

Dear Rep. Talerico;

Kenai River Sportfishing Association supports HB 137, where I serve as the organization's executive director.

I also serve on the Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board, and served on the Governor's transition team for fisheries.

All three entities additionally support the concept of adding in the authorization for ADFG to license a statewide sockeye salmon stamp, and funds go into the ADFG fish and game fund. We suggest adding language to mirror the king salmon stamp program, with the same fee structure.

The reason for support of a sockeye stamp is the following: There are three primary high use sockeye salmon fisheries for sport and personal use fishing in Alaska – the Kenai River, the Kasilof River and the Copper River. All three regions face continuing increases in use in their respective sport and personal use fisheries. The increase use patterns put increasing demands on management, infrastructure and the resource.

Through discussion with ADFG, the sockeye salmon stamp on a statewide basis would be the most efficient to implement, with it being required to fish for sockeye in both the state's sport and personal use fisheries. Monies would go the ADFG fish and game fund, where they can be then used for management of these ever increasingly popular fisheries.

Below is draft proposed language. We will testify in support of the overall aims of HB 137 and also for inclusion of a sockeye salmon stamp, with a fee structure that matches the king salmon stamp fee structure for residents and non-residents.

I will be in Juneau next week and we have a meeting scheduled with you on Monday at 4 pm. Additionally, I outlined this idea to your staff member Joshua Banks, and am available for further discussion on this matter at your convenience. I will testify in person on Wednesday evening. We have also sent out an update to the KRSMA board in regards to this matter, and have encouraged testimony on HB 137 and the sockeye salmon stamp.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the matter. We strongly support providing ADFG divisions with sufficient funding to maintain their levels of service to ensure proper fish and game management in an efficient and effective manner.

Regards,

Ricky Gease, Executive Director

Kenai River Sportfishing Association

Proposed draft language:

In HB 137, propose an amendment that reads:

*(25) Resident anadromous sockeye salmon tag.....*

*A resident may not engage in sport fishing or personal use fishing for anadromous sockeye salmon without having the current year's anadromous sockeye salmon tag in the resident's actual possession, unless that person ...*

*(26) Nonresident anadromous sockeye salmon tag – valid for the period inscribed on the tag ....*

*A nonresident may not engage in sport fishing for anadromous sockeye salmon without having a valid anadromous sockeye salmon tag in the person's actual possession, unless that person is under the age of 16. Members of the military service on active duty who are permanently stationed in the state, and their dependents, who do not qualify as residents under AS 16.05.415, may obtain an annual nonresident military anadromous sockeye salmon tag for ...*

Insert in CSHB137 on page seven after line 26 king salmon regs and before line 27 Sec. 19

Sockeye stamp funds would go into ADFG fish and game fund, to be used for sockeye salmon management in sport and personal use fisheries.

The fund authorizes the Sport Fish division to have RSA's (reimbursable services agreements) with other government agencies, such as DNR state parks and DNR lands, mining and water. Memorandums of Understanding would be written up between ADFG and other agencies for use of the sockeye stamp funds. Broad discretion is allowed in use of funds and would be outline in MOU's.

ADFG Commissioner Cotten and ADFG Sport Fish Director Brookover both stated that the preference is for a statewide stamp, for a variety of reasons. The primary area for sport fish and personal use fishing for sockeyes is on the Kenai Peninsula and the Copper River / dipnet area. The department can allocate in-house based on Statewide Harvest Surveys data and personal use data.

Fees would mirror the King Salmon stamp – the majority of those funds go back into the Kenai River for management of the king salmon sonar program.