

JAMES SULLIVAN, SEACC

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

There has been much discussion, within this committee and with our organization and with our friends, about the issue of water reservations and revoking personal use reservations. We find this issue problematic and want to make sure that our environment is being protected and that anadromous streams have the highest priority when permits are being issued.

We would like to propose that amend this bill so that when any entity applies for a water right on any anadromous body of water that DNR issue a water reservation on behalf of the fish. DNR can simply refer to the Anadromous Waters Catalog to see if the waterway is on there, then put in an appropriate reservation.

This would align DNR with our state constitution and its public trust responsibility.
It would ensure the protection of our salmon
It would enhance sustainable economic development across our state.

Salmon is our greatest renewable resource, it is in our legislature's best interest to put in a mechanism, in statute, that protects that resource as other entities apply for water rights.

Alaska Constitution Article 8 § 3. Common Use

Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use.