



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District A Fairbanks

SB 44

Sponsor Statement

"An Act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fishing restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Excluding the priority already in statute for subsistence, SB 44 directs the Board of Fisheries to place restrictions on sport and commercial fisheries before putting restrictions on personal use fisheries when the harvest is limited to achieve a management goal.

Fisheries that are restricted to residents only are intended to enable Alaskans to access their fisheries resources for their personal use and consumption. Ensuring that residents have access to these fisheries resources is vitally important as we continue to grow as a state. All Alaskans can agree that residents should be prioritized for harvest of our fisheries resources before users from elsewhere in the country and the world.

Currently, there are 41 personal use fisheries throughout the state. Harvested species include salmon, whitefish, shrimp, clams, crab, scallop, herring, smelt, abalone, sea cucumber, halibut and more. Nearly 50,000 Alaskans rely on personal use fisheries every year to put food on their family dinner table. Personal use fisheries provide food security, contribute to the economy and support the Alaskan traditions of independence, self-determination and resourcefulness.

I ask for your consideration and support of SB 44 so Alaskans can be assured that they will continue to have access to their fisheries resources to the benefit of themselves and their families.

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