



ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN

P.O. BOX 26 - KXA
(907) 542-2230



KASAAN, ALASKA 99950-0340
(FAX) 888-388-4480

Date: February 6, 2020

To: Dave Talerico- Alaska State Representative

From: Organized Village of Kasaan

Re: Support Letter- House Bill 199

Greetings,

This letter formerly supports H.B. 199 to address the decrease in escapement of wild salmon stock populations listed as "stocks of concern" throughout the State of Alaska. As a federally recognized Tribe, we must stress that Alaska needs achieve what our State Constitution strived for when goals were identified in the Fisheries Restoration Enhancement Division (FRED) Legislation. It has become very clear that this has not been met.

With rehabilitation of wild salmon stock populations, Alaskans can be provided the natural resources needed to fill economic voids of living our rural Alaskan lifestyle to it's maximum benefit. **For example:** In 1936, over 65,000 sockeye passed the Klawock River Weir, after intense commercial fishing, commercial fish traps and resident harvest. By 2004, this reduced to 12,400 sockeye, an 80% reduction.

Current local efforts put an invested focus on youth. We witness our schools lacking curriculum-based criteria for natural resource monitoring and management. Cultivating our youth to become future resource managers can have multi-generational benefits. We're also focusing on habitat and spawning restoration in areas where "stocks of concern" are listed.

FRED Legislation creates a foundation for proactive resource management. Instead, fishing must halt until there's evidence of population recovery. Sub-populations often do not recover. These effects are further diminishing wild salmon stocks. Annual reports provide no clear definition between harvest of wild salmon stocks and hatchery harvests.

Communities requesting authorization to conduct enhancement projects' focusing on wild salmon stocks for restoration purposes are told it's prohibited and are referenced to science/education permits. These permits don't allow for restoration.

Sadly, no written policy exists- or even a permitting process to duplicate this project in small discreet wild salmon runs that need this type of assistance. Current efforts are referenced Science/Education permits, forcing an applicant to falsify the

application that's not designed for this purpose. An applicant cannot document the permit is to restore a wild salmon run, or the applicant will be denied.

The Mighty Copper River Red Salmon (Sockeye) have been enhanced for nearly half a century. It has an abundant rearing habitat and a very minute spawning habitat. The Gulkana streamside incubation project supplemented almost 40 million eggs annually since 1971. This clearly fulfills the State Constitution's mandate for maximizing productivity of our natural fisheries resources.

It's clearly evident that increased efforts need to occur to reduce the amount of wild salmon stocks listed as "stocks of concern" (5 consecutive years of not meeting minimum escapement). Escapement Management restricts Alaskans from enjoying these resources.

Indigenous Escapement Management was adopted by Alaska Department of Fish & Game and was an effective management tool dating over 9,000 years by the U.S. Forest Service. Ancestral homes alongside rivers monitored escapement, using simple methods.

When a salmon was spotted jumping in an estuary, a young boy would run to his home to inform his families. A three day process (preparation for harvest and other ceremonies) would occur, allowing salmon to pass by- assuring future generations would enjoy the same fruitful harvesting.

Today, we have ocean harvesting with an evolving technology; commercial style fish traps are outlawed and escapement managed needs to be augmented with measures that focus on proactive restoration.

Alaskans deserve more than "escapement measures being made". These "stocks of concern" once flourished with salmon. We deserve more than to lie on an application to restore wild stock salmon in our "stocks of concern" streams. This letter strongly supports H.B. 199 to help wild stock salmon in the great State of Alaska.

We are very grateful for Representative Dave Talerico for responding to the needs of this important issue. Alaskan stakeholders, elected officials and Tribes can unify to increase wild salmon stock escapement for future generations.

Respectfully,



Ronald Leighton - Tribal President
Organized Village of Kasaan

Feb. 16, 2020

Date

application that's not... for this purpose. An applicant cannot document the
ability to restore a water body to a level of water quality that would be

The ability to restore a water body to a level of water quality that would be
attainable is a key factor in determining whether a water body is eligible for
the Clean Water Act. The Act requires that a water body be "degraded" in order
to be eligible for restoration. The Act also requires that a water body be
"restorable" in order to be eligible for restoration.

It's clearly evident that a great deal of effort has been made to ensure that the
restoration of water bodies is a high priority. The Act also requires that a
water body be "restorable" in order to be eligible for restoration. The Act
also requires that a water body be "degraded" in order to be eligible for
restoration.

Intelligent management of water resources is essential to the health and
well-being of our nation. The Act also requires that a water body be
"restorable" in order to be eligible for restoration. The Act also requires
that a water body be "degraded" in order to be eligible for restoration.

When a water body is degraded, it is essential that a plan be developed to
restore it to a level of water quality that would be attainable. The Act
also requires that a water body be "restorable" in order to be eligible for
restoration. The Act also requires that a water body be "degraded" in order
to be eligible for restoration.

Today, we have a great deal of information available to us regarding the
restoration of water bodies. The Act also requires that a water body be
"restorable" in order to be eligible for restoration. The Act also requires
that a water body be "degraded" in order to be eligible for restoration.

Alaska has a great deal of water resources. The Act also requires that a
water body be "restorable" in order to be eligible for restoration. The Act
also requires that a water body be "degraded" in order to be eligible for
restoration. The Act also requires that a water body be "restorable" in order
to be eligible for restoration.

We are very grateful for the support of the Alaska Department of Environmental
Conservation. The Act also requires that a water body be "restorable" in order
to be eligible for restoration. The Act also requires that a water body be
"degraded" in order to be eligible for restoration.

Respectfully,

John A. ...
State

John A. ...
Governor