

**KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**NAME:** Karen & Richard McGahan  
**REPRESENTING:** Self  
**BILL # or SUBJECT:** SB 42  
**COMMITTEE:** SSTA **DATE:** 3-10-15

Personal Use Fishing should not be the priority for Cook Inlet.

We are against this bill.

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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**NAME:** Karen & Richard McGahan  
**REPRESENTING:** Self  
**BILL # or SUBJECT:** SB 42  
**COMMITTEE:** SSTA **DATE:** 3-17-15

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee Members and Senator Stoltze,  
Please allow the biologists, who are hired to manage the fisheries, to do their jobs.  
Please do not allow the politicians, who are trying to please their voters, to continue  
to meddle with the fisheries, and tie the biologists' hands. The dip netters are not complaining  
and are certainly getting their fish.

Karen and Richard McGahan

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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**NAME:** Richard & Karen McGahan

**REPRESENTING:** self

**BILL # or SUBJECT:** SB 42

**COMMITTEE:** SSTA **DATE:** 3-17-15

Dear Senators:

Please do not be taken in by Sen. Bill Stolze's not quite veiled attempt at curtailing, again, the commercial fishermen of Cook Inlet. Have any one of you heard of any dip netter not having fish available? Have any of you heard of the set netters or drift fishermen trying to get rid of the dip netters? I think not. This bill has no sponsors from the Kenai Peninsula. If any one of you think there has been a shortage of dip netting of fish, please come and visit the City of Kenai, and the Kenai Airport. Take a look at the amount of fish being flown out of state during the dip netting season. Go to Fred Meyers and look at the fish boxes going through check out. Take a look at the photos of the waste the City Manager of the City of Kenai has been showing to anyone who will pay attention.

This bill has nothing to do with the health of the river or with dip netters needing more fish. This is a bill for Sen. Stoltze to thank his campaign contributors and to pander to his voting block.

There are already mandatory closures for commercial fishing to cater to the week end crowds of dip netters that descend on the Kenai River.

Why do we even hire biologists to manage Fish and Game? Here's a budget cut idea for you.....cut out the whole Fish and Game Dept. and just let the politicians continue to manage it according to the ones they listen to, the loudest paid lobbyists and largest campaign contributors. This is exactly what Sen. Stolze is attempting to do.

Thank you for considering our testimony,  
Karen McGahan (51 year resident)  
Richard McGahan (60 year resident)  
Nikiski, Alaska

907 252 1136  
907 252 1134

### WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: DAN ANDERSON

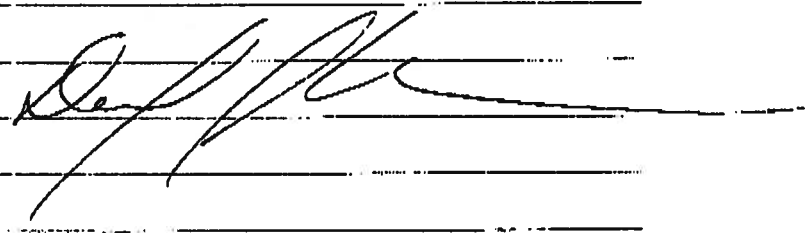
Representing: SELF

Bill No./Subject: SB 42 Personal Use Fishing Priority

Committee: Senate State Affairs

Date of Hearing: 3/16/15

I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL  
IN ANY FORM OR SHAPE AS IT DISRUPTS  
THE CURRENT HARVEST PRACTICES  
~~FOR THE STATE~~



## Daniel George

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**From:** Jamie O'Connor <oconnorjamiea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2015 8:10 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Response to bill prioritizing personal use fishermen

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hello Senator,

I was disappointed to read about your bill prioritizing personal use in our state fisheries. I am a fourth generation fisherman and spend every summer in Bristol Bay. I hope to continue to fish well into old age as my great-grandfather did before me.

Through this grueling work, that I love, I was able to put myself through university without student loans. The commercial fishery is important to our Alaska culture and the many families like mine that rely on fishing. Fishing is a part of our identity, our culture and our livelihood.

To hear that you would like to prioritize personal use fisherman, a shocking number of whom do not know the first thing about this resource or how to respect it, is disturbing. Look at what has happened to the Kenai. I do not dispute that there are lifelong personal use fisherman who know what they're doing. However, they are a dwindling minority compared to the tromping urban hoards flocking to our State's rivers without bothering to educate themselves first.

I see that you are committed to the protection of our resources. But, this proposed method is misguided. Instead, I suggest you work toward the following:

- Find more budget for wildlife troopers to enforce the protective regulations we already have. The blatant disregard of regulations on the Kenai by many personal use fisherman would be slowed with more enforcement. If disregard continues, increase penalties for misuse of our resource. The penalties for commercial operations who misuse the resource are steep. So, too, should be the penalties for disregarding the laws of personal use fishing.
- Pass requirements for fisherman to educate themselves before receiving a fishing license. This would lessen the damage to resource by fishermen who can't tell a red from a pink from a king salmon. With the ease and cost effectiveness of online classes this would not be an unreasonable burden.
- Enforce protections to keep crushing boots off of the spawning grounds. The number of boots in the riverbeds of populated areas in recent years is highly damaging.

I hope you will reconsider your position.

Respectfully,

Jamie O'Connor