
Subject: FW: Mixing Zone Legislation

From: Ron Jackson [<mailto:ronphotos@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 2:29 PM

To: Louie Flora

Subject: RE: Mixing Zone Legislation

Thanks very much to the sponsors of this bill. Alaska needs to treat its fisheries with great care. It is a major renewable resource in the state and should not be put at risk by contaminating the reproductive areas of the fish.

Ron Jackson

Box 961

Haines, Ak. 99827

From: Nina Faust [fausbail@horizonsatellite.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 11:29 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Louie Flora
Subject: HB 85

Dear Paul,

Thank you for continuing your efforts to establish better regulations regarding Mixing Zones in our fish spawning streams. I see that HB 85 is before the House Fisheries Committee.

Our salmon and other fish spawning streams should not be used as mixing zones for toxic effluent. The old idea of dilution solving the pollution problem needs to be retired. Healthy fish are a vital resource to Alaska's economy. Keeping toxic substances out of spawning streams is important to protecting fisheries resources. Mixing zones should not be allowed in these water bodies.

Furthermore, providing public accountability regarding sewage disposal is a good idea. A great deal of our pollution into Alaska's waters comes from sewage so careful oversight is valuable.

I appreciate your efforts on this bill and urge the Legislature to pass HB 85 this session.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust
P.O. Box 2994
Homer, AK 99603

From: Kathleen Menke [ci@akmk.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 12:57 PM
To: Louie Flora
Subject: Mixing Zone Legislation/HB 85

To Alaska's Representatives and Senators,

I support the legislation (HB 85) being sponsored by Rep. Paul Seaton to further protect healthy watersheds in Alaska by preventing discharge of pollutants into any freshwater spawning area of the species identified on the statutory list if they spawn in nests.

Furthermore, I ask legislators to continue to make healthy watersheds and sustainable fisheries a priority for Alaska.

This also means carefully choosing hydropower sites to avoid particularly productive and sensitive salmon spawning grounds. In this context, I would urge support for Schubee Lake near Skagway as a potential hydro-site that will have little impact on salmon.

On the other hand, funding should be withheld for any activities in the Chilkoot Watershed near Haines that would negatively impact the sensitive salmon runs in this highly productive and important watershed, including but not limited to a hydroproject at Connelly Lake in this watershed.

For more information regarding the Chilkoot Watershed and the options for hydropower in the Upper Lynn Canal, please see the Chilkoot Watershed Coalition website at <http://www.akmk.com/chilkoot>

Regards, Kathleen Menke, Haines

Kathleen M.K. Menke
Crystal Images Photography and Publishing
Haines, Alaska
<http://www.akmk.com>

From: Thom Ely [akthome@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 5:34 PM
To: Rep. Bill Thomas
Cc: Louie Flora; Lynn Canal Conservation
Subject: HB 85

Dear Bill,

As a fisherman I hope that you will support HB 85, legislation introduced by Representative Seaton to prohibit point source water pollution discharge mixing zones in freshwater spawning areas.

Salmon are very sensitive to dissolved metals and other pollutants in freshwater. The wild salmon runs in the lower 48 are virtually non-existent. We don't want to follow that same course here in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Thom Ely
POB 1014
Haines, AK 99827



Alaska Longline

FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1229 / Sitka, Alaska 99835 907.747.3400 / FAX 907.747.3462

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 28, 2011

Dear Representative Seaton,

This letter is in support of House Bill 85, regarding the "Act requiring the Department of Conservation to collect and make available to the public certain information relating to water pollution; prohibiting certain mixing zones in freshwater spawning waters; and requiring a public comment period for certain sewage system or treatment works modification." The Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA) supports this legislation as it directly affects the livelihoods of many of our members and supports a healthy marine ecosystem.

ALFA is a non-profit association of independent commercial longline vessel owners and crewmembers who are committed to continuing the sustainable harvest of sablefish, halibut, and groundfish, while supporting healthy marine ecosystems and strong coastal communities through resource stewardship and participation in federal, state, and local forums.

As you are aware, under current regulations, freshwater spawning areas may be designated as mixing zones if salmon are not actively spawning at the time of wastewater discharge. Mixing zones are also allowed in an area even if certain other species are spawning. We support House Bill 85 in that it would change this current regulation and prevent the discharge of pollutants into any freshwater spawning area of certain species that spawn in nests.

In addition, we support the public right-to-know component of this bill. It is extremely important to be transparent when it comes to impacts on our marine ecosystems and by allowing the public to have access to information regarding the pollutants that are being discharged under permit into Alaskans waters helps to keep certain activities accountable.

We believe this bill is a necessary step in providing a strong commitment to the protection of fisheries habitat and water quality. We hope to see it passed during the 1st Session of the 27th Alaska State Legislature.

Sincerely,

Linda Behnken
Executive Director
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

Subject: FW: Mixing Zone Legislation

From: Earl Breyfogle [<mailto:ebreyfogle@acsalaska.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:13 AM

To: Louie Flora

Subject: RE: Mixing Zone Legislation

Louie,
I have read the attachments regarding changes to the mixing zone regulations and agree that salmon or fresh water fish habitat, especially spawning areas is not the proper or environmentally responsible method of waste water treatment. I fully support Representative Paul Seaton's proposed changes to the statutes implemented by Governor Frank Murkowski that allowed the use of spawning or fresh water fish habitat as "mixing zone" treatment for municipal or commercial waste products.

If the municipality or industry that produces the waste has to rely on natural habitat for waste treatment, the venture should be considered uneconomical and not be pursued.

Thank you,
Respectfully,

Earl P. Breyfogle
PO Box 496
Anchor Point, Alaska 99556

Cell (907) 299-2596

Subject:

FW: Mixing Zone Legislation

From: David C. Wartinbee [<mailto:IFDCW@kpc.alaska.edu>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 8:52 AM

To: Louie Flora

Subject: RE: Mixing Zone Legislation

I am writing to wholeheartedly support legislation that will prevent mixing zones in streams, especially those with spawning salmonids. We have a duty to protect the water resources of this state and especially the waters that provide the source of our fisheries industry. Mixing zones are an ecological disaster to streams and the biota therein. Mixing zones are especially damaging when young salmonids are present. Salmon are the most vulnerable when they are young and the young spend more time in streams than the adults. We must not allow the fragile young to be exposed to the pollution found in mixing zones. No matter where the mixing zone is located, young salmon have to pass through those polluted areas when they move to the oceans. There is no place in a stream where pollution should be allowed!

David C. Wartinbee
Stream Ecologist

David C. Wartinbee PhD, JD
Professor of Biology
Kenai Peninsula College
156 College Drive
Soldotna, AK 99669
907 262-0377

Subject: FW: Mixing Zone Legislation

From: Carolyn Elder [<mailto:carobill@gustavus.ak.us>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 9:28 AM

To: Louie Flora

Subject: Re: Mixing Zone Legislation

The objectives of Rep. Seaton's proposed legislation would correct a major flaw in current laws on the books. We need to protect the salmon fisheries and their freshwater spawning areas are key to the health and purity of the spawn. That is so basic that it cannot be countered by any argument from basic chemistry to genetic preservation of species. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

William E. Brown
Box 225
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907.697.2778