



Chitina Dipnetters Association
1002 Pioneer Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Chuck Derrick, Pres.

March 15, 2015

Senator Bill Stoltze,

Thank you for continuing to draft and sponsor bills such as SB42 that seek to give Personal Use fisheries a priority, second only to subsistence, when the harvest of a stock or species is limited to achieve a management goal.

The Chitina Dipnetters Association, representing the thousands of Alaska residents who annually partake in the Chitina Personal Use Dip Net Fishery, enthusiastically supports the concept addressed in this bill that the best and most important use of sustainably managed Alaska wild resources is to feed Alaskan families.

The Chitina dip net fishery, a resident only fishery, has existed since the early 1900's and was always managed and considered a subsistence fishery until new "customary and traditional" criteria excluded the fishery from subsistence classification and placed it into the new "personal use" category. The end result of the harvest by dip net of salmon from the Copper River, that of supplementing Alaskans yearly food supply, has not changed in importance with this change in classification. The ability to harvest fresh Copper River sockeye, chinook and coho for family food supply remains a tradition for many interior and south central Alaska residents.

We realize the importance of commercial fishing to the economy of Alaska but also know that we all work to support our families and those residents who rely on commercial fishing for their paycheck also have the means to harvest our annual needs for salmon for their own families whether through "home pack", qualifying for a subsistence permit, or participating in a personal use fishery. With a priority given first to "subsistence" and secondly to "personal use" we are guaranteeing all Alaska residents would have the means, when abundance allows, to supplement their annual food supply. Thank you for your continued support of Personal Use Fisheries

Sincerely,

Chuck Derrick
President
Chitina Dipnetters Association
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