

Sponsored by: Mayor DeVilbiss
Adopted: 02/19/13

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 13-028**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING
HOUSE BILL 18 TO PROVIDE PRIORITY TO PERSONAL USE FISHERIES.**

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has a rich tradition of people living off the land from the original Matanuska colonists to the homesteaders who settled along the Susitna River Drainage; and

WHEREAS, personal use fishing is one of the means residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough depend on to provide food for their families; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Constitution states that when occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife and waters are reserved to the people for common use; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution states that fish belonging to the state shall be utilized, developed and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses such as personal use; and

WHEREAS, protecting personal use fisheries preference puts Alaskans first when Fish and Game makes management decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports the adoption of House Bill 18.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 19 day
of February, 2013.



LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Keogh, Woods, Arvin, Colligan, Salmon,
Colver, and Halter

Rep Seaton,

This message is in support of HB 18.

Legislative action is requested to provide ordinary Alaskan residents with reasonable opportunities to efficiently fulfill their personal use fish needs.

Legislative action is needed because there is a strong, systemic, culture of bias within ADF+G and the Board of Fisheries that favors the commercial fishing industry. AS 16.05.251 d requires the board to provide fair and reasonable personal use fishing opportunities. Yet, they continually give the commercial fishing industry's interests priority over regular residents trying to fulfill their personal use fishing needs.

They provide very liberal personal use fishing opportunities for both resident and non-resident commercial fishermen. *5AAC 39.010 (a) allows any commercial fisherman to take unlimited amounts for personal use. Definitions - AS16.05.940 (5) and (25).*

However; they provide very limited or no reasonable personal use fishing opportunities for ordinary residents.

For example:

Commercial fishermen in SE are allowed an unlimited personal use take of king and coho salmon. However; 5AAC 77.682 c unfairly prohibits ordinary residents from any personal use fishing in SE for king and coho salmon. That's commercial fishermen unlimited fish, ordinary residents none.

If we have enough fish to allow commercial exploitation and unlimited personal use catch by commercial fishermen, we certainly have enough to allow ordinary residents an efficient opportunity to fulfill their personal use needs.

#1-The objective is to provide an efficient means for residents to fulfill their personal use needs.

#2- Resident and Non-Resident commercial fishermen are already allowed this opportunity. They are allowed unlimited PU take and routinely catch fish for their family and friends' "home pack".

#3 -Residents deserve the same opportunity to efficiently take personal use fish as afforded commercial fishermen.

Thanks,
Mike Fox
Juneau