

**HB 107 Letters of Opposition
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From: Mike Friccero

Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 8:43 AM

To: Louie Flora <louie@akcenter.org>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: Re: House Resources Tomorrow - HB 197 and HB 107 - Documents

Rep. Tarr and Josephson, House Resources Committee

Dear Sirs:

I oppose HB 107

My request is that you keep this bill in committee for further review, testimony and discussion, to be considered in the next regular legislative session. I believe this bill is well-intentioned, but could have many unforeseen consequences and damages the long term viability of our robust wild salmon stocks. In the current regime of austerity measures in regards to the ADFG budget, there are no funds available for the increased managing costs that this bill would incur. It is counter intuitive to consider or pass a reduced (when compared to the long term average) budget for the ADFG, and allow this bill to move ahead. Until the related cost of administering this measure is established and funded, it would be irresponsible to move this ahead.

I am sending you below a previously transmitted email sent to Rep. Stutes, (Fisheries)

Please add this to the testimony in opposition to HB 107

Rep. Stutes:

I am writing to you in opposition to HB107, The "weak stock enhancement" legislation. As a 35 yr veteran fisher of Alaska Salmon, I am profoundly aware of the robust management program for all of the significant salmon runs that occur in our state. These programs are executed/overseen by well trained and proficient professional career staffers and field operatives in almost all circumstances. It would create unnecessary risk to pass any measures that might jeopardize what has been proven to be a sustainable and world class management system, by permitting amateur and individual participants impact wild salmon populations.

- HB 107 endangers Alaska's wild salmon stocks by eliminating important checks and balances that ensure wild fish are not out-numbered and out-competed by hatchery fish.*
- This bill would undo our careful planning and risk the wild Alaskan salmon upon which our jobs and culture depend by allowing unqualified people to raise fish and release them into Alaskan waters.*
- Alaska has a responsible hatchery program that supplements and reinforces our fisheries. The current checks and balances are how our state, for the most part, has ensured bountiful wild salmon for Alaskans to harvest for recreation, business and as a source of food.*

- *The current permitting process works and provides the necessary oversight*

Please consider this a written submission of testimony in opposition to HB107

Thanks for all you do.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike and Gina Friccero

From: Dave Kubiak [
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 8:38 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr
<Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: CS HB 107

I served at least ten years on the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association Board, during which time I became familiar with the safeguard policies of the ADFG in regard to salmon stocks. The Biology In A Bucket proposal is not good science and not good policy.

Please kill CS HB 107.

Dave Kubiak
Kodiak Salmon Seiner

From: Nancy Hillstrand

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 4:07 PM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Please Hold HB 107 and 128 Enhancement runs contrary to wild fish law

Please hold HB 107 and HB 128

We first need indepth review of the abundance of research at our disposal. Just adding fish may sound like a solution but can have far reaching consequences to our wild salmon belonging to all Alaskans.

Below are some of the Alaska Statutes and regulations pertaining to enhancement and hatcheries and the protection of wild salmon. There are likely others that I did not include and this list does not include internal policies such as the genetics policy and sustainable salmon policy.

Bearing repeating is The Hatchery Act of 1974:

"The program shall be operated without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state and under a policy of management which allows reasonable segregation of returning hatchery-reared salmon from naturally occurring stocks."

HB 107 places fish directly on top of wild naturally spawning and rearing fish. This runs contrary to law. This activity has been well documented as especially dangerous when performed on depleted or depressed stocks even with considered "expert" oversight.

There is no mention of the burden of proof to ensure no adverse affects and who pays for adverse affects? The science over the last decade is heavily weighted showing stress, out competition, genetic introgression. and has shown to draw in other predator fish causing further depletion unwittingly causing further degradation

"Enhancement" is the very last resort of aid to depressed stocks of fish.

Populations rise and fall in fluctuating manner. There are many recent efforts already ongoing in the state that need to be considered. These are the first line of defense!

- ADFG, with habitat and food web experience and expertise has ongoing projects piecing the components of habitat, food web and population dynamics.
- The North Pacific Management Council after lengthy public meetings have created bycatch caps on our important salmon resource creating the first level for solution to lowered salmon returns.
- Comprehensive projects and surveys designed to monitor aid depleted areas of fish such as the King salmon juvenile salmon project on the Yukon are in the process of major oversight.
- The Board of Fish needs to be continually alerted to any areas of subsistence failure in upper tributaries to ensure escapements and possible weir placement that residents can help monitor.

Results of these projects are already showing increase. Enhancement confounds these admirable comprehensive first defenses.

The RPT (Regional Planning Teams) mentioned in these bills have been recently restructured that imbalance the ADFG makeup of these important teams. Depending on region they are not made up of ecologists or food web and habitat specialists required to make critical decisions pertaining to our wild valuable fish resources.

Please hold these bills

We need indepth review of the abundance of research at our disposal. Just adding fish may sound good but can have far reaching consequences to our wild salmon belonging to all Alaskans

Applicable Statutes:

SEC. 01, Chapter 111, Session Laws of Alaska, provides: “It is the intent of this Act to authorize the private ownership of salmon hatcheries by qualified nonprofit corporations for the purpose of contributing, by artificial means, to the rehabilitation of the state’s depleted and depressed salmon fishery. **The program shall be operated without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state and under a policy of management which allows reasonable segregation of returning hatchery-reared salmon from naturally occurring stocks.**”

SEC. 16.05.730. MANAGEMENT OF WILD AND ENHANCED STOCKS OF FISH.

(a) Fish stocks in the state **shall be managed consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks** and may be managed consistent with sustained yield of enhanced fish stocks.

(b) In allocating enhanced fish stocks, the board shall consider the need of fish enhancement projects to obtain brood stock. The board may direct the department to manage fisheries in the state to achieve an adequate return of fish from enhanced stocks to enhancement projects for brood stock; **however, management to achieve an adequate return of fish to enhancement projects for brood stock shall be consistent with sustained yield of wild stocks.**

(c) The board may consider the need of enhancement projects authorized under AS 16.10.400 and contractors who operate state-owned enhancement projects under AS 16.10.480 to harvest and sell fish produced by the enhancement project that are not needed for brood stock to obtain funds for the purposes allowed under AS 16.10.450 or 16.10.480(d). The board may exercise its authority under this title as it considers necessary to direct the department to provide a reasonable harvest of fish, in addition to the fish needed for brood stock, to an enhancement project to obtain funds for the enhancement project **if the harvest is consistent with sustained yield of wild stocks**. The board may adopt a fishery management plan to provide fish to an enhancement project to obtain funds for the purposes allowed under AS 16.10.450 or 16.10.480(d).

SEC. 16.10.750. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) **The legislature finds that**

(2) **the state is committed to maintaining and enhancing its wild stocks of salmon by careful management**, by initiating a 20-year rebuilding program, and by investing in the fishing industry;

Applicable Regulations:

ARTICLE 2. SALMON FISHERY.

5 AAC 39.220. POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MIXED STOCK SALMON FISHERIES. (a) **In applying this statewide mixed stock salmon policy for all users, conservation of wild salmon stocks consistent with sustained yield shall be accorded the highest priority.** Allocation of salmon resources under this policy will be consistent with the subsistence preference in AS 16.05.258, and the allocation criteria set out in 5 AAC 39.205, 5 AAC 75.017, and 5 AAC 77.007.

(d) Most wild Alaska salmon stocks are fully allocated to fisheries capable of harvesting available surpluses. **Consequently, the board will restrict new or expanding mixed stock fisheries unless otherwise provided for by management plans or by application of the board's allocation criteria.** Natural fluctuations in the abundance of stocks harvested in a fishery will not be the single factor that identifies a fishery as expanding or new.

5 AAC 39.222. POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES. (a) The Board of Fisheries (board) and Department of Fish and Game (department) recognize that

(3) to effectively assure sustained yield and habitat projection for wild salmon stocks, fishery management plans and programs require specific guiding principles and criteria, and the framework for their application contained in this policy.

(c) Management of salmon fisheries by the state should be based on the following principles and criteria:

(1) wild salmon stocks and the salmon's habitats should be maintained at levels of resource productivity that assure sustained yields as follows:

(A) salmon spawning, rearing, and migratory habitats should be protected as follows:

(i) **salmon habitats should not be perturbed beyond natural boundaries of variation;**

(ii) **scientific assessments of possible adverse ecological effects of proposed habitat alterations and the impacts of the alterations on salmon populations should be conducted before approval of a proposal;**

(iii) **adverse environmental impacts on wild salmon stocks and the salmon's habitats should be assessed;**

(D) **effects and interactions of introduced or enhanced salmon stocks on wild salmon stocks should be assessed; wild salmon stocks and fisheries on those stocks should be protected from adverse impacts from artificial propagation and enhancement efforts;**

(G) depleted salmon stocks should be allowed to recover or, where appropriate, should be actively restored; **diversity should be maintained to the maximum extent possible, at the genetic, population, species, and ecosystem levels;**

(3) effective management systems should be established and applied to regulate human activities that affect salmon as follows:

(C) **when wild salmon stocks are fully allocated, new fisheries or expanding fisheries should be restricted, unless provided for by management plans or by application of the board's allocation criteria;**

(J) **proposals for salmon fisheries development or expansion and artificial propagation and enhancement should include assessments required for sustainable management of existing salmon fisheries and wild salmon stocks;**

(K) **plans and proposals for development or expansion of salmon fisheries and enhancement programs should effectively document resource assessments, potential impacts, and other information needed to assure sustainable management of wild salmon stocks;**

(5) in the face of uncertainty, salmon stocks, fisheries, artificial propagation, and essential habitats shall be managed conservatively as follows:

(A) a precautionary approach, involving the application of prudent foresight that takes into account the uncertainties in salmon fisheries and habitat management, the biological, social, cultural, and economic risks, and the need to take action with incomplete knowledge, should be applied to the regulation and control of harvest and other human-induced sources of salmon mortality; a precautionary approach requires

(i) consideration of the needs of future generations and avoidance of potentially irreversible changes;

(ii) prior identification of undesirable outcomes and of measures that will avoid undesirable outcomes or correct them promptly;

(iii) initiation of any necessary corrective measure without delay and prompt achievement of the measure's purpose, on a time scale not exceeding five years, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species;

(iv) that where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measurable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resources;

(v) appropriate placement of the burden of proof, of adherence to the requirements of this subparagraph, on those plans or ongoing activities that pose a risk or hazard to salmon habitat or production;

(d) The principles and criteria for sustainable salmon fisheries shall be applied, by the department and the board using the best available information, as follows:

(4) in association with the appropriate management plan, the department and the board will, as appropriate, collaborate in the development and periodic review of an action plan for any new or expanding salmon fisheries, or stocks of concern; action plans should contain goals, measurable and implementable objectives, and provisions, including

(C) fishery management actions needed to achieve rebuilding goals and objectives, in proportion to each fishery's use of, and hazards posed to, a salmon stock;

(D) descriptions of new or expanding salmon fisheries, management concern, yield concern, or conservation concern; and

From: Nancy Hillstrand [

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 4:38 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>

Subject: ADFG and Aquaculture Associations admit enhancement damage to wild spawning salmon

We are blessed with an abundance of wild salmon resources of five species of salmon. Please don't jeopardize this bounty.

Hold HB 107 and HB 128. Enhancement is not to be taken lightly. These activities especially with no revenue for critical oversight or monitoring cause damage. Who is responsible for this damage, harm, and costly rehabilitation?

1. Otilith studies have shown 87% Prince William Sound straying of man made hatchery fish (Barabara Creek) all the way to Lower Cook Inlet River systems 200 miles away.
2. Please see Attached paper showing local damage to sockeye on the Kenai river system , this important paper that was paid for with Alaska State general funds, called

Homing of Sockeye Salmon within Hidden Lake Alaska.

They clearly state:

“These hatchery programs currently produce large numbers of fish that may pose ecological and genetic risks to wild populations. (Reisenbichler and McIntyre 1977; Campton 1995; Naish et al. 2007; Grant 2012).

ADFG and CIAA continue:

“Recent studies show that hatchery rearing can reduce fitness in the wild (Kostow 2004; Araki et al. 2007, 2008) and that hybridization between hatchery and wild fish can lower the overall fitness of wild populations. (Ford 2002).

There are many papers like this one. Please lets not jeopardize our wild natural Alaskan salmon further. We need a public review

Nancy

Nancy Hillstrand

Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries Inc.

Coal Point Seafoods

Homer, Alaska 99603

Representative Tarr,

My name is Alexis Kwachka I would like to express my opposition to HB107. Alaska has a hatchery program in place and I feel like this bill is not needed. Even on a small scale, reintroduction of fish back into any system can have detrimental effects. Disease and introduced fish out competing wild fish are only a few of the issues. These lessons have been learned over and over again. We need to keep Alaska strong and our permitting process is already in place.

I do not support HB 107 and would like to see it stay in committee.

Sincerely,

Alexis Kwachka

Kodiak , Alaska

