

CHITINA DIPNETTER'S ASSOCIATION

POB 72665, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707



12 April, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

After multiple discussions between our board members and Mr. Ruffner we received written opinion regarding personal use fishing from Mr. Ruffner. Unfortunately, the opinions in his email and our discussions fall far short of the mark of what we would like to hear from him in regards to priority allocation.

While we appreciate him stating how much he values personal-use fishing, it is evident to us that he has yet to fully grasp the issues facing Alaskans in feeding their families via a dip net. Also, the scope of his knowledge on Alaska fish issues appears to be severely limited to the Kenai fishery.

For these reasons alone, we respectfully rescind our support for Mr. Ruffner's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fish.

We would prefer that the appointee to the BOF have a well-rounded understanding of all users.

If Mr. Ruffner believes that the reduction in the Chinook harvest on the Copper River fishery is "proportional to all user groups" he needs to fully investigate and comprehend the meaning of proportion as well as fairness. If the other user groups had the same proportion as dip netters, NO Chinook salmon would be harvested in that entire fishery, because in essence, that is what our proportion has been cut to--- ZERO.

Mr. Ruffner also asserts that the harvest allocation from which these proportional cuts are to be made begins with the premise that they are fair. They are not! Furthermore, his advocacy for equal sharing of "the burden of conservation" and his testimony to the Senate Resource Committee, specifically those comments on Senate Bill42 (SB42), tell us, yet again, that he does not fully grasp the importance personal-use fishing has to Alaskans. To us, there is no higher use of our salmon resources than feeding Alaskans. The framers of our State Constitution realized this, and it is why they wrote Article 8 the way they did. Unfortunately, too many members of the Board of Fish, both past and present, fail to understand this basic tenet.

We need a board member who will put, as a priority, the use of Alaska resources to feed Alaska families.

Sincerely,

Chuck Derrick, President
Chitina Dipnetter's Association,
Fairbanks, AK
cderrickak@aol.com
907-378-5527

Daniel George

From: Dennis Gease <dennisgease@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:19 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association Opposes Confirmation of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Stoltze and honorable members of the Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee;

The South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association (SCADA) is writing to notify you that our board of directors has voted to oppose the confirmation of Mr. Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). The majority of SCADA members live in Anchorage and the Mat-Su. Our members have expressed concerns regarding Mr. Ruffner's confirmation to the BOF. Their primary complaint is that his most vocal supporters seem to be from the Cook Inlet commercial fishing community, many of whom have sought to downplay the importance of the personal use dipnet fishery in supplying food for Alaskan families and have actively worked to undermine our access and opportunities for harvest.

Last year 35,000 households in the South Central Alaska applied for Cook Inlet personal use dipnet permits. Instead of celebrating the fact that close to three million pounds of sockeye salmon made it to households far and wide across Alaska via the Kenai Peninsula dipnet fishery, it is often treated by scorn from opponents. Such harvests by Alaskan residents are portrayed as being out of control, wasteful, and a taking of "their" fish.

Beyond these concerns, it bothers us that we are looking at an unbalanced BOF that lacks the now traditional representation of three members from the sport and personal use fishing community. We feel such balance is very important to the BOF, especially in the Cook Inlet area, home to the state's largest personal use and sport fisheries. We find it ironic that a balanced board approach is viewed as somehow being broken and needs fixing.

Over the past decade the BOF has implemented the use of mandatory, weekly 24 and 36 hour window closures in the commercial set net fishery in order to allocate fish to the rivers for escapement and for harvest by Alaskan families. While the weekly window closures in the commercial fishery does not guarantee anyone fish, it is certainly better than the all too common alternative of past practices which saw up to 18 days straight of commercial openers authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) commercial fisheries managers. These back-to-back-to-back ad nauseam commercial openers dried up escapements of fish into the rivers that provided harvest by dipnetters and anglers.

Thus through our observation of his engagement in public forums and in the legislative confirmation process, we do not feel that Mr. Ruffner fully understands how salmon management plans are implemented in the Cook Inlet area and also for the Cooper River / Chitina dipnet fishery. The BOF is the primary body to allocate fish between different user groups and for escapements. The job of the ADF&G is not to allocate fish, but instead to implement management plans developed by the BOF that have allocative structure built in. As such, the details of salmon management plans are critical, especially in delivering fish for escapements and harvests by all groups. Too often in the past, though, we feel management decisions under the guise of "containing escapements" have been an excuse to provide unchecked harvests by commercial fisheries to the detriment of dipnetters and anglers. Unfortunately we do not trust that Mr. Ruffner understands that lesson.

In summary, SCADA feels that Mr. Ruffner should not be confirmed to the BOF. We urge you to Vote No during this week's upcoming joint session. Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter to us and the many Alaskan families who depend upon a healthy harvest of salmon.

Sincerely,

Ken Federico
Board Chair

Dennis Gease
Board Vice-Chair



April 11, 2015

Senator Bill Stoltze
Senate State Affairs Committee, Chair
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Stoltze and members of the State Affairs Committee,

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) urges Alaska State Legislators to vote No on the confirmation of Robert Ruffner to a seat on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Anchorage must have a strong voice on the Alaska Board of Fisheries; a balance of 3 commercial, 3 sport/personal use and 1 subsistence must be continued.

Ruffner's strongest and most vocal supporters are commercial fishing interests who have a long history of opposition to sport and personal use fisheries.

Ruffner should be thanked for his willingness to serve and appreciated for his efforts to conserve aquatic habitat but he is not the right choice to represent the interests Alaska's largest city and home to 40% of the state's population, and to represent the interests of the personal use and sport anglers statewide.

Alaska's world-best salmon fisheries are a testament to the effectiveness of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) regulatory process. While cumbersome at times, the Board process provides an open and transparent process for addressing the ever evolving challenges of UCI salmon fishery management. To the Board rests the difficult responsibility of allocating the harvestable surplus and the burden of conservation among competing users. Allocation decisions can be particularly challenging in areas like

Cook Inlet due to the complexity of mixed species and stock fisheries and diverse values among a broad spectrum of users.

In this difficult process, Anchorage, home of 40% of the State's population, cannot be left without direct representation. Members of the Board are chosen by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view. Although not required by statute, geographic representation has been a hallmark of this process.

To assure fair representation of all fishery sectors, the balance of 3 commercial, 3 sport/personal use and 1 subsistence representatives, in place since the mid-1990s, must also be preserved. This appointment alters that balance and threatens a return to earlier times when commercial fishing interests dominated the Board process with little regard for personal use and sport anglers.

The lion's share of documentable public support for Mr. Ruffner has come from the commercial fishing community -- both statewide from representatives of the United Fishermen of Alaska and Icicle Seafoods and regionally from members of Cook Inlet's commercial drift and set gill net fleets. These organizations and individuals are very vocal in their support for severe reductions on salmon fishery allocation to sport and personal use fisheries in Cook Inlet and the personal use fishery at Chitina. Recent proposals submitted to the BOF, testimony to the Alaska Legislature and op-ed pieces in the Cook Inlet news media have advocated:

- Reduce the minimum escapement goal for Kenai River late-run king salmon so that commercial set net fishermen can harvest more sockeye salmon that move along the beaches at the same time.
- Do away with paired sport and commercial fishery restrictions which share the conservation burden for Kenai king salmon during this time of historic low numbers.

- Get rid of management “window” closures of the set net fishery that pass late-run king and sockeye salmon into Kenai and Kasilof river escapement personal use and sport fisheries.
- Reopen the “inside waters” of the Copper River flats to commercial fishing, ignoring the need to conserve Copper River king salmon to provide for escapement, subsistence, personal use and sport fisheries.
- Reduce the seasonal limit of sockeye salmon for Alaskan resident Personal Use fishermen in Cook Inlet and at Chitina by 50% so that more can be harvested by the commercial fisheries.
- Ban or severely reduce power boats for sport fishing.
- Prohibit catch and release as a sport fish management tool.
- Repeal the “One percent Rule” which is a science-based tool designed to meet management directives to minimize commercial harvest of coho salmon after sockeye have passed so that sport anglers can have a reasonable opportunity to harvest these fish.
- Opposed the establishment of a Cook Inlet conservation corridor for the drift gill net fleet developed to achieve minimum escapement goals for Susitna sockeye stock of concern and provide enough coho salmon for Mat-Su anglers to have a successful sport fishery.

These same interests who now support Mr. Ruffner have stated in testimony to the BOF that the highest value accruing from UCI salmon comes from maximizing the commercial harvest. They have denigrated the State’s Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, testified to the Legislature that the BOF process is broken and must be replaced, filed suit in Federal Court in an attempt to have UCI salmon fisheries managed under federal oversight and filed suit in State Court to have UCI commercial salmon fishing regulations overturned.

Mr. Ruffner, who lives in Soldotna, will be less accessible to residents of Anchorage than former Anchorage based representatives and will come under intense pressure from Kenai Peninsula commercial fishing interests who dominate local politics. He does not have a strong track record of public advocacy support for personal use and sport fisheries. In addition, his responses in public forums and to questions asked in the confirmation hearings appear to echo many positions commonly expressed by members of the Cook Inlet commercial fishing industry.

- That recent Board of Fishery actions in Upper Cook Inlet, including allocation decisions, are questionable and need to be redressed.
- That Cook Inlet commercial fishery managers need additional management flexibility to meet established escapement goals (e. g., avoid large sockeye escapements regardless of resulting impacts on other stocks and fisheries).
- That commercial fishery closure windows in Cook Inlet fisheries do not provide substantial benefits to in-river fisheries.
- That Kenai river sport fishing activities contribute to cumulative habitat impacts of humans (e.g., that may warrant substantial fishery restrictions even where there is no measurable biological impact).

It matters in the Board of Fisheries process where people are from and where their experience lies. If it didn't, Kenai Peninsula commercial fishing interests would not be fighting so hard for their local candidate. We urge you to vote no on the confirmation of Mr. Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,



Mark Hamilton
Board Chair



Reuben Hanke
Fisheries Chair



Ricky Gease
Executive Director



Senator Bill Stoltze
Senate State Affairs Committee, Chairman
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

April 11, 15

Dear Senator Stoltze,

I am writing you to express Southeast Alaska Guides Organizations's (SEAGO) opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. SEAGO is the voice of Southeast Alaska charter fishing and lodge operations in Alaska and represent \$240 million in spending and over 2,240 jobs. Our mission is to promote the tradition of sport fishing in Southeast Alaska through reasonable regulations that ensure the long-term sustainability of our businesses and fish resources.

The current composition of 3 commercial, 3 sport and 1 subsistence users has served Alaska well. Through the hard work and effort of the board members, the Department of Fish and Game and the public, systems have been put in place to effectively manage the resource while protecting the rights of the disparate user groups who rely on sound management of the fishery.

This opposition isn't intended, in any way to, impugn Mr. Ruffner's character, his diligent work in habitat restoration or his willingness to serve the state. It is simply intended to make clear our concerns with this specific appointment.

It is our belief that the confirmation of Mr. Ruffner will upset that balance that has worked well for years. Although Mr. Ruffner claims to be a sport fish advocate he has offered opinions in committee and public forums that contradict this statement or, at the very least shows a lack of understanding of sport fish issues.

The letters of support for Mr. Ruffner, with few exceptions, have come from the commercial fishing community. Similarly, there seems to be little, if no support, for this nomination from the sport fishing and personal use sectors.

It is our concern that by confirming Mr. Ruffner, the well-established balance of the Board of Fish will be skewed to the commercial sector which would have a detrimental effect for sport and personal use fishing throughout the state as well have negative impacts on the economies of Alaska's coastal communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Ryan Makinster", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Makinster
Executive Director

Daniel George

From: Howard Delo <hodelo@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2015 4:27 PM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Representative_Wes_Keller@legis.state.ak.us; Representative_Mark_Neuman@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton
Cc: Bruce Knowles; Kevin Delaney
Subject: Board of Fisheries appointment confirmation vote
Attachments: Sport anglers have good reason to be skeptical of Robert Ruffner.doc

Good Day to you all,

Thank you very much for all your hard work and time in dealing with Alaska's important issues, especially in these tough economic times. You still have an important issue coming up which will affect tens of thousands of Alaskans -- confirming Board of Fisheries nominees. Some of you know me -- my name is Howard Delo. I'm a former BOF member and I reside in Big Lake, within Rep. Mark Neuman's and Sen Charlie Huggins' respective districts. They can tell you more about me if you ask -- but only listen to the good stuff!

You are being asked to confirm a fine gentleman from Soldotna who looks good on paper -- just like Roland Maw did. I have never met Mr. Ruffner and what I hear about his background sounds good. The problem is his apparent lack of understanding in fisheries management practices in Cook Inlet. Based on statements he has made or agreed with in published sources and in committee interviews, Mr. Ruffner appears to support the commercial fishing sector on issues which, if altered from their current status, would prove to be destructive to the sports fishing industry, private anglers, and personal use fisheries folks all over Cook Inlet, and most especially, in the Northern District.

I have attached an opinion piece written by Kevin Delaney which has been submitted to the Alaska Dispatch News for publication in the very near future -- tomorrow (Sunday) hopefully! Mr. Delaney is retired from ADF&G and when he went out, he was Director of the Sport Fish Division. Kevin has a long history of management and research work in Cook Inlet prior to his move into the administrative arena of Fish and Game. I have known Kevin for over twenty years and greatly respect his knowledge and expertise in Cook Inlet fisheries management concerns.

Please take a look at what he has written and give it due consideration in your decision when voting on Mr. Ruffner. Feel free to share this with other legislators I haven't contacted.

Thank you,

Howard Delo
hodelo@mtaonline.net
907-892-8796 msg.

Sport anglers have good reason to demand fair representation on the Board of Fisheries

Governor Walker has nominated Robert Ruffner, Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) and a resident of Soldotna to fill a seat on the seven member Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). If Mr. Ruffner is confirmed by the legislature we will have one member from Kodiak, Dillingham, Huslia, Petersburg, Soldotna, Fairbanks and Talkeetna, but no representative from the area with the largest population in the state. Serious questions of this nominee are in order given the long dominance of Kenai fishery commercial interests and institutions in Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) salmon management, often at the expense of sport and personal use anglers in the rest of the Southcentral region.

I don't know Robert Ruffner personally but by all accounts he is a qualified candidate and his habitat protection work for the KWF is to be lauded. However, his fishery management experience is extremely limited so my opinion of his candidacy must be shaped from a review of his resume, personal communications with people I know and respect who also know Mr. Ruffner, his responses to questions at his confirmation hearings and from reading letters of recommendation and comments published in the media.

The last category, letters of recommendation and comments published in the media, gives good reason for sport anglers to be skeptical of this nomination. With a couple exceptions, the lion's share of documentable public support for Mr. Ruffner has come from the commercial fishing community -- both statewide from representatives of the United Fishermen of Alaska and Icicle Seafoods and regionally from members of Cook Inlet's commercial drift and set gill net fleets.

Since these organizations and individuals have been very vocal regarding management of UCI salmon fisheries, it has been a fairly easy task to collect the proposals these commercial interests have submitted to the BOF, the testimony they have given to the Alaska Legislature and the op-ed pieces of theirs that have been published in the Cook Inlet news media.

What follows is a partial list of proposals and positions that strong supporters of Mr. Ruffner have taken over the past eighteen months:

- Reduce the minimum escapement goal for Kenai River late-run king salmon from 15,000 down to 11,000 so that commercial set net fishermen can harvest more sockeye salmon that move along the beaches at the same time.
- Do away with a system of paired restrictions between the sport fishery for king salmon in the Kenai River and the set net fishery during this time of historic low numbers of king salmon.
- Get rid of management “window” closures of the set net fishery that allow late-run king and sockeye salmon to enter the Kenai and Kasilof rivers in an effort to achieve escapement goals and provide opportunity for personal use and sport fisheries.
- Reduce the seasonal limit of sockeye salmon for Alaskan resident Personal Use fishermen by 50% so that more can be harvested by the commercial fishery.
- Ban or severely reduce power boats for sport fishing.
- Prohibit catch and release as a sport fish management tool.
- Repeal the “One percent Rule” that prescribes the orderly transition between the commercial-oriented management for sockeyes to a sport-oriented management for coho, a science-based management tool that implements a 35 year old regulation directive for fishery managers to minimize the commercial harvest of coho salmon so that sport anglers can have a reasonable opportunity to harvest these fish.
- Opposed the development of a Cook Inlet conservation corridor through the use of time and area restrictions of the drift gill net fleet even though the objective of this conservation corridor is to help achieve minimum

escapement goals for Susitna sockeye and provide enough coho salmon for Mat-Su anglers to have a successful sport fishery.

These same interests who now support Mr. Ruffner have stated in testimony to the BOF that the highest value accruing from UCI salmon comes from maximizing the commercial harvest. They have denigrated the State's Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, testified to the Legislature that the BOF process is broken and must be replaced, filed suit in Federal Court in an attempt to have UCI salmon fisheries managed under federal oversight and filed suit in State Court to have UCI commercial salmon fishing regulations overturned.

You can tell a lot about a person from the friends they keep and UCI sport anglers, if not the entire state, have much to be concerned about Mr. Ruffner's nomination. More than 50 percent of all sport and personal use fishing occurs in UCI. My guess is that sometime this summer or next when the UCI salmon fisheries are subject to some new or more severe restriction the 41 percent of the state's population that calls Anchorage home is going to wake up to the fact that they have no direct representation on the BOF. They will be relegated to watching from the banks while commercial nets remain in the water.

By Kevin Delaney

Daniel George

From: Kenny Bingaman <fish@kingsizeadventures.com>
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Fw: Do Not Confirm Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish.
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: [Kenny Bingaman](#)

Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 9:00 AM

To: Representative.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov ; Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov ; Representative.Matt.Clamen@akleg.gov ; Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov ; Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov ; Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov ; Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov ; Representative.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov ; Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov ; Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov ; Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov ; Representative.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov ; Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov ; Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov ; Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov ; Representative.Dave.Talerico@akleg.gov ; Representative.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov ; Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov ; Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov ; Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov ; Representative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov ; Representative.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov ; Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov ; Representative.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov ; Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov ; Representative.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov ; Representative.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov
Subject: Re: Do Not Confirm Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish.

Kenny Bingaman

PO Box 2163, Soldotna, Ak. 99669

907-260-9442--907-398-6143

Esteemed Legislators,

I am sending this email to you today to ask you not to confirm Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fish. Mr. Ruffner is not what he seems. I have lived in Alaska and on the Kenai Peninsula for over 40yrs. He and others are giving the impression that he is an “environmentalist”, “habitat specialist”, “resource protectionist” and nothing could be farther from the truth. Of course he has sport fished, of course he has dip netted, but so has most of the commercial fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula.

The Kenai Watershed Forum that he is a co-founder of is inundated with commercial fishing interest. it's board is made up of 54% commercial fishers or people connected to commercial fishing. He has gotten wide support of commercial fishing people from the Kenai Peninsula;

Ken Tarbox, 16yrs Soldotna ADF&G Commercial fishing head biologist, who while he was there declared that his department at ADF&G would manage the Kenai River and Cook Inlet for a Commercial fishing priority, John McCombs, East Side Set Netter, Robert Correia, East Side Set Netter, Rep. Sen. Peter Micciche-Soldotna, Cook Inlet Drift Commercial Fisherman, Dwight Kramer, founder of Joe Fisherman Coalition, Soldotna, who's board of directors is inundated with commercial fishermen. Yesterday Brent Johnson a Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly member got a resolution pushed thru that recommended Robert Ruffner as Chairman of the

Board of Fish. Brent Johnson is an East Side Set Net commercial fisherman, who was rejected by the legislature in 2012 as a nominee by then Gov. Parnell because it would have slanted the BOF with a commercial fish majority. The City of Kenai today also sent forth a resolution recommending Robert Ruffner, there are 3 sitting Kenai City Council members that are commercial fishermen.

When was the last time you saw commercial fishermen support anyone who is labeled “an environmentalist”, “a habitat specialist”, “a resource protectionist”? My friends, the answer is never. Such people are commercial fishing's worst enemies. In fact Roland Maw was connected to this entity by the past president of KWF, Jim Butler aka Commercial fisherman.

There has been 3 studies by the Kenai Watershed Forum to date that have been done to illuminate Kenai River Guides and sport fishing power boats from the Kenai River. All of these studies, (attempts), failed. it all began with;

a “Hydrocarbon study” financed and performed by this entity. It directly targeted/blamed the Kenai River Guides 2 stroke outboards for high levels of hydrocarbons and stated that continued guide boat impact would devastate the aqua structure of the river and all of its inhabitants, especially the salmon. They called for an outright ban on all power boats. Fortunately, technology beat them to the punch by the major outboard manufacturers developing and producing 4 stroke outboards that reduced hydrocarbon levels to a non-issue in the Kenai River.

Within 2yrs, there was another study conducted. This time it was called a water clarity study in association with a “boat wake” study that involved damage to the Kenai River’s banks by power boat traffic. Immediately guide boats were targeted/blamed as the problem with bank erosion due to the weight of guide boats filled with clients. Not only was a ban on guide boats suggested, but Kenai River State Parks actually limited the number of clients in a guide boat during the month of July to 4 people. Again, guides and the industry corrected the problem quickly by proving that raising the horsepower, which had been set at 35 since 1985 to 50hp, thereby enabling full boats to get on step faster and produce much smaller waves. Raising the horsepower limit made total sense as no manufacture made 35hp outboards for almost 20yrs at that time. Again, technology thwarted the Kenai Watershed Forums accusations. However, Kenai River Guides never again got back to full boat loads of clients that they had had before, the law remains, only 4 clients allowed in a Guide boat during the month of July. A loss in revenue that for them was never regained. The water clarity study did not go away until common sense information to the Kenai Watershed Forum forced its demise. It was noted that on the dates they said the water was at its worst, that large tidal activity which back flowed as far up the Kenai River as mile 16 brought with it the bottom of the river’s mud and churned up waters from commercial fishing boats, from the mouth of the river. The test study area was at river mile 12. Also they were enlightened to the fact that the Kenai River was a glacial fed river with frequent flooding due to rainfall and the Snowy Glacier ice dam which releases large amounts of water on a bi-yearly schedule. It took a while for them to finally understand how flawed their study was and actually fought with us and continued it until rational common sense ended the study.

And a look at the list of donors to the Kenai Watershed Forum shows another truth;

Ken Tarbox has donated money to the Kenai Watershed Forum. Peter & Erin Micciche, Cook Inlet Drift Commercial fisherman, have donated money to this entity. Robert and Tara Ruffner have donated \$5,000 to the KWF. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife have donated \$25,000. Sheldon and Debbie Ruffner donated a \$1,000. Robert Correia, East Side Set Netter, donated a \$1,000. Paul Dale, Snug Harbor Seafood's, donated \$1,000. United Cook Inlet Drifters Association, the largest commercial fishing association on the Kenai Peninsula donated \$500. Cook Inlet Keeper donated \$500. Even the State of Alaska donated \$20,000 under the Capital Projects Budget, wonder who in Juneau got that put through,(Chenault whose chief of staff is Tom Wright, who held the same job at United Cook Inlet Drift Association as Roland Maw)? And who is Cook Inlet Keeper?

Cook Inlet Keepers Board

Benjamin Jackinsky, President **Commercial Fisherman**

Mako Haggerty , vice Pres **Commercial Fisherman**

Mike O Meara **Commercial Fisherman**

Nancy Wainwright **Commercial Fisherman**

Rob Ernst **Commercial Fisherman**

Tom Evans **Commercial Fisherman**

Willow Kiing **Commercial Fisherman**

Peter Mos **Commercial Fisherman**

Shannyn Moore **Commercial Fisherman**

<http://inletkeeper.org/about/board>

In closing I would like to say again, please do not confirm Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish. This seat has always been a sport fishing seat and it should be again to return an equal balance in interest numbers to the Board. 3 Commercial Fishing Seats, 3 Sport Fishing Seats and 1 Subsistence Seat.

Thank you for your time,

Kenny Bingaman, Kenai Peninsula Resident.



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www.avast.com