

Dear Members of the House Fisheries Committee

I am writing to express my support for HB199.

My name is Steve Fish. My wife Kari and I live in Sitka now, and have lived in southeast for almost 43 years and have raised 3 children here, two of whom have returned to find their own place here in salmon country. I have been a fisherman here for all of that time, and now our older daughter and her husband rely on the salmon fishery to provide for their own family. Our younger adult children still rely on fisheries for part of their income.

We are grateful for the work ADF&G does to manage and protect Alaska's fisheries. However, we are concerned that the law as written does not provide the agency with scientific clarity or certainty to stand up to development efforts that put Alaska's fisheries at risk. HB199 not only sets clear standards for ADF&G to protect Alaska's fisheries, but will give Alaskans a chance to weigh in on decisions impacting our salmon rivers and streams.

Current law is antiquated and insufficient to protect salmon habitat from the destruction of thoughtless development and needs to be updated. Alaska now has the opportunity and responsibility to protect our wild salmon by updating our fish habitat law which was written when we lived in a different world. Please stand up to the destructive anti-regulation wave and continue to work toward reasonable regulation which is necessary to protect valuable, sensitive habitat from incrementally diminishing the ability of our rainforest ecosystem to support our renewable resources and to renew us in turn.

Thank You for the opportunity to comment.

Steve Fish and Kari Johnson
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