecast or past trend data instead of real time data in their in-season decision making.

We support a fee structure that covers the full costs of the program, with the understanding that the goal of being able to provide real-time data from the

Dedicated to preserving the greatest sportfishing river in the world, the Kenai.

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log books to fisheries managers is a priority for the department and gets implemented in a timely fashion.

In summary, KRSA supports the continuation of the sport fish guide licensing program as an essential component of responsible fisheries management. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Erkeneff", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dick Erkeneff, Board Chair
Kenai River Sportfishing Association