

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement
For House Bill 18
by Representative Bill Stoltze

"An Act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fishing restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Insuring that residents have access to Alaska's fisheries resources is vitally important as we continue to grow as a state. Right now, user groups are growing both in size and number, splitting the allocation of our resources into smaller percentages. However, one thing all Alaskans can agree on is that we should have a priority over people coming from elsewhere in the country and the world to utilize and harvest our fisheries resources.

Fisheries that are restricted to residents only are meant to enable Alaskans to access their fisheries resources for their personal use and consumption. Currently, there are many personal use fisheries throughout the state. Excluding the priority that is already contained within statute for subsistence, HB 18 directs the Board of Fisheries to place restrictions on sport and commercial fisheries before putting restrictions on personal use fisheries when the harvest of a stock or species is limited to achieve an escapement goal.

I ask for your consideration and support of HB 18 so Alaskans can be assured that they will continue to have access to their fisheries resources to the benefit of themselves and their families.