

Greetings,

I know testimony is probably over but I wanted to let you know that I support SB42. Many thanks to Senator Stolze for sponsoring the bill. Personal use harvest of fish is so important to Alaskans.

Thanks,

Rita Heidkamp  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

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Dear Senator Giessel:

The following is a transcript of my testimony today in support of SB 42, to which I've a P.S., and if I can find it, I'll send a poster that illustrates the relative magnitude of the Chitina dip-netting harvest and the Copper River area commercial fishing harvest in a particular year.

Madam Chair, my name is Richard Bishop. I live in Goldstream Valley in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, which happens to also be a State non-subsistence area.

I support SB 42.

I have fished for salmon in the Tanana River personal use fishery in most years since the mid-1960's. I and my family also dipnet at Chitina in some years. These fisheries have been a major source of meat for our family for over 50 years,

Our experience is not unique. We fish for food - an Alaskan tradition, as do thousands of other Alaskans. I understand that personal use fisheries far outnumber any other class of Alaskan fishers.

Personal use fishing provides the kind of opportunity that the Alaska Constitution outlines: sustained yield, common use, for the maximum benefit of Alaskans. It's really the same as subsistence fishing as it has in the past been classified in regulations.

The Alaska Constitution allows for resident preferences. Personal use fishing is for residents. It should have priority over sport or commercial fishing when the harvestable surplus cannot accommodate all uses.

Please pass SB 42.

Thank you.

Richard (Dick) Bishop

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Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen;

I believe a personal use priority is long overdue and therefore I support SB42. I believe this legislation would free up the Board of Fish to better manage the resource instead of focusing on people and interest groups.

I eat lots of fish because everything else that I like as well as I like fish is bad for my health, and here in Juneau I don't feel shorted on fish. However, it does appear to me that everyone but me has some priority claim on the resource. Many Juneau people keep their legal residence just outside the Borough in Gustavus, Tenakee, etc. so that they qualify for a subsistence priority right here in Juneau. Others have some sort of birthright preference. And of course many others own permits that they believe gives them first take on fish until they decide to sell that priority interest.

So SB42 would go a small distance toward giving people like me an equal right. I still could not sell fish. I would not be allowed to waste fish. I would not be able to break the law by overharvesting what the department sets as the catch. But at least my right to have a license and catch and eat fish would be recognize. So please move this out of committee and have it enacted this year.

I do agree with those who say this would easily pass as a ballot initiative, and I would work to make that happen. My wife and I worked very hard on 4 different political campaigns last year. I hope even those people who have an interest in opposing SB42 can see that a ballot initiative would probably have wording that special interest groups like limited entry permittees would very much dislike. In that respect SB 42 protects commercial fishermen.

Thank you for your time and for all your hard work.

Tomas Boutin  
Juneau

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Please support SB 42 for the betterment of all Alaskans!

The way you vote on this will influence the way I vote on you.

Jeffrey H Bushke

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Chair Cathy Giessel;

My name is Larry Engel and I reside with my wife near Palmer, Alaska. I have been an Alaskan resident since 1958. I am writing in support of SB-42 because I believe 'the best use of Alaska's fisheries is on Alaskan's dinner tables'. Passage of SB-42 would be an important step in assuring such a priority for Alaskans that live in urban areas. As you likely know such a priority is already in place under subsistence regulations for Alaskan's living in rural location. In summary all Alaskans should have a priority for our common property fisheries resources. Your consideration of my comments are appreciated.

Larry Engel

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I support SB42 as I have always believed personal use should have priority over commercial use.

Thanks for finally trying to address this.

Tracy Blais

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Dear Senator Giessel,

It seems to me that most of my friends who commercial fished in the past have sold their permits to people in Seattle. In light of my personal observation I would like to see Alaska residents become a higher priority for harvesting Alaska's seafood.

Respectfully yours,

John K. Petersen

Fairbanks, Alaska

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My name is Craig Edmundson and I support SB42. Please put Alaska personal use harvest first.

I have lived in Alaska since 1985. I have raised my family here and love fishing in Alaska. I'd like to be considered first before commercial use.

thanks, Craig

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Dear Senator Stoltze and Representative Neuman,

Thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 42 and HB110, providing priority to personal use fisheries when fishing restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal. I am in full support of these Bills.

No matter what we call it, "personal use fishing" is no different than subsistence fishing. It is not sport fishing. It is harvesting fish to feed our families and it is a significant part of our Alaskan culture. There is no higher use for our fish and game resources than feeding Alaskans.

We have seen personal use fishing take a back seat to both commercial fishing interests and sport fishing interests. When Chinook runs are down on the Copper River Fishery, for example, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is quick to close the harvest of these fish by dipnetters while commercial fleets continue to harvest them and sport fishermen upriver continue to both retain them and catch and release them in their spawning grounds. This is nonsensical. I, too, am a sport fisherman, but feeding our families should not take a back seat to recreational fishing. We used to be able to retain five (5) Chinook salmon in the Copper River Dipnet Fishery. Now we may be able to get one, but even that is rare. Five kings equates to over 100 pounds of protein for my children. Again--- there is no higher use for our fish and game resources than feeding Alaskan families.

Thank you both for sponsoring these Bills. And thank you for serving Alaska and Alaska residents. Alaska First! It's time!

Sincerely,

Jake Sprankle

Fairbanks, AK 99709

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Dear Sen. Giessel; My name is Edward Dailey and I reside in Fairbanks, which I have done for nearly 40 years. I am retired and on a fixed income. As you well know, food prices have increased by leaps and bounds recently. I have been to Chitna many times in the past when I could get time off from work to help supplement my income and food source. Since I retired almost 8 years ago, I take advantage of dip netting to add to my food source for the year. While I agree that subsistence use has priority, personal use should be second over all other uses. Just as the Permanent Fund was set up for distribution of oil royalties to residents who meet the requirements, so should our salmon be available to the people of Alaska for personal use. I respectfully ask you to please help get this bill passed. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. Thank you, Ed Dailey.

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Dear Senator Giessel, thank you for supporting SB42, my wife and I depend on personal use salmon for a substantial portion of our food. Sincerely yours, Thomas and Donna Check, Wasilla, AK

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Cathy, Please support SB42, the people of alaska need it. thank you. Pete Evans  
Senator Giessel-

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Please support SB 42. We need balance in the use of common resources.

Thank you,  
Ron Kahlenbeck  
Anchorage, AK

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Senator , Please support SB 42  
Jim Stubbs  
Anchorage  
Thank You

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Senator Giessel: I wish to express my support of SB42.  
Thanks  
Dave Kennedy  
[North Pole, Alaska](#)

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Senator Giessel

I urge you to support SB42 and to do everything possible to ensure its passage. While commercial fishing is important to our economy, it is more important to support Alaskans first. However it should not be forgotten that sport fishing is also important to our economy and a well-managed sport fishery can offset any potential losses to the commercial fishery.

Senator Stoltze

Thank you for sponsoring this important bill.

Thanks Senator Giessel and Senator Stoltze for your support.

Ben R Milam, Palmer, AK 99645

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As one who fishes the Kenai every summer in order to fill my freezer and my soul, I support SB42. The commercial fishing fleet, many of whom are based out of state, should get last dibs when it comes to taking advantage of Alaska's bounty.

Thank you for your time

Curtis Watkins

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Please support SB 42. As a resident of this state since 1978 I have hunted and fished to provide for my family. As the the state's population increases so does the demand for our fish and game. This bill addresses allocation issues that have been mismanaged for a long time. I could go on and on..... Once again please support SB 42. Grant Klotz

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Please count me as a supporter! — Elyce Santerre, Chugiak, AK

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Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for supporting SB 42 giving Alaskan citizens rights to salmon before commercial entities. Alaska is a place that is very costly to live and many unfortunately live on tight budgets. The ability to provide fish for the family can mean the difference between eating and starving, providing for yourself or depending on government assistance at a cost to all taxpayers. People all across the state should have priority to wisely use and manage this precious natural resource. I know first hand from listening to a friend in a village that his family barely made it last year when they were deprived fish due to commercial precedence. He had to chose between heating his house or buying groceries with very little winter income. Had the escapement numbers not been affected by commercial fisheries and had he been allowed to fish first, his family would have had food and he could have focused on heat.

Another reason this is so important to me is health. I may live near a grocery store but it does not mean I can freely purchase food there nor can I afford to. My husband and I both have autoimmune conditions requiring us to avoid many foods due to the way they are processed. We do not need to worry about what's in our wild salmon and wild game. I know many others that also suffer from Crohn's Disease, Diabetes, and Celiac that benefit greatly from having this resource.

I believe this resource can be managed soundly in a way that we can all benefit, even the fish. I truly appreciate you and Senator Stoltze addressing putting Alaskans first. It just makes sense and I hope your colleagues feel the same way.

Respectfully,  
Julie Gillette

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Dear Senator Giessel,

Having lived in Alaska for 45 years, I have had the good fortune of modestly harvesting our wildlife resources from time to time. I have had the unfortunate experience, however, of being "skunked" one year while trying to catch a few reds for personal use in the Kasilof River. The mouth of the river was clogged with commercial fishermen whose nets almost totally shut down any escapement upstream. I

believe this occurs quite often. Further, it is my understanding that commercial fishermen ( mostly out of state, I suspect) and commercial guides ( guiding mostly out of state hunters?) harvest about 98% of our fish and game populations. Therefore, I am in favor of SB 42 and urge you to support it, too.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,  
Andrew R. Zajac  
Eagle River, AK

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Senator Giessel,

Please support SB42. Personal use fisheries are important to Alaskans.

Roger Penrod

Anchorage, AK 99515

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I strongly support SB42.

Roy Slempe  
Anchorage, AK

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I support personal use over commercial use for our salmon stocks...

JC McKee

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Dear Senator Giessel

Please support SB 42. This appears to me to be a small step in a direction that would be closer to what our state constitution says regarding our resource management mandate. Please remember that our state constitution had to be amended to allow limited entry permit fishing. This limited entry fishery, particularly in the Cook inlet is an out dated management practice, and when the electorate finally wakes up to this fact, policy makers found to be on the side of special interest , limited entry permit holders, will be displaced by lawmakers with a populist mandate to let the people have their fish! Thank for your interest in this subject.

Steve Doner  
Wasilla, Alaska  
99654

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Dear Senator Giessel,

Please support SB 42 . I have been a citizen of the state 40 yrs. and want only to be treated fairly. The constitution states. All the resources belong to ALL the people. When all the people realize this maybe we will get a fair share of OUR fish. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Al Doner  
Wasilla Ak.99654

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Thank you for introducing this bill ; I am in full support of it.

Our wild fish stocks are a precious commodity desired by many. During my 55 year residence I have witnessed how many powerful special interests have managed to secure preferential treatment and benefits (limited entry, subsistence, permits). Many of these are none-residents. I have no problem with the subsistence priorities for native Alaskans. In addition more restrictions are placed on the use of wild fish stocks, due to the environmental laws and regulations, like the Endangered Species Act. The situation with the Cook Inlet belugas comes to mind. With diminished fish-resources these endangered species have priority over any human use and interference. There may be little the State can do, to counteract the provisions of such Federal laws. SB 42 will help to give the regular citizen a chance to participate in a resource owned by all. Thank you for introducing it and I hope for a speedy passage. Heinrich Springer, Anchorage, AK 99523

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I fully support this measure.

Alan N. Corthell

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