

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 6:29:00 PM

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Please don't consider over riding board of fish decisions. The board process works very well. There are always going to be winners and losers at BoF meetings but we live with their decisions. June fishing in area M is our livelihood, shutting us down for a river system 1200 miles away doesn't make sense. If you do shut us down, will there be disaster money available right away? Since CWAK chums cant be distinguished for their specific river system yet, you probably should consider shutting bristol bay down too.

Thank you for listening,

Dale Pedersen

Anchorage,AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:25:16 AM

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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Patrick Brown and I am a commercial salmon fisherman who operates out of Sand Point, AK, and I'm writing to you in opposition to Senate Bill 128. The June Salmon fishery is the lifeblood of our region. In even years, it makes up about half of our yearly income, and in the odd years, it makes up about a third of our yearly income from salmon fishing. Salmon fishing is basically my sole income, and is the sole income of most operators of small vessels in the region.

This winter, in February 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries met and made many changes to our fishery, which we have yet to see the outcome of, but most importantly, they made changes at a public level with input on both sides. The Board of Fisheries is tasked with making these big decisions, so that they don't have to be settled on a Legislative level. Please allow the Board to do its job and to leave fisheries policy off the Senate floor.

Area M has had political wars with outside groups for decades, generations even. My great grandfather fished from Bristol Bay to Chignik before we had boundaries. Before we had statehood. Before we had Limited Entry. Shutting down our June fishery will kill our region. It is unfounded and politically motivated. Even the forerunning marine biologists of our day all agree that the Area M June fishery is not to blame for the failing chum runs in the AYK. Scientists, such as Dr. Kathrine Howard, who works for the State, made very compelling reports regarding the state of the Yukon and Kuskokwim river environments, as well as ocean environments in which fry salmon enter. There's a lot to unpack on the subject, which is why the meeting this year lasted longer than normal. Please trust that the experts and the public all weighed in on the subject heavily, and despite the politics, the science ultimately revealed the best answers for the Board to vote on.

The findings from Dr. Howard's report can be found at the following website:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2022-2023/peninsula/11%20Marine%20research%20Overview.pdf>

Furthermore, the entirety of the meetings public input can be found on the ADFG website: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=02-20-2023&meeting=anchorage>

These matters should be left to the Board of Fisheries to be decided upon as they have been. The Board's decision should not be undermined. This will set a dangerous precedent that will have unfathomable consequences.

SB 128 needs to be stopped right away.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Brown

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**From:** Edgar Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 9:50 PM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Area M

So low! Do you think the natives in your distict are better than where i live! I am an Aleut , my people lived in the Aleutians for centuries! White mans bill to appease the people who are really killing off your run! It is not me! Skiffs in your river, CDQ trawl fleet, that is who is killing your Dogs! Do your research!!!!  
Edgar Smith

Mail ~ [REDACTED]  
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Patrick Brown](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Oppose SB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:02:26 AM

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I totally agree with you Patrick. I have attended most board of fish meetings since 1989 and over and over the science has proven that Area M has no impact on the AYK salmon. Please vote no on SB 128.

Thank you,  
James Brown

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**From:** Patrick Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:25:07 AM  
**To:** Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov <Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov <Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov <Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov <Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Representative.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov <Representative.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov <Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov <Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 128

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Patrick Brown and I am a commercial salmon fisherman who operates out of Sand Point, AK, and I'm writing to you in opposition to Senate Bill 128. The June Salmon fishery is the lifeblood of our region. In even years, it makes up about half of our yearly income, and in the odd years, it makes up about a third of our yearly income from salmon fishing. Salmon fishing is basically my sole income, and is the sole income of most operators of small vessels in the region.

This winter, in February 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries met and made many changes to our fishery, which we have yet to see the outcome of, but most importantly, they made changes at a public level with input on both sides. The Board of Fisheries is tasked with making these big decisions, so that they don't have to be settled on a Legislative level. Please allow the Board to do its job and to leave fisheries policy off the Senate floor.

Area M has had political wars with outside groups for decades, generations even. My great grandfather fished from Bristol Bay to Chignik before we had boundaries. Before we had statehood. Before we had Limited Entry. Shutting down our June fishery will kill our region. It is unfounded and politically motivated. Even the forerunning marine biologists of our day all agree that the Area M June fishery is not to blame for the failing chum runs in the AYK. Scientists, such as Dr. Kathrine Howard, who works for the State, made very compelling reports regarding the state of the Yukon and Kuskokwim river environments, as well as ocean environments in which fry salmon enter. There's a lot to unpack on the subject, which is why the meeting this year lasted longer than normal. Please trust that the experts and the public all weighed in on the subject heavily, and despite the politics, the science ultimately revealed the best answers for the Board to vote on.

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Furthermore, the entirety of the meetings public input can be found on the ADFG website: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=02-20-2023&meeting=anchorage>

These matters should be left to the Board of Fisheries to be decided upon as they have been. The Board's decision should not be undermined. This will set a dangerous precedent that will have unfathomable consequences.

SB 128 needs to be stopped right away.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Brown

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:25:33 AM

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Dear Honorable ;Senator Claman,

I strongly oppose the adoption of SB 128 for the following reasons:

1. The science shows that the Area M June fishery has little impact on Western Alaska chum salmon stocks. Records show that Area M is a historical fishery supporting Aleut families and communities since 1911. History shows that the Aleut natives fished as early as the 1800s, and fish returned year after year. The problems began when the Alaska legislature issued permits for a commercial fishery in AYK. When commercial fishing was added to the AYK subsistence lifestyle, along with rumored illegal activity, it created a problem of overharvesting. There are too many people and insufficient resources in this area to support subsistence and commercial fishing. When this happened in Area M, the Aleut people had to move to survive.
2. The legislature should not override decisions made by the Alaska Board of Fish, which will set a precedent for other Alaska state boards and public processes.
3. Fishing is all there is in Area M. Does the state of Alaska want the Alut people to be a liability rather than an asset? Currently, Area M has no mining or oil and gas projects.

I appreciate your consideration. Please feel free to call me at 206-954-2801 with any questions.

Melvin Larsen  
Sand Point Fisherman

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: SB128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:20:08 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rob Tripp [REDACTED]  
**Date:** April 13, 2023 at 10:29:25 AM AKDT  
**To:** Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov  
**Cc:** Patrick Brown [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SB128

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rob Tripp [REDACTED]  
**Date:** April 13, 2023 at 9:01:33 AM AKDT  
**To:** Representative.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** SB128

Good morning,  
I'm writing this to OPPOSE SB128.....  
This would completely Undermine BOF  
Process and the scientific methods they follow!!! This just shows the  
Political Agenda and Attacks against Area M and our fisheries that  
we have been fighting against for decades!!! This would cause undo  
Economic Hardship to all in the AEB not to mention the local  
government and business losses!!  
Please reconsider this as it just brings more Politics into a process  
they Don't Belong...  
Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter..  
Rob Tripp  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:22:48 PM

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Reject this bill. This is a legal nightmare for all of you if this gets passed. This bill blatantly singles out a single user group with law. Equal Opportunity under the law Violation! Lawsuit? The legal public process has spoke(board of fish), just because someone doesn't like it, now wants to bypass this process and use law to kill small alaskan fisherman's businesses. Lawsuit? Taking of Private business without restitution? I am an alaskan that fish's this area. I will fight this if you dare pass this. Signed Arseny Polushkin alaska citizen.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Bill 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:41:13 PM

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To whom it may concern

Hi my name is Robert Mack, I am writing to you today because of Bill 128. This Bill is not only going to have a huge financial impact on me being able to provide for my family, but it will also effectively doom 6 communities in the Aleutian East Borough. I am a multi generational fisherman from this area, and we have fished these waters before statehood. I strongly ask that this bill not pass.

Sincerely,

Robert

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note10+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 14, 2023 7:28:37 AM

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Dear Alaska State Senator,

**RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 - TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF  
ALASKA PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON  
FISHING**

I am an Alaskan resident that currently resides in Alaska. I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679A, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in a portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

Firstly, I would like to bring to your attention that the Board of Fisheries has recently made a ruling on this issue during their last session together. As a body with expertise in the field and the mandate to manage fisheries, the board's decision should be respected and upheld. It is essential to follow the appropriate regulatory process, and the proposed bill undermines the authority of the Board of Fisheries, as stated under AS 16.05.251.

Furthermore, there is a lack of scientific evidence or studies to support the drastic action proposed in Senate Bill No. 128. Implementing such a measure without a solid foundation in research and analysis can lead to unintended consequences and potential harm. The Board of Fisheries, in contrast, makes decisions based on scientific data, research, and input from stakeholders, ensuring a more informed and responsible approach.

In addition to the above, this bill poses a direct attack on the individuals living in the area specified by the bill. By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill No. 128 and instead support the appropriate regulatory processes already in place through the Board of Fisheries. Your commitment to upholding the board's authority and expertise, and protecting the livelihoods of those affected by this bill, is essential for the well-being of our state and its fisheries.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response and your continued support for sustainable fisheries management in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kyle Foster

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**Kyle Foster**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov)  
**Subject:** SB128  
**Date:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:34:47 PM

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Dear Mr. Senator Claman

My name is Drayton Newman, I am an Area M fisherman, in no way am I representing an association or entity other than myself and my Family. It has come to my attention SB128 that my fellow Alaskans feel the need to bring their issues to the senate floor, with that being stated I feel the need to express my voice as well.

To clarify I am not trying to put down my fellow Alaskans for personal gain, our region has been under scrutiny longer then I have been alive and will more likely continue to be the topic of such long after I have gone and my children have grown.

I was raised in "Area M," at 18 I moved out of my parents' home in King Cove Alaska and attended UAA in pursuit of a business degree, all funded by commercial fishing out of Area M. I met my wife in Anchorage and after purposing we decided to move back to her home village of Sand Point, our move was funded by salmon fishing in Area M, shortly there after we got married and our wedding was also paid by salmon fishing Area M. We had our son July of 2021 I was able to watch his birth because of Salmon fishing. Shortly there after My wife and I got a Mortgage for our home, the down payment was funded by Salmon fishing.

At this rate we know what we want, we're not asking to become extravagantly wealthy, merely live a life that provides for our family, naturally our answer to our financial needs is salmon fishing, so much so the summer of 2022 with help from our local cannery we purchased our boat the F/V Chaaliĭ. It's a way of life I hope to raise my son off of, and his brother or sister that's due this coming august, I understand this is all our fellow Alaskans want as well, but to turn their back on my story and hundreds more just like for their own benefit is appalling to say the least.

With this letter it is my intent to give voice to Area M in hopes the senate will not forget that we Area M fishermen are Alaskans too, and my story isn't rare merely copied from generations before me.

Drayton T Newman

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Jesse Bjorkman](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Kelly Merrick](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Mike Shower](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Loki Tobin](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Sen. David Wilson](#); [Rep. Jamie Allard](#); [Rep. Jennie Armstrong](#); [Rep. Ben Carpenter](#); [Rep. Ashley Carrick](#); [Rep. Julie Coulombe](#); [Rep. Mike Cronk](#); [Rep. Maxine Dibert](#); [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. Bryce Edmon](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Alyse Galvin](#); [Rep. Andrew Gray](#); [Rep. Cliff Groh](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Rep. Rebecca Himschoot](#); [Rep. Craig Johnson](#); [Rep. DeLena Johnson](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Kevin McCabe](#); [Rep. CJ McCormick](#); [Rep. Thomas McKay](#); [Rep. Donna Mears](#); [Rep. Genevieve Mina](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Josiah Patkotak](#); [Rep. Mike Prax](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. Justin Ruffridge](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Laddie Shaw](#); [Rep. Will Stapp](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Jesse Sumner](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Frank Tomaszewski](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Rep. Stanley Wright](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 - TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2023 8:36:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-rwz3hoi0.png](#)

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Honorable Members of the Alaska Legislature,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679\A, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in a portion of the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands.

Firstly, I would like to bring to your attention that the Board of Fisheries has recently made a ruling on this issue during their last session together. As a body with expertise in the field and the mandate to manage fisheries, the board's decision should be respected and upheld. It is essential to follow the appropriate regulatory process, and the proposed bill undermines the authority of the Board of Fisheries, as stated under AS 16.05.251.

Furthermore, there is a lack of scientific evidence or studies to support the drastic action proposed in Senate Bill No. 128. Implementing such a measure without a solid foundation in research and analysis can lead to unintended consequences and potential harm. The Board of Fisheries, in contrast, makes decisions based on scientific data, research, and input from stakeholders, ensuring a more informed and responsible approach.

In addition to the above, this bill poses a direct attack on the individuals living in the area specified by the bill. By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill No. 128 and instead support the appropriate regulatory processes already in place through the Board of Fisheries. Your commitment to upholding the board's authority and expertise, and protecting the livelihoods of those affected by this bill, is essential for the well-being of our state and its fisheries.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response and your continued support for sustainable fisheries management in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Anthony C Lekanof, Aleut Corporation Board Member

**Anthony Lekanof**

***Board of Directors***

**THE ALEUT CORPORATION**

*Anux̂ Ikukux̂ (The Current is Changing)*



**THE ALEUT CORPORATION**

4000 Old Seward Hwy, Ste. 300

907-561-4300 | Fax 907-563-4328

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** NO to SB 128  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 2:10:44 PM

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Alaska Senate,

Vote no on SB 128 (Commercial Salmon Fishing Closure).

To effectively "veto" a Board of Fish decision is simply a supreme "act of bad faith" against a board created by the Alaska Legislature itself (Alaska Statute 16.05.221) in its inaugural session of 1959.

Why Senators Olson and Kawasaki are sponsoring this bill I am sure I don't know, but it has absolutely nothing to do with fisheries science/data which they may or may not understand, and runs contrary to resource management mandates as written in the State of Alaska's own constitution.

Please uphold the currently appointed BOF's decisions based on science, compromise and good faith management of our State's resources and vote NO on SB 128 which is a harmful, unnecessary, unprecedented, and economically devastating blow to the Alaska Peninsula's salmon fisheries.

Sincerely,  
Jon Betzina

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 4:51:35 PM

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Please vote against SB188 as this complicates issues already addressed Norman Campbell,  
Cordova AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Rebecca Himschoot](#)  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Please consider NOT passing SB 128  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:11:25 PM

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Dear Senators and Representatives,

As an Alaska resident, commercial fisherman, small business owner, disabled military veteran, and father; I strongly urge you to reconsider passing SB 128.

The following, SB 128 would have the legislature close the Area M salmon fisheries in June 2023. Overriding the authority of a State board will have long-lasting and unknown precedents on future management issues, beyond Area M and beyond fisheries. This bill will cause irreparable harm to Alaska communities without any notable beneficial impacts to Yukon/Kuskokwim chum returns.

Furthermore, the Board of Fisheries took action in February 2023 to further restrict the fishery. It is a harmful precedent for the legislature to substitute its own judgement for that of the Board of Fisheries, who has authority over state fish management. The Board is appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the legislature, and is informed by ADFG expertise, scientific data, and a very public process with hundreds of people testifying on this issue alone in February.

Despite the claims, the impact of the Area M salmon fisheries on AYK chum returns is very low according to recent scientific data.

- In February, the BOF received (2022) sampling data indicating that about 17% of the chum harvest in all of the June Area M salmon fisheries was from the coastal western Alaska stock group (meaning chum stocks from a large coastal area that spans Norton Sound to Bristol Bay).
- The harvest rate provided by scientists was 5.5% for South Alaska Peninsula – and this was explicitly presented as an overestimate. This means less than 5.5% of the total chum returning to coastal western AK was harvested in Area M.
- Asian/Russian hatchery chum continue to make up the largest proportion of the Area M chum harvest in June (58%).

Despite this relatively low impact, in February 2023 the Board significantly restricted the Area M commercial sockeye fishery to try to further limit any impacts given the status of AYK chum stocks.

Specifically, the Board:

1. significantly reduced fishing time;
2. closed an entire area known for higher chum harvest;
3. implemented new limits/caps in the June fishery for South Unimak and the Shumagin Islands, which if reached would require ADFG to further restrict fishing in season.

The Board also approved the fleet implementing a cooperative management agreement, which requires 100% of the fleet to sign on, share all harvest data, monitor chum harvest in season in space and time, and stand down or move fishing locations when directed, to create opportunity for chum to pass through. This adaptive approach is actually the only way to ensure more passage to coastal western AK, as opposed to fixed closures in regulation that don't correspond to when chum are actually on the fishing grounds.

SB 128 will directly harm Area M fishermen, processors, and the communities dependent on these fisheries, especially Sand Point, King Cove, and False Pass. These harvests sustain families and provide the vast majority of operating revenue for these communities through local, borough, and state shared fish taxes.

- Without salmon, the multiple processors and the fishing economy they support would be

eliminated.

- 32% of the fish taxes received by Aleutians East Borough (AEB) in 2022 were from salmon
- 80% of the private sector jobs in the AEB communities are seafood-related
- the great majority of Area M salmon permits are owned and fished by Alaska residents

While the BOF did not adopt Proposal 140, the board's final regulatory action in 2023 was an improved solution to pass chum salmon through – which is the intended goal. Proposal 140, like this SB 128, would directly harm Alaska communities without any notable benefits to AYK chum returns and AYK communities reliant on chum.

Scientists are telling us that climate and ecosystem changes are having substantial impacts on salmon and salmon returns in AYK. Clear presentations from federal and state scientists point to recent marine heatwaves negatively impacting AYK chum salmon in significant, multiple ways (heat stressors, including making salmon more vulnerable to parasites, lower quality prey, and increased predators) while they are in the marine environment.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on this important matter for our state.

Best regards,

Dustin Connor

**Dustin Connor**

[REDACTED]

**Petersburg, AK 99833**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 6:32:35 AM

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Sir: As a commercial fisherman in Alaska I am writing to lend my voice in opposing SB 128. The Board of Fish is in place to look at all sides and the science of any issue in fisheries. This proposed bill would open the door to bypassing the public input and science when it comes to the resources of AK. This kind of legislation is basically going around the system that is in place to insure that fisheries in the State of Alaska are managed with the resource science and public input by users and ADFG into account in the management of any and all State Fisheries.

Please oppose this bill as I believe it does more harm than good in management of any and all State fisheries.

Thank you for your time and service  
David Blake  
Cordova AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Senate Judiciary](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#)  
**Cc:** [Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov); [Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:30:51 AM

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Dear Senator Claman and committee members,

I would like to voice my extreme opposition to SB 128. I am currently the chairman of the Wrangell F&G Advisory Committee to the Board of Fish and Game. I have been a member of this committee and participated in this process over 30 years. The State of Alaska has created a process with great public input and participation between local advisory committees and stakeholders and the board. There is the ability to work directly with board members and create compromises between users if the situation warrants. The amount of department comments, staff reports and public comments contain all the information to make an informed decision, however there is normally a tremendous amount of input. To undermine a process which is supposed to be deemed fair and made up of decision makers you vetted and confirmed would be very disappointing for all who participate in this process.

Thank you  
Chris Guggenbickler  
Wrangell, AK

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:34:07 AM

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Dear Senator Claman,

I am writing to express our opposition to SB128, that would close the Area M salmon fishery this June. We believe legislation like this sets a very harmful precedent for fisheries management. The Board of Fisheries took action on this issue earlier this year that imposes greater restrictions on the Area M fishermen. I attended part of the very contentious meeting with days of public testimony. It was clear whatever action the BOF took there would be many dissatisfied with the decision. That does not justify legislative action to circumvent the Board of Fisheries that is tasked with conservation and management of the state's fisheries.

Westward Seafoods and Alyeska Seafoods have processing operations in Unalaska / Dutch Harbor. We are not involved in the Area M fishery.

Sinclair Wilt  
Vice President, Westward Seafoods and Alyeska Seafoods  
341 W Tudor Road, Suite 202  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907-343-9779

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Rebecca Himschoot](#)  
**Subject:** SB128 Commercial Salmon Fishery Closure  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:54:46 PM

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Senator Claman

Senate Judiciary Committee

Juneau AK, 99801

RE: SB128 Commercial Salmon Fishery Closure

Dear Chairman Claman and Senate Judiciary Members,

I am a lifelong commercial fisherman from Petersburg, I participate in salmon fisheries in Bristol Bay and Southeast. I would like to express my strong opposition to SB 128, which would shut down Area M from June 10<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. This bill would have a devastating impact on the people and communities of the region, as well as setting a dangerous precedent for future fisheries management decisions.

The science is clear: the Area M fishery has a low impact on AYK chum. In 2022, the harvest rate for South Alaska Peninsula chum was 5.5%. This means that Area M harvested less than 5.5% of the total chum returning to coastal western Alaska. Additionally, 58% of the chum harvested in Area M were of Asian/Russian hatchery origin. This means that these fish were not even part of the AYK chum population.

The Board of Fisheries (BOF) carefully considered all of the science and data before taking action at its February 2023 meeting. The BOF rejected Proposal 140, which would have closed the Area M fishery for a fixed period of time. The BOF determined that this proposal was unlikely to meaningfully increase chum passage to the AYK region. Instead, the BOF adopted a more flexible approach that would allow for management to respond to real-time data from the field.

SB 128 would have a devastating impact on the people and communities of the Eastern Aleutians. The Area M fishery is a vital part of the local economy. It provides jobs, income, and food security for thousands of people. If the fishery is shut down, it would have a ripple effect throughout the region, devastating local businesses and communities.

In addition to the regional economic impact, SB 128 would also undermine the BOF's authority and make it more difficult to manage fisheries effectively, as well as being a bad precedent to set for future fishery management decisions. It would open the door for special

interest groups to pressure the legislature to overturn decisions that they don't like. This would make it more difficult to manage fisheries in a fair and impartial way

Sincerely,

Torin Pfundt

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:48:09 PM

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Dear Senator Claman,

Senate Bill 128 is wrong for Alaska's fisheries and should be removed from consideration in the senate. This bill is an attempt to remove science based decisions from the Board of Fisheries and ADF&G and place them into the hands of politicians who are lobbied and influenced by their constituent contributions. KRSA has their fingerprints all over this proposal and it's just one more attempt by KRSA to transfer our state salmon resource from one user group into the hands of another. We have been managing our salmon fisheries in a highly successful science based format at the Board of Fish, not the senate floor since statehood in 1959. I strongly urge you to ask Senator Olsen and Senator Kawasaki to withdraw SB128 from consideration.

Jeff Bailey  
Cordova, Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill # 128  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:29:08 PM

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Hello, my name is Connie Newton, I am a long time resident of King Cove and fish Area M which this proposal is aimed at closing for the month of June 2023.

I have 2 sons and 2 daughters who participate in this fishery reside in King Cove. This fishery is our livelihood and has been for over 30 years.

This bill threatens all of our residents in King Cove, False Pass and Sand Point, as we are all fishing communities.

The Board of Fisheries has recently made a ruling on this issue during their last session together. They are our state's Board that has the expertise in the field and mandate the fisheries as they have in the past.

Overriding the Board of Fish and implementing such a proposal without a solid foundation in research and analysis can lead to unintended consequences and potential harm for our entire state's fisheries.

The Board of Fish makes decisions based on scientific data, research and an input from stakeholders, ensuring a more informed and responsible approach when implementing their rulings.

I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill #128 and instead support the appropriate regulatory processes we already have in place through the Board of Fish.

We need your commitment to uphold the Board of Fish's authority and expertise, protect the livelihoods of those who will be affected by this bill and furthermore ensure the well-being of our state and it's fisheries.

Thank you for allowing me to send in a written testimony as I can not be present.

Sincerely,  
Connie L Newton  
King Cove, Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** sb 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:50:19 AM

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Senator,

I oppose this bill 128

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->SB 128 is Bad Policy:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->If the legislature starts overriding BOF decisions, we begin to wander into managing fisheries by emotion and opinion rather than based on science and facts. If we throw out the science, where does that leave us?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->Overriding a BOF decision opens the door to further intrusion by special interest groups.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->If the legislature involves itself in this decision, it opens pandora's box. How will they choose which decisions they choose to get involved in?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->It is already difficult to get people to serve on the BOF due to the large time commitment, contentious nature of the issues, etc. If the legislature starts overriding decisions, it will be difficult to get people to want to serve.

○ <!--[endif]-->There are other, larger, explanations as to why the AYK salmon returns are low. Science is telling us that climate and ecosystem changes are having a significant impact. Presentations from federal and state scientists point to the recent marine heatwaves negatively impacting AYK chum in multiple ways while they are in the marine environment.

Bill Connor  
[REDACTED]  
Petersburg Ak

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senator Claman re: Opposition SB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:10:36 AM

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Good morning Senator Matt Claman,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 128.

The Board of Fish restricted time and area to the Area M Commercial fleet in Anchorage this February. That decision was based on scientific data, public opinion, historical and local knowledge from the associated regions. It was a difficult decision that took much deliberation from the proper agencies and participants.

Alaskans have a special and unique opportunity to be part of the regulating process over our state resources. *The February meeting was the appropriate time and place for that process.* The Board of Fish members are appointed by the governor then vetted by our legislature before induction. They work in conjunction with ADFG for the goal of sustainable use of our resources. It greatly bothers me that SB 128 has been developed and submitted because it negates the valuable system we have in place.

I believe other aspects of government should be the priority of our state house and senate, while the management of our resources should absolutely be in the hands of scientists, managers and the Board of Fish process that was implemented in the 1960s. To pass SB 128 will set a precedent for special interest groups and politics to infiltrate a stable system that should not be based on ideas/emotions of good intent, rather than science.

Thank you,

Phyllis Shirron  
Cordova/Palmer Alaska- resident since 2003.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#)  
**Subject:** What happened to the chum salmon on the Yukon River?  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:41:48 AM

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This email is in reference to opposition of SB 128

## What happened to the chum salmon on the Yukon River and why are Area M Commercial Fishermen Being Held Responsible?

In 2019, the Yukon River and its subsidiary rivers saw an unprecedented chum salmon die off. It was such an unrepresented phenomenon, it gained international attention. Scientist linked the cause of death of these salmon to the record warm temperatures and warned because they died before they had a chance to spawn, **it would affect chum runs for years to come.** Additionally, chum that were in the ocean also died due to heat and lack of food. The life cycle of a chum is 3-6 years, which means it could be a long time until the chum stocks along the Yukon have the ability to recover. No chums returning to spawn means no chums available to harvest.

**Important → Yukon Fisheries Newsletters between 2019-2022 produced by the [Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association](#), speaks extensively about low chum returns and warming temperatures, but they never once mention the Area M Commercial Salmon fishery as a reason for their poor chum returns.**

[YRDFA Newsletters](#)

### [AP News: Alaska Salmon deaths blamed on record warm temperatures](#)

“It’s directly in line with the predictions of what scientists like myself and other colleagues have been warning is likely to occur, and we need to prepare ourselves and not be surprised when it happens again in the future, because it will,” – Dr. Peter Westley, UAF Assistant Fisheries Professor

### [Alaska Public Media: Scientists need help studying dead salmon in Yukon area](#)

“That could be a catastrophe out here, because there’ll be no returns,” said DeWilde (Athabaskan from the North Fork of the Huslia River

### [CBC News: Heat Stress that Killed Thousands of Salmon in Alaska is a sign of things to come, scientists warns- Expects blame heat wave in July for deaths of chum salmon along the Koyukuk River](#)

“When fish are exposed to warmer temperatures, their metabolism increases and they go through their energy stores much faster. The salmon that died didn't have enough energy to make it to their spawning grounds: - Dr. Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, fisheries biologist and former director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

### [NOAA: What’s Behind Chinook and Chum Salmon Declines in Alaska?](#)

“These young chum salmon migrate into the Gulf of Alaska in the winter to feed. Scientists suspect that during the warm years, the chum experienced a double whammy. First, there was reduced prey availability and lower quality prey in their Bering Sea feeding grounds. Then they encountered a similar situation when they entered the Gulf of Alaska as older fish. This likely contributed to the lower salmon returns in recent years to the Yukon River.”

#### **[KYUK: Summer Chum Salmon Die-Off Likely Caused By Heat Stress, Say Scientists](#)**

Salmon have been found dead in rivers across Western Alaska this summer. The largest die-off reported comes from the Koyukuk River, a tributary of the Yukon. KYUK reports that scientists suspect that the summer’s record heat is the cause.

#### **[Wiley Online Library/Ecology and Evolution: Documentation of \*en route\* mortality of summer chum salmon in the Koyukuk River, Alaska and its potential linkage to the heatwave of 2019](#)**

Beginning on July 20th, the residents living along the Koyukuk River that have long been the stewards and first responders on their lands began reporting a large-scale die-off of chum salmon on social media outlets.

#### **[The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Reported by CNN: Scientists say heat wave, warmer waters killing Alaskan salmon](#)**

"We don't know the exact extent of mortality that this warm water event had on the salmon, but we know that the escapements to the Koyukuk river were almost 100,000 chum salmon less than we expected," Holly Carroll, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

#### **[NPR: Why Are Salmon Being Found Dead In Rivers Across Western Alaska?](#)**

“A river that is usually teeming with life felt like a tomb” – Dr. Peter Westley, UAF Assistant Fisheries Professor

Produced by Area M Seiners Association and Concerned Area M Fishermen

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:44:14 AM

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To Whom It May Concern;

I oppose the passing of SB 128: Closing Area M during the month of June to salmon fishing. Recently, I attended the Board of Fish meetings held in Anchorage and listened to testimony from the science based community. The science reports indicated Area M fishery had a low impact on the AYK chum salmon run. At the Area M BOF meeting the Board received the most recent sampling data (from 2022) for chum caught in Area M. The harvest rate for South Alaska Peninsula chum was 5.5%. (Note: The scientists explicitly presented this as an overestimate). This means that Area M harvested less than 5.5% of the total chum returning to coastal western Alaska. The BOF also heard that 58% of the chum harvested in Area M were of Asian/Russian hatchery origin based on genetic testing. Area M.

During the BOF meetings, Proposal 140 did not pass because it was unlikely to meaningfully increase chum passage to the AYK region. Fixed time closures are ineffective because salmon migration doesn't always start and stop on a certain date, and fixed time closures do not provide management flexibility to respond to real time data from the field.

An alternative proposal was put forward to account for these factors. It closed the Section that is known for higher chum harvest. It established triggers and caps for the Shumigan Islands and South Unimak Sections, requiring the department to restrict fishing time, or close Areas if caps are met.

Further, fishing time for Purse Seine gear was reduced as follows: First fishing period in June- reduced from 88 hours to 68 hours. Second fishing period – reduced from 88 to 66 hours. Third and fourth fishing periods remain at 88 hours each, however, If 300,000 or more chum are harvested by June 18 then subsequent fishing periods in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands will each be reduced by 44 hours (leaving 44 hours available).

If 450,000 or more chum are harvested by June 23 then the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Sections will close for the remainder of June. The Board endorsed the seine fleet to continue implementing a cooperative management agreement. The agreement requires 100% of the fleet to sign on, share harvest data, monitor chum harvest, and stand down or to pull back from a location when directed to do so. In doing so, it will create an opportunity for chum to pass through, which was what the intent of proposal 140 aimed to do. This approach is adaptive in nature and is the only way to ensure that more chums make their way through the area.

In 2022 Area M fishermen stood down as part of the cooperative agreement in order to help reduce the chum harvest, and gave up 217 hours of the 352 allowed for fishing.

The Eastern Aleutians Area would be negatively impacted if Area M fisheries are shut down. Harm to fishermen- each being an individual small business with a family behind it. Majority of Area M salmon permits are owned and operated by Alaska residents.

Significant harm to the communities would occur. Fish taxes paid by salmon fishermen accounts for 32% of the fish taxes received by Aleutians East Borough (AEB) in 2022. 80% of the private sector jobs in the AEB communities are seafood related. Those jobs could go

away. What would fill the void by this lack of economic opportunity?

The passing of SB128 would send a negative message to all salmon fishermen in the State of Alaska.

I oppose the passage of SB 128.

Gerry Knagin

[REDACTED]

Kodiak, AK 99615

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

April 20, 2023

Senator Matt Claman  
State Capitol Room 429  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 128 – Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Claman,

I am writing to you today for the very strong opposition of SB128. This bill is misunderstood by legislatures who do not have a grasp on the full realm of what commercial fishing entails, nonetheless, a sustainable fishery. This bill, if further movement is taken, is setting a harmful precedent for the legislature to substitute its own judgement for that of the Board of Fishers, who has authority over state fish management. This State Board is appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the legislature, and is informed by ADFG expertise, scientific data and is a very public process with hundreds of people testifying on this issue alone. Allowing further movement on SB128 would open a floodgate and invite individuals to try and manage Alaska's fisheries by legislation. Please do not allow this bill to move on from the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I was born and raised in the Interior, in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region, to be exact. I grew up in a community that depended on subsistence fishing, and my childhood memories are dominated by recollections of my father, my mother, and countless other members of my family and broader community going out on boats and bringing back the fish that our people had harvested and survived on for generations. I grew up fishing for subsistence, and I know how deeply important it is not only for physical survival but for the survival of the cultures and identities of Native people across Alaska.

I have lived in False Pass over the past ten years and have raised my kids there, and they too know subsistence fishery. They have created their own memories, both in False Pass and in the AYK region with my family. I have seen the harvests change in my lifetime, from years of abundance to some years where there is nothing, and I am deeply sympathetic to the impossible situation many communities in the AYK—including the one I grew up in—find themselves in with increasingly diminished salmon runs. However, I know that shutting down the fishery sometimes referred to as Area M that my community and many, many other communities in Western Alaskan depend on will not solve any of the problems the AYK is facing—it will likely simply cause more communities to suffer.

I have spent my entire life in communities deeply connected to fishery, both commercial and subsistence, and I know first-hand the importance of fishery. However, I also recognize and value the truth, and study after study has shown that the crash in AYK stocks simply cannot be attributed to the Area M fishery. We owe it to ourselves and to our children to discuss this issue with our eyes wide open to the science and the facts, not blinded by fear and blame. While the decline in AYK salmon stocks is certainly alarming, it makes no sense—not scientifically, not economically, not culturally—to shut down the Area M fishery in an effort to somehow “save” the fisheries in the AYK.

We must model respectful behavior for our children—the behavior they are currently seeing is not indicative of who we are as people, as Alaska Natives and Alaskans in general. This

infighting, this baseless blame—it is completely antithetical to the values we all hold dear and do our best to live by. This culture of Alaska Natives, which has been adopted more broadly by all of Alaska, is rooted in community, sharing, resiliency, and tenacity—because without each other, without trust and common ground and willingness to come together, no one would survive in this state we all call home.

We can do better than this. We *must* do better than this. We can fully embrace the values that have allowed our people to survive and thrive since time immemorial and stop this insidious exercise in blaming our neighbors. We all are just trying to survive and feed our families. Shutting down the Area M fishery will not bring back the AYK salmon abundance of years past—but it will inflict pain and suffering on families and communities that have nothing to do with the crisis.

I strongly encourage you to oppose SB128 and prevent it from moving forward from the Senate Judiciary Committee. I appreciate your time and consideration and for your willingness to serve the people of Alaska.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "LHoblet".

Lena Hoblet

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:44:51 PM

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Members of judiciary committee. My name is Dwain Foster sr. A 67 year resident Aleut of the Shumagin islands which is a part of the area m fishery. I not only reside here year round but I am also a commercial and subsistence fisherman. I am asking you to please oppose SB128. If this bill is passed it will set a bad precedent not only for the area m fishery but for all state fisheries in Alaska. If the area m fisheries were to be closed for the month of June it would mean devastation to the communities of Sand Point, King Cove, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon. I attended the past BOF meeting and firmly believe most decisions were made based on good science and not politics. As it should be. Again I ask you to oppose this bill and I thank you for taking time to read this. Dwain Foster sr. Sand Point AK.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** HB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:12:36 PM

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I am writing in extreme opposition to SB 128. I have lived in Sand point all my life. I fished for 20 years and have seen us go to battle time after time to defend Area M. This bill takes all credibility from the Board of Fish who are appointed to manage the fisheries. This bill needs to fail and should have not been written. More thought and research needs to be put into the dragging and “dirty fish” in the Bering Sea.

I don’t fish anymore but my 17 year old son just started fishing. I can’t imagine what he would do or I for that matter if you slam down the June season. I urge you to stop this Bill.

Respectfully  
Michelle Gronholdt  
Sand Point Ak  
[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate bill 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:42:29 PM

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Judiciary Committee, My name is Glen Gardner Jr., a life-long resident and fisherman of Sand Point, Alaska, also a member of the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe. We are peoples that have lived and depended on these salmon runs for TEN THOUSAND YEARS plus. This fishery is the live blood of our community. We are here today because Board Of Fish proposal 140 failed and now we are being dragged into a political battle. Our fishing rights should not be drug into this arena. This Board Of Fisheries is appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the legislature, and is educated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. With their expertise, access to scientific data, and input from the public they are able to make sound decisions on fisheries issues. This Senate bill 128 will replace the actions taken by the Board Of Fish and create unknown precedents that will haunt the management of our fisheries into the future. Not just Area M! I OPPOSE Senate bill 128 as it will destroy Area M fishermen, processors, and the communities of Sand Point, King Cove and False Pass, without any notable benefits to the Yukon/Kuskokwim chum returns.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 2:07:39 PM

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Dear chair person

My name is Stacy arbelovsky, I am born and raised in alaska and have commercially fished for 49 years. I am a area m drift gillnet boat and permit holder. I would like the senate to vote down this bill as it undermines the state of alaska board of fish process that has been put in place to manage our fisheries. Our fishery is complex and covers hundreds of miles on both the south and north peninsula, one mite not agree with all decisions that are made thru the board of fish process , but every area in the state goes thru the same process , these decisions do not belong in a senate bill , trying to educate senators on a complex fishery isn't realistiic. This bill as written would shut down the north peninsula area which doesn't catch any chums at all , this bill seems vindictive and written outa emotions and not science, please leave fishery policy making to the board of fish.

Thank you

Stacy arbelovsky

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Prop 127 not 140! Sorry!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 2:16:27 PM

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Our family is completely dependent upon fishing.

Does it matter where any subsistence family lives?

Families are families.

Vote down the blanket proposal 140.

Thank you  
Susan H Danielson  
f/v pixie  
Port Angeles, Washington

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Senate bill 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 2:43:49 PM

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Please oppose this bill we don't want to by pass the board of fish this bill will cripple all the fishing communities in the area and set a bad precedent for the state thank you. From Kenneth Mack

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SB128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:10:09 PM

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Honorable Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Kendrick Hoblet. I am a life long resident and fourth generation fisherman from False Pass. I have fished with my grandpa since I was 10 years old and I have seen him exhaust all resources he has and use his voice in an effort for each of you to pay attention to the science surrounding Area M. Knowing and seeing his dedication firsthand, the support and fight that he has been in for his livelihood- has made me realize that I too must educate myself around the science of the fisheries. The science that was brought forth in the February Board of Fisheries meetings and their decisions thereafter should not be undermined. The science does not support the claims made by the AYK region. I attended Mt. Edgecumbe and have friends from all the regions around the state and it is disheartening to know our once practiced camaraderie has now become baseless blame against each other. This is not the values I was raised on or believe in. **I am urging you to oppose SB128.** Please post as opposing testimony.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Kendrick Hoblet

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SB128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:23:03 PM

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Chairman Claman & Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is William Shellikoff Jr. I am a life long resident of False Pass.

I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose SB128. Our June salmon fishery is of vital importance to our economy. I am not a commercial fisherman, but do rely on our community to share their catch- which helps our family to get through the winters.

I serve on our local Tribe, local Corporation and City Council. I believe and support the entire process of governmental appointment and trusting those that we have supported to hold those positions. I understand your authority to override the Board of Fish's decisions, but I do not support that in this instance. It will open the door for **any** stakeholder to undermine the entire processes that were set out in Alaska Statutes.

Please oppose SB128 and include this as opposing testimony.

Regards,  
William Shellikoff Jr.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:22:32 PM

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Hello,

My name is Megan Gatlin. I live in the Native Village of False Pass and am the Principal Teacher at the local school. I am writing in regards to SB 128.

With every proposal the Board of Fisheries reviews, there is always a winner and a loser. Allowing this bill to move forward opens the door to anytime someone is unhappy with a BOF decision, they can come to the legislature to try and solve the problem. This negates the purpose the Board of Fisheries serves. They spend a lot of hard work prior, during, and after meetings reviewing hundreds of pages of comments and reports. We need to trust and accept their decision.

According to scientific data nearly 60% of the chum caught in Area M were hatchery fish from Asia. There is a lot of data that BOF reviewed to make their decision, and I could write a long list. But suffice it to be that I oppose SB 128 and ask you to vote against it. Our families live a subsistence lifestyle and depend on Area M staying open. Restrictions have already been put in place that will be adhered to, and should suffice. Please trust the BOF and respect their decision by voting against SB 128. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Megan Gatlin

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:24:25 PM

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Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dennis Zadra and I have been a commercial fisherman out of Cordova for 33 years. If SB128 were to pass it would set precedent to completely dismantle the Board Process for managing our Fish and Game resources. Alaska is unique in the fact that we have this Process to work through all of the complicated issues that face this Management. It has worked well for over 50 years.

The Area M Fishery was thoroughly vetted and debated at the last Board of Fish cycle and the Board made a good decision to restrict the Commercial Fishery without completely closing it down. There is no science to support SB128 as the answer to the problems that are facing the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, and I urge you to respect the Board Process and not pass this Bill.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Zadra

[REDACTED]

Cordova, AK 99574

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:30:39 PM

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Hello,

My name is Kevin Gatlin. I am the VPSO in the Native Village of False Pass. I am writing in regards to SB 128.

With every proposal the Board of Fisheries reviews, there is always a winner and a loser. Allowing this bill to move forward allows parties who are unhappy with a BOF decision, to come to the legislature to try and solve the problem. This negates the purpose the Board of Fisheries serves. They spend a lot of hard work prior, during, and after meetings reviewing hundreds of pages of comments and reports. We need to trust and accept their decision.

Genetic sampling - which is created taking DNA samples from the fish, showed that less than 5% of the chum harvested in Area M were returning to the vast Coastal Western Alaska of which the Yukon River is one of many. Nearly 60% of the chum caught in Area M were hatchery fish from Asia. There is a lot of data that BOF reviewed to make their decision, and I could write a long list. But suffice it to be that I oppose SB 128 and ask you to vote against it. Our families live a subsistence lifestyle and depend on Area M staying open. Restrictions have already been put in place that will be adhered to, and should suffice. Please trust the BOF and respect their decision by voting against SB 128. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Kevin B. Gatlin

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:38:46 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Nikki Hoblet <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Thu, Apr 20, 2023 at 2:58 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**To:** Dayton Hoblet <[REDACTED]>

Chair Claman and Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Dayton Hoblet. I am a life long resident and fisherman from False Pass. Fishing has formed the core of our existence. I appreciate my upbringing in a subsistence lifestyle and value the lessons my grandparents, my mother, my uncles and aunts have taught me and continue to teach me. This is my first time providing testimony for legislation because I know how important this process is to sustain our fishery and for our region to remain viable. I was one of the hundreds of people that testified at the February Board of Fish meetings and I support the decisions that came out of that thorough process. We value our fish and have taken extreme measures to ensure the sustainability. We are good stewards of our land.

The Board of Fish focused their attention on the science and facts before them. They heard so many of the factors that are contributable to the salmon declines, that include changing oceanic conditions, lack of available food, poor food quality contributing to poor growth and poor smolt survival-- and so much more. What is happening in the AYK is devastating. But we cannot have emotions drive decisions that will have a devastatingly negative impact on our community and surrounding areas. The research does not support the claims that the diminished salmon runs of the AYK will improve by shutting down (or reduced hours) of Area M fishing. **I oppose SB128.**

Please realize, the decisions before you and the impacts those will have on my future and my communities' existence.

Thanks again!

Dayton Hoblet

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** SB128 opposition  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:37:37 PM

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Dear Senator Matt Claman,

Hello, My name is Melanie Hoblet and I am an Aleut born and raised in False Pass, Alaska. I have spent most of my life living and working in my hometown to keep our traditions, livelihoods and our community alive and well.

Our culture and identities rely heavily on our subsistence and commercial fishing way of life, which has sustained us for hundreds if not thousands of years. Our fishery is sustainable, it's longevity is living proof that we harvest salmon with conservation each and every year.

Our island is home to numerous lagoons, rivers, streams and bays that salmon spawn in and return to, any topographical map of Unimak Island shows just how many waterways we've used for generations to harvest salmon. Since regulations and new restrictions regarding levels of chums harvested during June fisheries in our area started in 1975 the number of AYK chum returns have not increased in any measurable level. And closer to the problem area, in Bristol Bay, they have harvests of 35 million fish each year for almost 10 years straight and what kind of restrictions or regulatory actions should be focused on this area. Our fishing area has a documented (McCullough 2001) 224 streams/rivers in the South Alaska Peninsula. In the last 20 years, all those escapements have been met, in order for us to have a commercial fishery. Why, if our escapements are being met in our waterways, would the Board of Fish give us openers for our area if this wasn't happening and why are other areas spreading percentage lies about bycatch. Numerous studies in the last 10 years have shown that a little over one percent of our catch is genetically similar to the fish returning to AYK. 2 oceans/seas (Pacific and Bering at approximately 60.7 million square miles combined) comprise where our salmon go to live for 4-6 years before returning to spawn. How can our area (10 to 15 thousand square miles at best) be blamed for the poor salmon returns in AYK. How can all those salmon for all parts of Alaska be just traveling through our area. None of it makes sense. Climate change, high seas trawling fisheries and asian stock decimating Alaskan stock in the wild are more plausible explanations for the poor returns for the AYK.

I strongly oppose SB128. Shutting down an entire economy for one area in Alaska will not solve the problems in another part of the State. Please post as opposing testimony.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Melanie Hoblet  
[REDACTED]

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senator Matt Claman, Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99811

**Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 128**

The Alaska constitution enshrined two fundamental principles regarding the state's natural resources – common (public) use and sustained yield. Furthermore, ADF&G was created and is overseen by a commissioner whose constitutional directives are included in statute as such: manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well being of the state. The Legislature created the Alaska Board of Fish in 1975 with the responsibility for conservation and development of fishery resources. For nearly fifty years ADF&G and the Board of Fish have done an admirable job, in fact, they are world renowned and often referred to as the 'gold standard' in the world for sustainable fisheries management. Turning a proven system upside down is a Pandora's box and I believe a legislative nightmare. There has never been a board of fish meeting where some group isn't unhappy with the outcome.

That aside, I would like to briefly describe the science that was considered by the board of fish members in their deliberations at the February 2023 Alaska Peninsula board meeting. Keep in mind that at the board meeting there were two days of scientific presentations and discussion with another 3 days of testimony.

This significant body of scientific knowledge included discussion of the CWAK genetic stock group which is defined as all the chum stocks from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, and Norton Sound systems. The information presented was derived from studies conducted by ADF&G, NOAA fisheries, and International Year of the Salmon consisting of U.S., Canada, Japan, Korea, and Russia scientists.

These studies and detailed presentations connected environmental evidence for the decline of AYK chums at various life stages. I would summarize it as follows: the research shows that adult chum returning in 2020 and 2021 were juveniles during the exceedingly warm ocean years from 2016-2019. Juvenile chum sampled in the Bering Sea during this period were in poor condition due to low prey availability and poor prey quality. Compounding this further, AYK chum then migrated during their first winter to the Pacific Gulf where they met similar poor rearing and feed conditions. These are not anecdotes; rather NOAA scientists tracked these fish over an extensive ocean grid system, measuring fat content, stomach contents (prey), determining fish health condition for one-, two-, and three-ocean year chum, while also taking tissue samples to determine genetic stock identification.

An article published on the NOAA website in August 2022 details what they discovered during these years of research: "Our science indicates that several factors working in combination due to warm water temperatures likely contributed to poor Yukon and Kuskokwim returns in the past two years."

Similarly the board of fish concluded that the scientific literature simply does not support the hypothesis that interception of AYK chum in the Alaska Peninsula (Area M) is the primary cause for AYK chum declines. Nevertheless, the board took several significant actions – they cut fishing time in June by 44 hours or about 24% during the first and second fishing periods, they increased the closed period from 32

hours to 76 hours, 2.4 times what it was in previous years, the board closed Sanak Island to fishing for all of June, and they created triggers for closing the June fishery based on evaluation of the chum harvest.

What the communities of the AYK region are experiencing due to poor chum and chinook survival is heartbreaking for all Alaskans to witness. As Alaskans, we have an obligation to help one another and the board took proportional action, even though I disagreed. As important, we as Alaskans need to understand why these regional salmon populations are experiencing poor survival. Area M is not the reason the Lower Yukon and Kuskokwim river systems are experiencing a low productivity.

Sincerely,

Steve Reifentstahl, Alaskan fisheries professional for 45 years

Sitka, Alaska

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Steve Reifentstahl.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill No. 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:04:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [0.png](#)

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Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679\A, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in the portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands where I live. I am from King Cove.

By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

Almost my entire family works with fishing/tendering during the summer and winter. All of my friends' families do as well. How else do you think we make profits, pay bills, buy food, and make a living? We only have two grocery stores here while one is run by non-locals of King Cove and the other is run down. Gas prices are now over \$6 here and without fishing/fisheries, how do you expect us to pay for all of this?

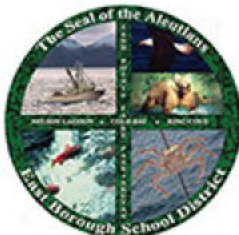
Not only is fishing a paycheck, but for everyone it is fun. The people of King Cove love fishing just in general. We go fishing for our own reasons and the families all take their kids, nieces, nephews, wives, brothers, and sisters out fishing for a break from a small town. Being a small town we rely on our jobs to make a living for ourselves.

The board of fish meetings that happened in June and they passed a schedule for our area M fishermen. If you are just going to take power away from the board's sayings, then what is the point in having a board to begin with? Our area relies and thrives on summer fishing. June fishing is where most fishermen make most of the money. Not only will this cancellation affect fishermen but it will affect the cannery workers who will be out of a job.

This bill shows the incompetence of the senate members who submitted the very hateful bill. You guys appointed the board of fish members and when that board didn't vote your way you threw members off that board. Don't pit native culture against another. Yes, pit means an area of conflict with another. We are one state this bill will divide the state and that's not good for anyone but yourself for money.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Hailie Rae P.J. Dushkin  
Grade 9  
King Cove, Alaska



**Jaclynne Dela Cruz**  
Elementary Education Teacher  
King Cove School  
[REDACTED]

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose 128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:15:56 PM

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Dear Chairman Claman & Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Rey Juarez Vega. I am a resident of False Pass. "Do what you love and you will never work a day in your life". Our community fishermen have done this. Fishing is the love and the means to provide for their families, our families. June is the most important month for our families and our village economy.

SB128 will directly harm our community without any notable benefits to AYK chum returns.

This would set a harmful precedent for the legislature to substitute its own judgement for that of the Board of Fisheries, who has authority over state fish management.

Please oppose SB128.

Sincerely,

Rey Vega

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:26:50 PM

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Dear Senator Claman,

I have been involved in Alaska fisheries for 35 years and have always advocated for sustainable practices and village priorities. Being involved in both federal and state fisheries we have witnessed the management of the fisheries being handled among all affected groups alongside the science at hand. It would be unfortunate to upend a due process that has been developed over a long period of time that allows for careful and thoughtful discussion that leads to eventual management practices.

This new bill would set a precedent which especially affects the board of fish management and shifts the powers to the Alaska state legislature. The board of fish has proven to show support to all user groups alongside science based management. This bill would detrimental to this work and demonstrate that decisions of the board can be undermined and overturned in favor of one user group.

As much as I am concerned about the kuskokwim delta and future of the native villages, I do not agree with an emergency override of the board of fish decisions as this could negatively impact those same villages and other native villages in the future.

I am strongly in opposition to SB 128.

Thanks,  
Scott Bingen

Sent from my iPad

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA  
PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Dear Senator Hughes,

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By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

I am not really connected to the fishing industry. I do know people who fish, but me and my family don't. I don't fish, so it wouldn't affect me very much. Some of my friends fish, so if it closes they won't be going anywhere i guess. Closing fishing will not really have an impact on me.

I feel like if fishing gets closed it could be hard on some families. There are some people I know who fish so they can get by. I am not one of them, but lots of people use fishing to make most of their money.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Ella Dru Lewis

Grade 7  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA  
PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

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My family is a fishing family and if we can't fish then we can't get paid or nothing because we use the money to pay the bill and to buy food. The Dominion is a good fishing boat and a crabbing boat. My grandpa is a good captain and he has a good crew on the boat. The Linda Marie is a good fishing boat but it is a little run down but my grandpa is a good captain but it doesn't have a big crew but they make the money to pay the bill.

My family will not be able to pay the bill and we won't make money. My grandpa pays the bill at his house and he makes the money by fishing and crabbing that's how my grandpa is living in a house. He likes fishing like my whole family does. His crew won't be able to pay their bill so we need fishing to be open make money and a mouth is a long time.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Carlie Mack

Grade 7  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA  
MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

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By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

My dad is a fisherman. It is going to impact my dad badly because he supports us all the time and it is going to be hard if Area M is closed. I hope that there is going to be fishing so we can get a lot of money so we can get food.

It is going to be bad because there are not going to be a lot of opportunities for my dad. There are no jobs on land, and my dad is very good at fishing and he can make a lot of money working on the seas. I hope that Area M is going to be open so that my dad can support us, and we can survive the summer.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Shaylee N.

Grade 7  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA  
MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

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By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure would have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the nearby communities that also rely on the fishing industry.

My family is a fishing family. My grandpa, uncle, and dad are all fishermen and support our family by fishing. During the summer they are always out fishing and are able to provide a good amount of money to live off of. My dad runs the Just In Case and has a big family he needs to support. Not only is my family a fishing family, so are a lot of families in my community. My family has been a fishing family for generations and that's what we know how to do. If you close this fishing season it will impact financially a lot of families in my community.

Not only is closing the fishing season a bad idea it will also make a lot of families struggle. If we don't have fishing, families will have to find work on land, and we don't have a lot of options for people. If they can't find work they might have to move and that is going to make the community smaller than it already is. Closing fishing for a month is going to make a lot of changes in this community. Money comes from the canary which comes from the fishermen.

We are Aleut people, this is our land, and fishing is in our blood. If you take away fishing you take away what our ancestors fought for. Each generation of fisherman's families' teach their kids how to survive off of the land by subsistence: cleaning, canning, freezing, and smoking salmon. When boys and girls go fishing with their family they are also learning work ethic. Fishing is us. Fishing is our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Kaydence Wilson

Grade 8  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA  
MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

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I think we should have a June fishing season and here is why. Our families are depending on this season just like every other year. It may not seem like a huge deal to people who do not fish, but it is the money and work we put into it that our community and people depend on. If we do not have this June season people may not be able to pay rent or be broke and struggling with money. My Papa Jr, who works on F/V *Aleut Maid*, has been depending on this season due to money problems, so if we can not go fishing it will just make things worse in our household.

Not working for an entire month would be bad for the people and communities that are struggling. We need this season to pay our rent, taxes, and food. Our families are depending on this season and we think that you should be able to give it to us. We really need this season to survive the next couple of months. Everyone is depending on it and it would be great if we could have this June 2023 season.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Rivera Wilson  
Grade 9  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA  
MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Dear Senator Hughes,

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By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

I feel that if you close our June season many families would be at stake. My father, Ernest Robert Newman Jr, fishes on the Lady Lee Dawn. My father has always worked on this boat. My dad is the one who provides for my family. Without this June season I have no idea what my family, community members, and fellow fishermen/fisherwomen would do. I live in a small community, and we only have three stores. Our stores have been raising their prices on everything. Without this June season it would be very hard for my family to buy anything for my household.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Journie Newman Bear  
Grade 9  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA  
MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679\A, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in the portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands where I live. I am from King Cove.

By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

I know a lot of people who support themselves by fishing and selling. Like for example, My dad, My uncle E.T. and my uncle Steven also his son and Brandon and his friends. I don't know what jobs they do on their boats I only know a few boats that they are working on like My dad is working on the Just in case and Brandon and his friends work in maniahta and my uncle used to be on the Melanie Suehe is going to work for another boat this summer but maybe because of this thing happening he won't get the chance to do that maybe not even anyone else for that matter . This will affect us by not having enough money to pay out taxes and our house bills so yeah that is what will happen if we don't work.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Piper Mack  
Grade 9  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA  
PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679VA, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in the portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands where I live. I am from King Cove.

By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

My family has been in the commercial salmon fishery ever since it started. We depend on fishing here. Not only is it crucial for financial reasons, it's much bigger than that. Yes, this is how the majority of us here in King Cove make our money, but it is also who we are. Everything that encompasses fishing is passed down through generations. My dad taught me everything I know, and his dad taught him, and so on and so forth. My late Grandpa Archie Gould lived and breathed fishing, and instilled important values within our family. I started as a deckhand on my dad's boat when I was 12 years old and since then, it has been teaching me work ethic, and the importance of our Alutic culture and traditions. I do not want to lose sight of that in the long run, and shutting us down now will only mean it will get worse as the years go on.

This would be devastating for all, but especially those who run a drift / set net boat because that is the month they catch red salmon and make money. In all, we really can not afford to lose any openers. Please let the Board of Fisheries do their job and decide for our fisheries, and do the right thing by keeping us open and fishing to provide for our families, live off the land and not lose anymore of the culture we lost.

We are Unangax, we are Aleut, we are the people of the Aleutians. Fishing is who we are.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Seyler Gould - Commercial Fisherman of King Cove (Area M) F/V Dominion  
Grade 9  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA  
MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Dear Senator Hughes,

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By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

My family probably has been fishing their whole life and for it to change now would be so bad for our community. Because our whole town is here and standing strong because of all of the fishing we have here and for us to lose that could be very fatal in some ways. Families could be having to leave our town because they can't make a life here anymore due to no fishing. I just love our town and the people in it and to keep everything the same we need to have fishing. Just please keep our fishing around. It would mean the world.

Not working would be so terrible it wouldn't even feel right cause like summer timer stands for fishing like that's what i grew up knowing my whole life. All my family comes back just to fish. If we didn't have fishing they wouldn't come here. It would really suck.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Michael Gould  
Grade 9  
King Cove

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA  
MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Dear Senator Hughes,

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Almost everybody here, and in the next town over, goes fishing every single season. My dad goes fishing, his dad went, his dad's dad and it just keeps going down the family line. It goes down Everyone's family line. I have never gone fishing but I really want to because it's good to have that experience and everyone has done it before. But, you know, nobody can go fishing if it gets taken away from us. Fishing is really important here in our community because it's traditional in our culture and it supports our everyday life.

Fishing gives all of us a job. Every season. If fishing gets shut down no one will have a job. No job means no money. No money means no anything. So if fishing gets shut down here in this fishing community, then the Aleutian Chain is in danger and potentially done for.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Tatiana Bendixen  
Grade 9  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA  
PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

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Fishing is a huge part of Area M, everyone in these communities rely on the fish. Many of my friends, family, and neighbors are huge on fishing. If there was no fishing season during the month of June a lot of people would have no money. Money is not only a huge part of this impact on fishing, it is also a large part of everyone's heart. These communities were built on fishing and it's something that everyone has been a part of.

With the fish coming in today many people are just barely making what they need. Taking away a season for these folks would cause a lot of financial trouble. Money is spent on fixing the boat they fish on and making it better. Most importantly money is used for the welfare of these families. The food that fishing money pays for and the payments to have a roof over your head is all dependent on the money these families take in from fishing.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Tianna Lewis

10th Grade  
King Cove, Alaska

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679\A, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in the portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands where I live. I am from King Cove.

By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

Many people within the town of King Cove make a living off of fishing. Many go and work hard to catch fish within the fishing zones to make ends meet. Many would be jobless in the situation of Area M being shut down.

Shutting down Area M would cause major problems for families whose members work in the industry. Workers won't be able to get paid and will have to live with what money they may have saved. This can be quite a large deal for some families who might be struggling to survive financially, struggling to have food or keep a decent home.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Ender Peacock

Grade 10  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA  
PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

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Everybody fishes here and there are no other jobs here but fishing. My family fished here and I fish too. If all fishing seasons close for a month then there will be no jobs here but working in a store. A month without fishing then I will spend time with my family and hang out with my friends. Without fishing for a month then how are we supposed to get money to feed your family and buy fuel to heat up the house.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Jersey Mack  
Grade 10  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA  
PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

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By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

This is Jada Bear, and I am from King Cove Alaska, my dad is Larry Bear Jr. and he fishes all summer on the f/v Aleut Maid with my mom and I. My dad set nets and I'm sure he would not be too happy, if Area M closed down for all of June and I don't think all the other fishermen would be either. Especially if this is how a lot of people make money to get through the winter. People in Area M have been fishing since they were really young and have stuck with it. June is when there are all the reds and my dad does not go fish humpies after the reds go through and when the reds go through is when my dad would get the money to support our family, for the winter.

Fishing for the month of June would not be good for quite a few people. Because Peter Pan has people here for the canary and the canary can't work if people can't fish to bring the canary fish. They won't even be able to sell fuel to boats so a lot of people will have a hard time making money this summer. A whole month is a long time for people to not be fishing to make money to support their families for the winter. Some people even rely on fishing all summer to support their families too because they might not have another job for after fishing other than crabbing, and who knows maybe there won't be another King Crab season this year. So fishing plays a big role in King Cove for a lot of families here and it would not be good if you took the month of June away for the fishermen.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Jada Bear

Grade 10  
King Cove, Alaska

RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA  
MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679\A, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in the portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands where I live. I am from King Cove.

By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

Most of the people in my town rely on fishing for income. My dad fished on his boat the *April L*. We had relied greatly on the fish he brought in. He plans to fish again, and the income would help us so much. I always wanted to fish with him but I was too young then, but I'm not now. But, now I might not be able to fish with him. Besides fishing, he works at the Aleutians Housing Authority. With that, I know so many people in my town that heavily rely on fishing, like many of my friends and classmates, and their family.

Not working for a month will make it difficult for a family's ability to survive. Like think about the canary workers. They get these jobs and come all the way from wherever they live to make money for them or their families. I know a couple people in the canary, and they are just trying to make money to help their family. So this job is very helpful and if there's no fishing then all those workers are out of luck.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
MaryMae Brandell

Grade 10  
King Cove, Alaska

Danielle Ringer

[REDACTED]

Kodiak, AK 99615

[REDACTED]

**RE: Strong opposition to Senate Bill 128**

Dear Senator Claman and Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

My husband and I are lifelong Alaskans and are small-business owners who operate a family fishing operation out of Kodiak, AK. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 128 (SB128). It is simply poor policy. I find it inappropriate that the Legislature would consider wading into managing fisheries directly by overriding State of Alaska's Board of Fisheries (BOF) decisions. Decisions that come from the BOF are currently based on scientific data in addition to professional and public expertise from those most familiar with specific fisheries issues. SB128 would completely undermine Alaska's fisheries management process and discounts the extensive public participation in the Alaska Peninsula BOF meeting in February.

Furthermore, there would be extensive cultural and economic harm to Eastern Aleutians Area fishermen, families, and communities if Area M fisheries are shut down. Fishing livelihoods are vital to the sociocultural fabric of Alaskan communities and provide for food security, culturally appropriate career pathways, and local employment opportunities. SB128 would create a dangerous political precedent for Alaska that should make us all nervous. Please leave fisheries management decisions to the BOF to be implemented by ADF&G fisheries managers.

I humbly ask you to NOT support SB128.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Danielle Ringer

Christopher Johnson

Kodiak, AK 99615

**RE: Strong opposition to Senate Bill 128**

Dear Senator Claman and Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

My wife and I are lifelong Alaskans and are small-business owners who operate a family fishing operation out of Kodiak, AK. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 128 (SB128). It is simply poor policy. I find it inappropriate that the Legislature would consider wading into managing fisheries directly by overriding State of Alaska's Board of Fisheries (BOF) decisions. Decisions that come from the BOF are currently based on scientific data in addition to professional and public expertise from those most familiar with specific fisheries issues. SB128 would completely undermine Alaska's fisheries management process and discounts the extensive public participation in the Alaska Peninsula BOF meeting in February.

Furthermore, there would be extensive cultural and economic harm to Eastern Aleutians Area fishermen, families, and communities if Area M fisheries are shut down. Fishing livelihoods are vital to the sociocultural fabric of Alaskan communities and provide for food security, culturally appropriate career pathways, and local employment opportunities. SB128 would create a dangerous political precedent for Alaska that should make us all nervous. Please leave fisheries management decisions to the BOF to be implemented by ADF&G fisheries managers.

I humbly ask you to NOT support SB128.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Christopher Johnson

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:12:31 PM

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My name is Justin Wilson and I'm a commercial fisherman in area M. I'm a four generation fisherman. I grew up fishing on the boat that I now own, and someday I hope to teach my son.

Our area houses the largest locally owned/ran fishing vessels. Revenues generated from salmon predominantly fund the city of King Cove, and the Aleutians East Borough. Furthermore, the borough financially supports the local school where my three children attend and my wife works as a preschool teacher. Every year I employ 5-8 local, Alaskan natives. This is not just a job to us. Fishing salmon is a part of culture and a strong part of our indigenous identity.

I spent 5 days listening and providing testimony at the board of fish meetings. Scientific evidence and testimony was provided that indicated multiple reasons for other areas to have declining chum populations and area M intercept catch was not listed as a factor.

Area M seine fishermen voluntarily stood down and did not fish several openers last year to show our solidarity and empathy to areas with declining salmon stocks, but we cannot be made the scapegoat for the entire state. We too have experienced bad salmon returns in past years with very low escapement.

However, if you study a map and look at area m in relation to the areas that is experiencing low chum returns. There is an area between that experienced record breaking years, and they are too a mixed stock fishery.

Please oppose bill SB-128. Closing the month of June for commercial salmon fishing will negatively impact native villages in areas m, potentially bankrupting our communities, and closing our remaining village schools. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response and your continued support for sustainable fisheries management in Alaska.

Justin Wilson  
F/V Just In Case

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate bill128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:54:24 PM

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George Gundersen here I am a Alaska native of the pauloff harbor tribe I been fishing for 50 plus years I would like to go on record to oppose senate bill 128 I think this is not the right way to go as the state has a fish board that just got done going by science and reports that the state had done we all know ayk area has a problem but closing area m is not the solution thank you George Gundersen

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Senate Bill No. 128-Temporary Closure of Alaska Peninsula Management Area M to Commercial Salmon Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 11:20:39 PM

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The Pauloff Harbor Tribe is writing to express our concern and opposition to the proposed Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in a portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, Area M.

Many members of the Pauloff Harbor Tribe live in communities in Area M which has been our home for thousands of years. This bill proposes to close the commercial salmon fishery in Area M which will threaten the livelihoods of our members who live and fish here and depend on the fishery for their income. The closure could have severe economic consequences for our membership and communities.

The Board of Fisheries has recently made a ruling on this issue during their session February 2023. As a body with expertise in the field and the mandate to manage fisheries, the board's decision should be respected and upheld. It is essential to follow the appropriate regulatory process, and the proposed bill undermines the authority of the Board of Fisheries, as stated under AS 16.05.251.

Furthermore, there is a lack of scientific evidence or studies to support the drastic action proposed in Senate Bill No. 128. Implementing such a measure without a solid foundation in research and analysis can lead to unintended consequences and cause potential harm. The board of fisheries, in contrast, makes decisions based on scientific data, research, and input from stakeholders, ensuring a more informed and responsible approach.

Your commitment to upholding the board's authority and expertise and protecting the livelihoods of those affected by this bill, is essential for the well-being of our state and its fisheries.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

George P. Gundersen  
President

Pauloff Harbor Tribe  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 4:56:21 AM

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I'm a commercial fisherman from SE Alaska. I oppose SB 128.

Sincerely,

Tracy Rivera  
F/V Good News

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** June fishery  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 7:01:15 AM

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I am an Alaskan partially disabled Vietnam vet! My family is 3rd generation commercial salmon fisherman! I was captain of commercial crab vessels for 35 yrs

Deckhand on trawlers 1 season! I have witnessed first hand the devastation of crabs, halibut, salmon, and everything else that wasn't the targeted specie! I fought in Vietnam for our great country the USA now I'm fighting for my rights to do what I've been doing all my life, to earn a living to support my family as my sons are fisherman also to support their families! Taking away our rights to commercial salmon fish in June would be devastating for many Alaskan fisherman!!!

Please help us to not pass this bill!

Thank you

Captain Mezich  
FV Jennifer Lynn

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 7:34:13 AM

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Dear Senator Claman,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679\A, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in a portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

The Board of Fisheries has recently made a ruling on this issue during their last session together. As a body with expertise in the field and the mandate to manage fisheries, the board's decision should be respected and upheld. It is essential to follow the appropriate regulatory process, and the proposed bill undermines the authority of the Board of Fisheries, as stated under AS 16.05.251.

Furthermore, there is a lack of scientific evidence or studies to support the drastic action proposed in Senate Bill No. 128. Implementing such a measure without a solid foundation in research and analysis can lead to unintended consequences and potential harm. The Board of Fisheries, in contrast, makes decisions based on scientific data, research, and input from stakeholders, ensuring a more informed and responsible approach.

By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill No.128 and instead support the appropriate regulatory processes already in place through the Board of Fisheries. Your commitment to upholding the board's authority and expertise and protecting the livelihoods of those affected by this bill, is essential for the well-being of our state and its fisheries.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response and your continued support for sustainable fisheries management in Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Tara

Tara Ferguson-Gould

[REDACTED]  
Cold Bay, Alaska 99571  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 7:44:51 AM

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Senate member,

I oppose SB 128! This is over reach of government officials when we already have measures in place with the soul job of managing fish. The board of fish is there for a reason and there decision should be respected!

Thanks  
Dave brown

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 8:02:11 AM

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Good morning, my name is Quinn Hagg and I am an Area M Gill Netter. I am writing to express my concern for senate bill 128.

Opposing SB 128 is necessary because it would harm the livelihoods of commercial fishermen who have taken voluntary measures to reduce chum harvest and increase Chum passage through Area M. SB 128 is based on the misconception that fishing in Area M is the cause of low chum returns to the Yukon River, when in reality, the primary factor is climate and ecosystem changes. The measures taken by the Area M Seiners fleet, in addition to the Fish and Game management plan, have already led to a decrease in chum harvest and demonstrate the commitment of commercial fishermen to sustainable management practices. Closing down Area M would not solve the issue of declining chum runs in the Yukon River and would only harm the livelihoods of commercial fishermen who depend on this resource. Instead, adaptive management and collaboration among stakeholders are needed to address the issue and ensure the sustainability of the fishing industry and the livelihoods it supports.

The proposed bill to shut down Area M fishing during specific times was not adopted due to its ineffectiveness in increasing chum passage to AYK. Instead, the Area M Seiners fleet, in addition to the Fish and Game management plan, developed their own voluntary management plan that significantly reduced chum harvest in the June fishery. These voluntary measures, which were adopted by the Board of Fish, have already led to a decrease in chum harvest and demonstrate the commitment of commercial fishermen to sustainable management practices. It is important to note that the low chum returns to the Yukon River are not caused by fishing in Area M, but rather by climate and ecosystem changes. Closing down Area M would not solve this problem and would only harm the livelihoods of commercial fishermen who depend on this resource. Adaptive management and collaboration among stakeholders are needed to address the issue of declining chum runs in the Yukon River and ensure the sustainability of the fishing industry and the livelihoods it supports.

- In summary, the low chum returns to the Yukon River are not caused by fishing in Area M, but rather by climate and ecosystem changes. Closing down Area M would not solve this problem and would only harm the livelihoods of commercial fishermen who have taken voluntary measures to reduce chum harvest and increase Chum passage through the area. Instead, adaptive management and collaboration among stakeholders are needed to address the issue of declining chum runs in the Yukon River.

- There are virtually no AYK chums caught on the North Peninsula and only 5.5% of South Peninsula chums caught are heading to rivers near AYK. Completely closing the Area M fishery in June is not going to make a difference for AYK and will only significantly hurt the Area M fisherman who depend on this fishery to support their families.

Thanks,  
Quinn Hagg

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 8:21:38 AM

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As a Sand Point resident, Qagan Tayagungin tribal member, and life-long Area M fisherman, I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 128. I urge you to watch the entire Board of Fish meeting from February, specifically all of the testimony from the ADFG scientists and other scientists who presented on the likely cause of the chum decline in the AYK, which has virtually nothing to do with the Area M salmon fishery. ADFG scientists presented clear evidence that a significant warming event in the coastal waters of western Alaska severely impacted the chum return in the AYK. The last thing our state fisheries needs is more politics in the decision making process. I hope you would agree that the only way to make good decisions regarding our valuable state fisheries is through science and advice from the fisheries experts, not politicians. We are all concerned about the poor chum returns in the AYK, but spreading the pain to our area will help no one and will cause more rural, native communities to collapse. I urge you to respect the fisheries management process that has been in place for decades and oppose SB 128.

Respectfully,  
Dean Pedersen

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 8:23:09 AM

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Hello,

My name is Jessica and my husband is an Area M fisherman. I am reaching out concerning Bill 128 and urging you to vote against it.

Recent scientific data reveals that the impact of the Area M salmon fisheries on AYK chum returns is very low. Sampling data provided by ADFG indicates that only about 17% of the chum harvested in the June Area M salmon fishery were chums from coastal western Alaska. Furthermore, genetic sampling showed that less than 5.5% of the chum harvested in Area M were returning to the vast Coastal Western Alaska of which the Yukon River is one of many. Nearly 60% of the chum caught in Area M were hatchery fish from Asia. These findings indicate that the proposed bill to shut down Area M fishing during specific times is based on a misconception that fishing in Area M is the cause of low chum returns to the Yukon River. Instead, the primary factor is climate and ecosystem changes. Therefore, opposing SB 128 is necessary to protect the livelihoods of commercial fishermen who depend on this resource and have taken voluntary measures to reduce chum harvest and increase Chum passage through Area M.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica DuBois Hagg

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Senate bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 8:39:38 AM

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I oppose senate bill 128. If this passes, it will open up a real can of worms.

Len Leach,  
Southeast Alaska Commercial Fisherman

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 8:43:11 AM

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The board of fish was created for a reason. Passing this bill discredits the process through which these board members were appointed, the work they did to come to their educated opinion, and the expert testimony provided to them to come to that opinion. It's sets a horrible precedent. Please vote no on SB 128.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 8:51:17 AM

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Chair Claman, and members of the Judiciary Committee, Thank you for the opportunity ,to provide written testimony, for the record. My name is Randy Mayo, I am a enrolled Tribal member of Stevens Village. I have been a subsistence fisherman my entire life, Who up until the salmon closures began,was able to live securely, along the Yukon River. My fish camp now sits empty and idle. A multi-generational existence going back thousands of years, destroyed, in a relatively short period of time. I speak in favor of SB 128. in view of the fact the violation of AS 16.05.258 by this disregard. The in river fisherman have suffered a great injustice, We are made to go without while the commercial industry continues to profit.  
Sincerely Randy Mayo

4/21/2023

Dear Senate Judiciary and Senators

My name is Jody Cook. I own and operate a Bristol Bay Drift Gillnet vessel. I have been fishing in Bristol Bay for over 40 years.

SB 128 would cause less sockeye that are returning to Bristol Bay to be intercepted in area M. That could mean more money for me. But, I am still apposed to this Bill.

Firstly,..In my opinion this undermines the Board of Fish process that has been successfully managing the Alaska State commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries for many years. I have been involved in the State Board of Fish process and also in the Federal North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process. I have benefited from the process and I have also been economically harmed by the process. I have witnessed many times how the stakeholder testimonies and the scientific data has been weighed to arrive at a reasonable conclusion. Usually both sides of a contentious issue are not completely happy. I have seen a 48 hour transfer stand down period waived one year and reinstated the next year as the local Dillingham fleet protested. So, the process has been working and has a history of being connected to the communities at an intimate level through many years of testimony and many years of service from community and stakeholder members.

Secondly, There is a long precedent to protect local communities and insure that each community retains their historical seat at the table. That is, their historical portion of fish. The Board looked at the research and data and there was little impact from area M on AYK Chums. And in 2022, there were measures taken with stand downs from fishing that showed good faith efforts to save chum salmon. But, even with these facts, the board listened to testimony from AYK district and the obvious shortage of chums, and was compelled to restrict the area M fishers more.

I'm not sure who was the main driver behind this Senate Bill. Hopefully it wasn't just attorneys and politicians trying to stir the pot and line their pockets at the expense of a native corporation. Hopefully this is the communities from AYK desperately looking for solutions to bring their salmon back. If so, I understand their passion, but I feel it is misguided. As fishermen we need to work together as much as possible to solve our differences. The same with communities through out Alaska. We need to be sure that we are focused on our real problem before we take drastic measures that would be devastating to other communities. Warming ocean temperatures is most likely the problem for the AYK chum and chum throughout Alaska. And choking the communities of Sand Point, King Cove, False Pass, and Akutan will not bring the chums back.

SB 128 is just a way around what has already been analyzed by those who understand all angles and all stakeholders. No body walked away from the Board meetings rejoicing. But now one party wants to force their will in an arena that is really not connected as intimately as the Board of Fish is to Fisheries issues. It just turns into a legal battle that is often determined, not necessarily by what is right or fair, but by who has the most resources to pour into attorneys and lobbyist.

Thankyou for the opportunity to testify..

Sincerely,

Jody R Cook

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Area M fishing  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 9:29:25 AM

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I am a commercial salmon fisherman in Prince William Sound, which is not the area in question, however, to start ignoring biologists recommendations in favor of political decisions is crazy. Why have scientists at all if politicians are going to make the call anyway?

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 9:34:07 AM

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My name is Patrick Collins. I have been a commercial fisherman in Alaska for 42 years.  
I stand opposed to SB 128. There is no scientific reason to shut down the June salmon fishery.  
This will destroy the economy of the Alaska Peninsula, making communities like False Pass, King Cove and Sand Point like ghost towns.  
There is no noticeable benefit to anyone.  
Thank you  
Patrick J Collins  
F/V Carol Ann

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 9:55:41 AM

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I am writing to oppose senate bill 128. It's not a good idea for legislators to introduce laws regarding fishery decisions. There will be someone upset with every decision made by the fisheries board. The legislators can't weigh in with laws every time that happens. There's a fisheries board we should let them do their work legislators should stay out of it. Thank you Ben Kriegmont, commercial fisherman in Juneau, Alaska.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 10:22:29 AM

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Dear Senator Claman, and Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the passing of SB 128. This bill will take away fishing opportunities for area M fishermen and cause significant economic losses for this important sector of the economy.

For generations, fishermen in area M have relied on fishing as a source of sustenance and income. If this bill is passed, it will severely limit our ability to make a living and provide for our families. Moreover, local processors that depend on fishing in area M to help support local communities will also suffer from reduced revenues.

It is our responsibility to ensure that the rights of these hard-working individuals are protected and that they can continue to make a living from fishing. Please oppose SB 128 and protect the livelihoods of these fishermen.

Thank you,

Branko Oglesbee

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 10:28:25 AM

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This is Ryder Gundersen I am a Alaska native also a member of the pauloff harbor tribe I would like to go on record to oppose senate bill 128 as this would close down area m I don't know what the author of this bill is thinking must want to put all us on welfare this is not the American way thank you Ryder Gundersen.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 10:35:28 AM

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Dear Honorable Senators,

Yesterday I spent hours reading SB 128 Sponsor Statement, SB 128 Letters of Support / Supporting Testimony as well as SB 128 Letters of Opposition / Opposing Testimony, and I am concerned that the Board of Fisheries process is being questioned (see paragraph 5 of Sponsor Statement).

My heart goes out to Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region but this immediate reaction after a Board of Fish (BOF) meeting to weaponize the Alaska State Legislature in an attempt to override BOF process as well as tying the hands of ADF&G for 20 days, which prevents the State from managing its fishery just before the peak of the sockeye run in Area M, is not the answer. Perhaps this is why you are seeing opposition to Senate Bill 128 from folks all around the state. What fishery will be next?

We Alaskans are blessed to have the BOF process, which includes the ability to admit a petition to the Board of Fish to take up a fishery emergency out of cycle. Therefore, I firmly stand behind all the communities of the Aleutian East Borough (Nelson Lagoon, Cold Bay, Sand Point, King Cove, False Pass, and Akutan) as well as the Board of Fish members who read reports, reviewed data from across this large state, and listened to testimony not only from stakeholders but from experts and all Alaskans.

Please keep politics out of our fisheries and do not support Senate Bill 128.

Thank you,  
Meesha Murphy  
Kodiak, Alaska

4/21/2023

# Judiciary Committee, Alaska State Senate

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To the Chair and Members,

My name is Cody Trader, I am a gillnet salmon permit holder in Area M. My family and I stand in solidarity with the Alaska Peninsula communities of SAND POINT, KING COVE, FALSE PASS and NELSON LAGOON to OPPOSE SB 128. SB 128 is a clear-cut example of over-reach and ABUSE of the machinations of the AK state legislature. This bill is punitive in nature and a direct reflex action to the failure of proposal 140 at the Board of Fish in February. I am further surprised that the sponsor of this bill, Senator Olson, as a doctor and a FAA medical examiner and pilot, would stake his professional reputation as a scientist, to put forth a piece of legislation that ignores the volumes of ADFG data that were poured over AND VOTED ON during the Regulatory Board Process. I would like to ask Senator Olson if he has read, cover to cover, the ADFG 2022 Genetic Stock Composition of Chums in Area M? Senator Olson should be compelled to present to this Committee his VERIFIABLE EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE, in contradiction to this study and recent Board action, that AREA M is responsible for the collapse of YUKON CHUM. If he proposes to shut down 1000s of livelihoods and futures, I would hope that the minimum standard would be EVIDENCE.

We fished during the Pandemic and were deemed essential to the infrastructure of the United States.

Do not let Senator Olson use this body to usurp the granular authority that has been carefully and democratically delegated to the AK Board of Fish.

SINCERELY,

X   
Cody Trader

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 11:07:04 AM

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04/21/2023

Dear Sirs or Madams,

I am writing in complete opposition of SB 128. Please consider what horrid implications will occur should the legislators start overriding Board of Fisheries decisions.

BOF exists to manage fisheries based on science and facts. The current model protects (not perfectly, as with anything) against special interest groups, railroading, and emotion-based decisions.

There is no reason the Legislature should even consider stepping into this.

There is no place to manage fisheries through politics.

Thank you for your time.

Renee W Alward

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Madison Thompson Written Testimony Opposing SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 11:20:01 AM

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Good afternoon Chair Claman and Members of the Board,

My name is Madison Thompson. I am a member of the Unga Tribe from Sand Point, I am also a small business owner in Sand Point and a 4th generation commercial fisherman.

If passed, SB 128 would likely decimate the remaining Unangan population in the Eastern Aleutians. Our people are resilient, we have fished and traveled the waters of Area M for the last 10,000 years. But this bill would have detrimental effects on us. 80% of private sector jobs in our area are seafood-related, and most of Area M's permits are held by locals. We would be losing the largest portion of harvesting opportunity for the season, all fishermen and community residents would suffer if we lost our June season.

We sat in meetings for over 80 hours in February defending ourselves and our livelihoods with sound science and evidence. The Board of Fisheries took all perspectives into account, they are the state's expert in the field of fisheries. The recent decision by the Board is one considering all sides of the issue, and aims to further limit any impacts Area M may have on Coastal-Western AK chums. Though science has told us **the impact is already minimal.**

If passed, SB 128 would cause immeasurable harm to the people of the communities in Area M. Residents would be forced to leave their home-towns and local businesses such as ours would have to close their doors. It is wrong to pass this bill and disrespect the public process that is the Board of Fisheries meetings. Overriding board action after members of our communities flew to Anchorage to testify is unfair, and sets an unjust precedent against Area M, residents of the Eastern Aleutians, and the State Board of Fisheries forever.

Thank you  
Madison Thompson

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Oppose SB 128. RC  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 11:21:41 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Clarissa Devine <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 10:23 AM  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 128. RC  
**To:** <[senate.judiciary@akleg.com](mailto:senate.judiciary@akleg.com)>, <[senator.matt.claman@akleg.gov](mailto:senator.matt.claman@akleg.gov)>, <[representative.matt.claman@akleg.gov](mailto:representative.matt.claman@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Here is a written RC opposing SB 128

My name is Clarissa Devine. I am a tribal member of the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe on the Aleutian Chain. My hometown is Sand Point, Alaska also referred to as Area M. I was born and raised here, with family ties back to the 1890's. For many generations my family has savored our traditional values in fishing. Whether it be commercial fishing or subsistence fishing, in our family subsistence fishing comes first. We usually do this during the month of June also. I am writing this letter in opposition to Senate Bill 128. At the Board of Fish Meeting the board moved to adopt the cooperative management agreement, which I believe was the finest outcome to help provide windows for fish returns. I am bewildered at why the State Senate would only want to shut down one area as opposed to ALL areas. There are many areas lying in between where the fish travel through to make it to where they need to go, it's just common sense. I can assure you that passing this bill would only have devastating effects on the goal we are trying to accomplish. We are asking you to consider the other bigger impacts of other fisheries and facts that are presented. SB 128 is not the answer! If this bill is to pass you are threatening my cultural traditions, livelihood and all good things that are great about this place. I am in grave concern for my son's generation and generations to come.

Respectfully,  
Clarissa Devine

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Senate Judiciary](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 11:23:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [BOF Changes in Area M Feb-2023 -1- \(1\).pdf](#)

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Members of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Claman, Senator Kaufman, Senator Gessel, Senator Tobin, Senator Kiehl

My name is Frank Kelty, a former 50 year resident of Unalaska, Alaska, a former Mayor of the community for many years, I have also worked in the Alaska Seafood industry for 35 years mostly in Unalaska. I am also a member of UFA, but I am testifying on behalf of myself today. Senate Bill 128 is a terrible piece of legislation, I would urge the Judiciary committee to oppose this bill, or at least hold it in committee. This bill reminds me of the Federal Judge in Texas deciding he knew better than the Doctors and Scientists at FDA, to approve or disapprove medicine for the residents of this country that Judge is not a Doctor or Scientist. Senator Olson I've known him for many years, and I consider him a friend, he is a great politician, a fine doctor, a pilot, and a great family man. But as far as I know he isn't a fishery biologist. I think the work of the fisheries management should be left experts at ADFG, and Commissioner Vincent Lange who has been with the department for over 30 years, his knowledge, and that that of his staff are the experts, they need to make the call on fisheries management, with oversight and approval by the Board of Fisheries members who are selected by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. This system as worked well for Alaska since statehood, once again ADFG management and the Board of Fisheries need to make the decisions on fisheries management for Alaska not the politicians in the legislature. I attended via zoom in February the Area M Board of Fisheries meeting, I listen to the heart felt testimony from the people of the AYK region and the suffering they are going through over the lack of salmon returns to there river systems. I wish it was something we could do to fix this immediately but we can't; we all know that ecosystem changes, water temperatures, ocean conditions and bycatch are all apart of the problem. I don't think a wholesale shut down in June is going to fix the problem, it will really hurt the Area M communities, harvesters, processors and support sector businesses with the loss of the June portion of the salmon fishery the region could lose 40% or more of the salmon season revenues and a major portion on the red salmon run which they depend on. I have attached with this e-mail a one pager that shows the additional restrictions made to the Area M fishery that was agree to by the harvesters, processors, and approved by the Board of Fisheries at the February BOF meeting. Thank you for the consideration of my comments on opposition to SB128.

Regards  
Frank Kelty



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Cc:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB 128: "An Act temporarily closing the commercial salmon fishery in a portion of the Alaska 2 Peninsula and Aleutian Islands"  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 11:39:49 AM

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Dear Honorable Senators Olson, Kawasaki and Claman:

I respectfully join the multitude of Alaskan voices that have voiced opposition to SB 128: "An Act temporarily closing the commercial salmon fishery in a portion of the Alaska 2 Peninsula and Aleutian Islands," in Area M in southwest Alaska of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area of the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game. These remarks are submitted in advance of the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on SB 128 at 1:30pm today, April 21, 2023.

I am a former Executive Director the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, the tribal governing body for the thirteen tribes in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, and a former manager of the two largest municipal governments in the Bristol Bay region, the Bristol Bay Borough and the City of Dillingham (interim), the heart of the \$2 billion+ annually world's largest red salmon commercial fishery in the world. My comments here are my own.

Based on this experience, I am familiar with commercial and subsistence fishing in southwest Alaska. SB 128 was first introduced in the Alaska Legislature less than two weeks ago on April 12, 2023. SB 128 would abruptly change the historical yearly commercial fishing season practice and plans for hundreds of commercial fishermen in this area. This last minute cancellation would unfairly deprive them of the means to earn the income they need to pay their boat mortgages, putting ownership of their boats at risk, and the other fixed expenses they have already incurred in the fair expectation of this year's normal fishing season.

It would also unfairly deprive these hardworking fishermen of the income needed to pay their home mortgages and other home expenses, putting their homes at risk, as well as harming their ability to feed and clothe their families.

As the Mayor of Sand Point, Alaska, the Honorable James Smith, and others have eloquently stated, no one put at risk or harm in southwest

Alaska by SB 128 is indifferent to, or unfamiliar with, the subsistence problems of our fellow Alaskans in western and northern Alaska. However, this piece of legislation is too ill-timed and too rushed to productively resolve the problems this year that it seeks to address and will do more harm than good.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

*Gregg B. Breisford*



April 21, 2023

Senator Claman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB128 Commercial Salmon Fishery Closure

Dear Chairman Claman and Senate Judiciary Members,

My name is Karen Severson and I am representing FV Odin Inc. Our son Aaron Severson has skippered our Fishing Vessel Jodi Marie in the Area M Fishery since 2018. He left his family in Southeast for new opportunities far away from home. He has observed and excelled in this unique fishing area, its people and cultures.

We sympathize with subsistence communities affected by the drastic declines in Chinook and Chum salmon returns in recent years to the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.

Science shows Area M fishery has low impact on AYK chum. At the February BOF meeting the Board received the most recent sampling data (from 2022) for chum caught in Area M. The harvest rate for South Alaska Peninsula chum was 5.5%. ADF&G scientists explicitly presented this as an overestimate. This means that Area M harvested was less than 5.5% of the total chum returning to coastal western Alaska. The Board also heard from scientists that 58% of the chum harvested in Area M were of Asian/Russian hatchery origin based on genetic testing.

The action BOF took at its February 2023 meeting was carefully crafted to be effective. The Board endorsed the seine fleet to continue implementing a cooperative management agreement. This agreement requires 100% of the fleet to sign on, share harvest data, monitor chum harvest and stand down or to pull back from a location when directed to do so.

This approach is adaptive in nature and is the only way to ensure that more chum make their way through the area. In 2022 Area M fishermen stood down as part of the cooperative agreement in order to help reduce the chum harvest, and gave up 217 hours of the 352 allowed for fishing.

The plan already set in place by BOF will reduce Purse Seine gear from 88 hours to 68 hours, resulting in 22.7% less fishing time. The second fishing period will reduce fishing time from 88 hours to 66 hours; 25% less fishing time. There will be a 76 hour closure between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fishing periods, which is a 2.4 times longer closure. The fleet has agreed to close the Sanak Island Section for Unimak District to all gear types. The Board implemented new caps in the June fishery for South Unimak and Shumagin Islands that if reached requires ADF&G to further restrict fishing in season. All this was the hard work of BOF and ADF&G working together to find compromise to a complex issue.

If the legislature starts overriding BOF decisions, we begin to wander into managing fisheries by emotion and opinion rather than based on science and facts.

Overriding a BOF decision opens the door to further intrusion by special interest groups. If the legislature involves itself in this decision, it opens Pandora's box. How will they choose which decisions they choose to get involved in?

It is already difficult to get people to serve on the BOF due to the contentious issues, and the large commitment of time away from family and jobs. If the legislature starts to override decisions, it will be difficult to get people to want to serve.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries was created in 1959 for good reason, and the Legislature should let the BOF make these decisions based on science, compromise and good faith management of our State's resources.

There are other larger, explanations as to why the AYK salmon returns are low. Science is telling us that climate and ecosystem changes are having a significant impact. Presentations from federal and state scientists point to the recent marine heat waves negatively impacting AYK chum in multiple ways while they are in the marine environment.

The Eastern Aleutians Area will be negatively impacted if the Area M June fishery is closed. The communities and fishermen in this region who rely on the 32% fish tax and who employ 80% of the private sector jobs cannot afford the loss that would be created by the action of SB128.

We urge you to reject SB128 and the interference of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, its members and the public dedicated to the process.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Severson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Karen Severson  
FV Odin Inc.  
F/V Jodi Marie  
Mark Severson  
Aaron Severson

[REDACTED]  
Petersburg, AK 99833

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill # 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 12:03:44 PM

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My name is Mark A. Norbistrath and i am a gillnet salmon permit fisherman in area M. and have been commercial fishing for 31 years, I directly oppose Senate Bill # 128. This bill will directly affect my livelihood and my families financial stability. The recent Alaska board of fisheries has met and made their decisions based on genetic stock composition of chums in area M, and with their findings I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill # 128-----  
M.A.Norbistrath.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 12:09:00 PM

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I strongly oppose this Bill, the bill will destroy the work and the authority that was given to the Board of fish by the senator has given to the board. The author of this bill has not given any thought to the many TERMINAL in area M . The entire north peninsula, from port Hiden to Unmak pas have terminal fisheries that target Red salmon. Just to name a few, Nelson lagoon, port Moller,franks Lagoon , Bear River, sandy River, Ilnik river. On unmak , Uruk's bay, Swanson lagoon, , on the south peninsula, Marsha is bay, thin point lagoon ,mortenson lagoon, kenzaoff lagoon, , the entire set net fleet, and several Drift fleet depend on these areas, please do not support this Bill. Thank you very much. Stanley Mack.

Sent from my iPhone

Good Afternoon,

Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Timothy Lundgren, I live in Sand Point, I am part of the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe.

I am a commercial fisherman and come from a family that has fished for generations in Area M. My family just like most of the state's families rely on substance fish to feed our families.

I am opposed to SB 128. Closing June will affect not only me as a commercial fisherman, but also the community. Without fishing Sand Point and the surrounding communities would not survive. Fishing is what drives our communities and without the fishing local jobs would be in jeopardy.

Before moving SB 128 through, more studies need to be done.

It is time to stop blaming Area M and try to figure out what is the true reason for the decline.

Why does the State of Alaska have a Board of Fish if we are going to allow Senate Bills like this to move forward. The Board of Fish is educated and qualified individuals that have been assigned to represent the State of Alaska in making educated and informed decisions.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [LIO Anchorage](#)  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 12:38:05 PM

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Hello,

We received this at the LIO in Anchorage and thought we should send it on to you.

Best Regards,

Dana Nicholas  
Administrative Assistant  
Legislative Information Office  
1500 W Benson Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99503  
907-269-0113

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**From:** Sheena Foster <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 12:01 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <[Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov](mailto:Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 128 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Dear Senators

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed bill 33-LS0679\A, Senate Bill No. 128, which aims to temporarily close the commercial salmon fishery in a portion of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

The Board of Fisheries has recently made a ruling on this issue during their last session together. As a body with expertise in the field and the mandate to manage fisheries, the board's decision should be respected and upheld. It is essential to follow the appropriate regulatory process, and the proposed bill undermines the authority of the Board of Fisheries, as stated under AS 16.05.251.

Furthermore, there is a lack of scientific evidence or studies to support the drastic action proposed in Senate Bill No. 128. Implementing such a measure without a solid foundation in research and analysis can lead to unintended consequences and potential harm. The Board of Fisheries, in contrast, makes decisions based on scientific data, research, and input from stakeholders, ensuring a more informed and responsible approach.

By proposing to close the commercial salmon fishery, the bill threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen who depend on this industry for their income. This closure could have severe economic consequences for these individuals and their families, as well as the local communities that rely on the fishing industry.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill No.128 and instead support the appropriate regulatory processes already in place through the Board of Fisheries. Your commitment to upholding the board's authority and expertise, and protecting the livelihoods of those affected by this bill, is essential for the well-being of our state and its fisheries.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response and your continued support for sustainable fisheries management in Alaska.  
Sincerely,

Sheena Foster

Unga Tribal Member and lifelong Area M subsistence and commercial set net fisherwoman

Sand Point, Alaska



April 21, 2023

Raymond Kochuten

King Cove, AK 99612

[Senate.Judiciary@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Judiciary@akleg.gov)

Re: **House Bill 128**

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Raymond Kochuten and I am an Area M fishermen from False Pass and King Cove. I raised my four daughters commercial fishing from the time they were about seven years old. My wife and I are now excited to be able to watch our grandkids and nieces and nephews partake in the fishery.

Commercial fishing has been our livelihood for thousands of years. It's always been there for us. Why are they always trying to take it away from us?

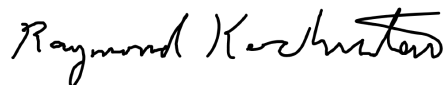
I can't comment of what is happening in river systems, but our salmon fishery has been healthy. Our target fish are sockeye and pinks. We are not out there to commercially harvest chum salmon. We do eat chum at different parts of the year from our many local chum streams. Not all the chum that are caught in our area are headed for the AYK region, as they would have you all believe.

June is an important time for us to fish, the weather is calm and the sockeye are abundant in the area. We see record returns of sockeye year after year. Current management frameworks support us being able to continue fishing in June.

As a fishermen and elder, I support what has already been arranged by our respective Board of Fish. There have been compromises made already during normal Board of Fish proceedings in February. The Board of Fish needs to be able to do their job.

I do not support House Bill 128.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Kochuten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raymond Kochuten

Good Afternoon,

Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Cherilyn Lundgren and I live in Sand Point. I am a member of the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe. I am employed with Aleutians East Borough School District in the Business Office. I have worked for the district for 17 plus years. I am a daughter of a retired Area M fisherman, wife of an Area M fisherman and have children that fish Area M. My Aleut family has fished many generations.

I oppose SB 128

Where is the evidence justifying closing our June Season?

Is it because others are pointing fingers at Area M?

South Alaska Peninsula region (Area M) has been taking it from all sides. Stop SB 128 today to future restrict our fisheries which would affect the communities of Aleutians East Borough. More research and studies need to be done to get to the real cause. Decisions cannot be made by accusations; they need to be made with facts and consideration of the environment effects happening around us.

Aleutians East Borough is home to over 3000 year-round residents, many with a heritage in the Eastern Aleutians that goes back hundreds of years. Our population has always been dependent on Both Subsistence and Commercial fishing. We have no other industry that sustains our communities. Without fishing, we cannot maintain our cities and local jobs. This will have an immeasurable impact on our families and school. The School District employs local teachers and teachers' aides, who know and care for our children. We may need to cut those jobs because of the loss in enrollment and revenue. Out of 26 teachers we have in the district, 6 have returned to teach in the district that they graduated from, and we have a few that have moved into the community and earned their degree.

Aleutians East Borough School District started with 6 schools and since I started working in 2005, 2 of the schools have been closed due to enrollment. Currently we have 1 of the 4 that is under the State enrollment requirement and Aleutians East Borough has been supporting the school to keep the doors open. Enrollment for Aleutians East Borough School Districts largest school has fallen to under 100 students and this has impacted our state funding. Fortunately, the Borough has helped with funding to keep these schools in operation when they have dropped under the student count required for State funding. In 2022 the AEB fish tax on salmon made up 28% of all AEB fish tax. Without the revenue from the fish taxes the Borough would not be able to help the schools stay open, causing our students and their families to relocate out of the Borough.

Dear Chairman Claman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Tom Wooding, and I am a 40-year Area M driftnet permit holder who has been working with the Board of Fisheries for 30 years. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding Senate Bill 128, which would close area M in June. As someone who has dedicated much of my life to the commercial fishing industry, I believe that this bill would be financially devastating for many fishermen in the region.

SB 128 would close the North Peninsula, which catches statistically zero CWAK chums. This decision would not only be unfair, but it would also negatively impact the livelihoods of many hardworking fishermen who depend on these waters to make a living. As the Vice President of Concerned Area M Fishermen (CAMF), I can tell you that our organization represents 80% of the commercial drift fleet in the area.

I firmly believe that the Board of Fisheries should be the mechanism for changing fisheries, not the state legislature. The Board has the expertise and knowledge needed to make informed decisions regarding fishing regulations, and their decisions should be respected. As someone who has worked closely with the Board for many years, I can attest to their dedication and commitment to protecting the fishing industry and the communities that rely on it.

Therefore, I urge you to reject Senate Bill 128. Instead, I ask that you respect the decisions of the Board of Fisheries. I've attached four figures to help explain the complex nature of the issue.

Figure 1: The first Figure shows a map of Area M, with the North Peninsula highlighted in red and the current South Peninsula June fishery in green. The yellow area shows a region that was closed by the Board of Fisheries in 2023 to reduce chum harvest. If Senate Bill 128 was adopted, it would close the entire Area M in June. Closing the North Peninsula could be very detrimental to the health of the North Peninsula sockeye systems and reduce the catch to the fleet in excess of one million sockeye.

Figure 2: The second Figure displays a graph with harvest rates for the Upper Yukon (Fall) Chum stock in red and CWAK (Summer) Chum in blue. The Bristol Bay region has a much larger harvest rate on Summer Chum than Area M. The South Peninsula has a low harvest rate on Summer Chum (CWAK) and an extremely low harvest rate on Fall chum (Upper Yukon).

Figure 3: The third Figure shows the small stock composition of Upper Yukon (Fall) chum in the South Peninsula fisheries. The chart highlights the size of each stock, with different colors representing different regions. The South Peninsula fisheries have a low composition of Upper Yukon chums, compared to the other regions.

Figure 4: The fourth Figure shows a graph depicting the dramatic increase of Asian chums and the decrease in CWAK (Summer) chums in the South Peninsula fisheries. The graph shows recent changes in stock composition compared to the WASSIP report.

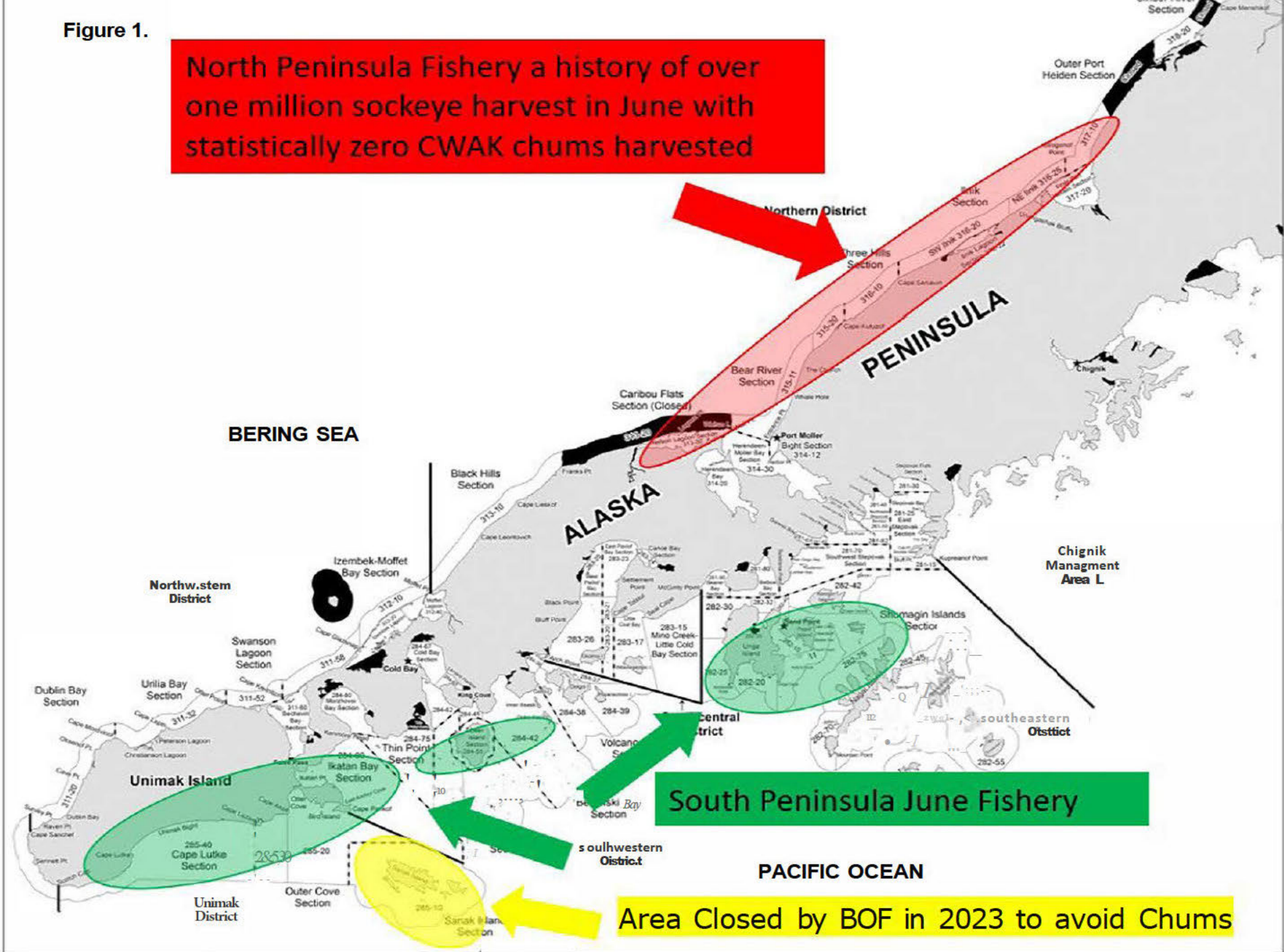
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

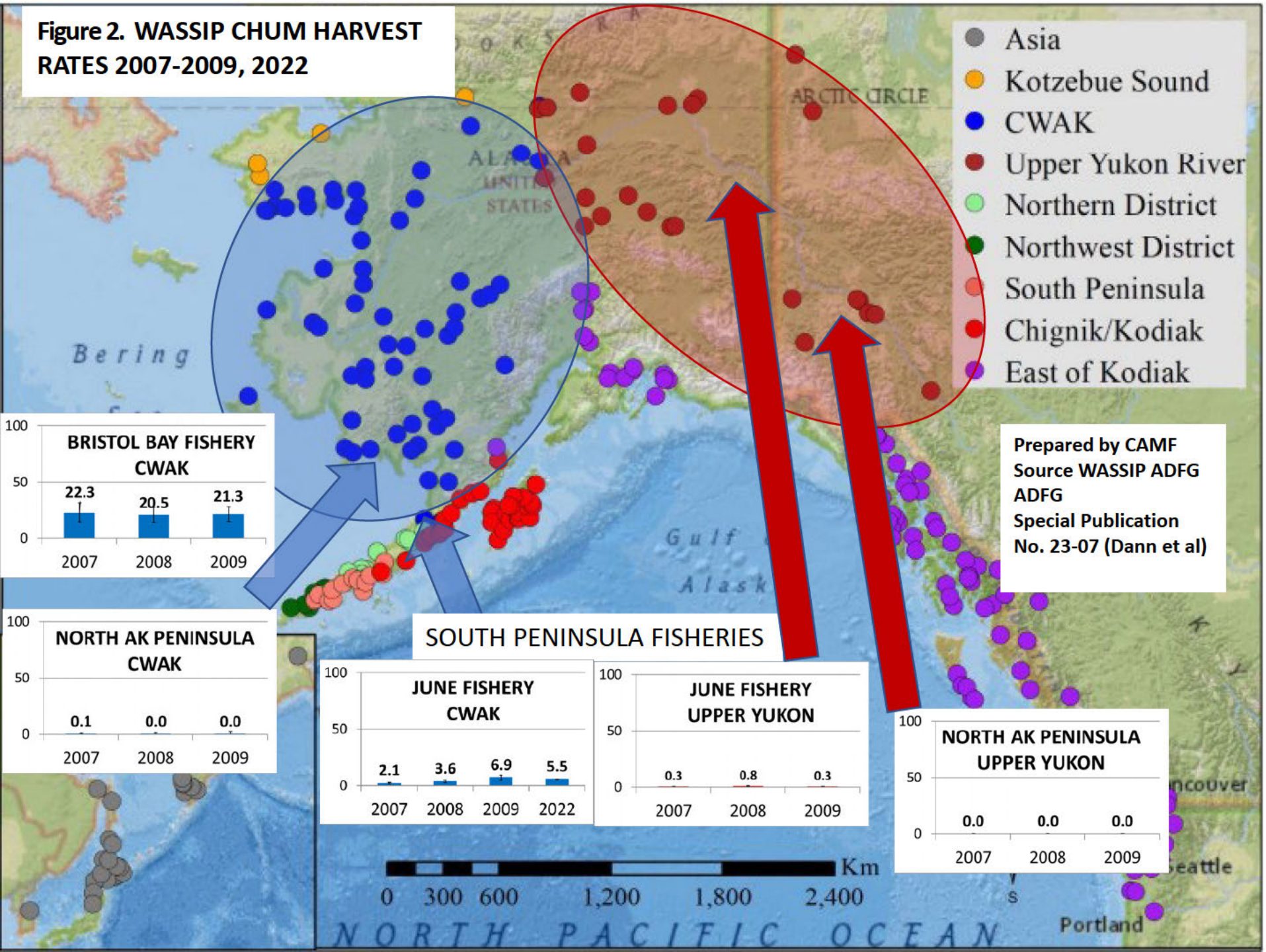
Tom Wooding

**Figure 1.**

North Peninsula Fishery a history of over one million sockeye harvest in June with statistically zero CWAK chums harvested



**Figure 2. WASSIP CHUM HARVEST RATES 2007-2009, 2022**



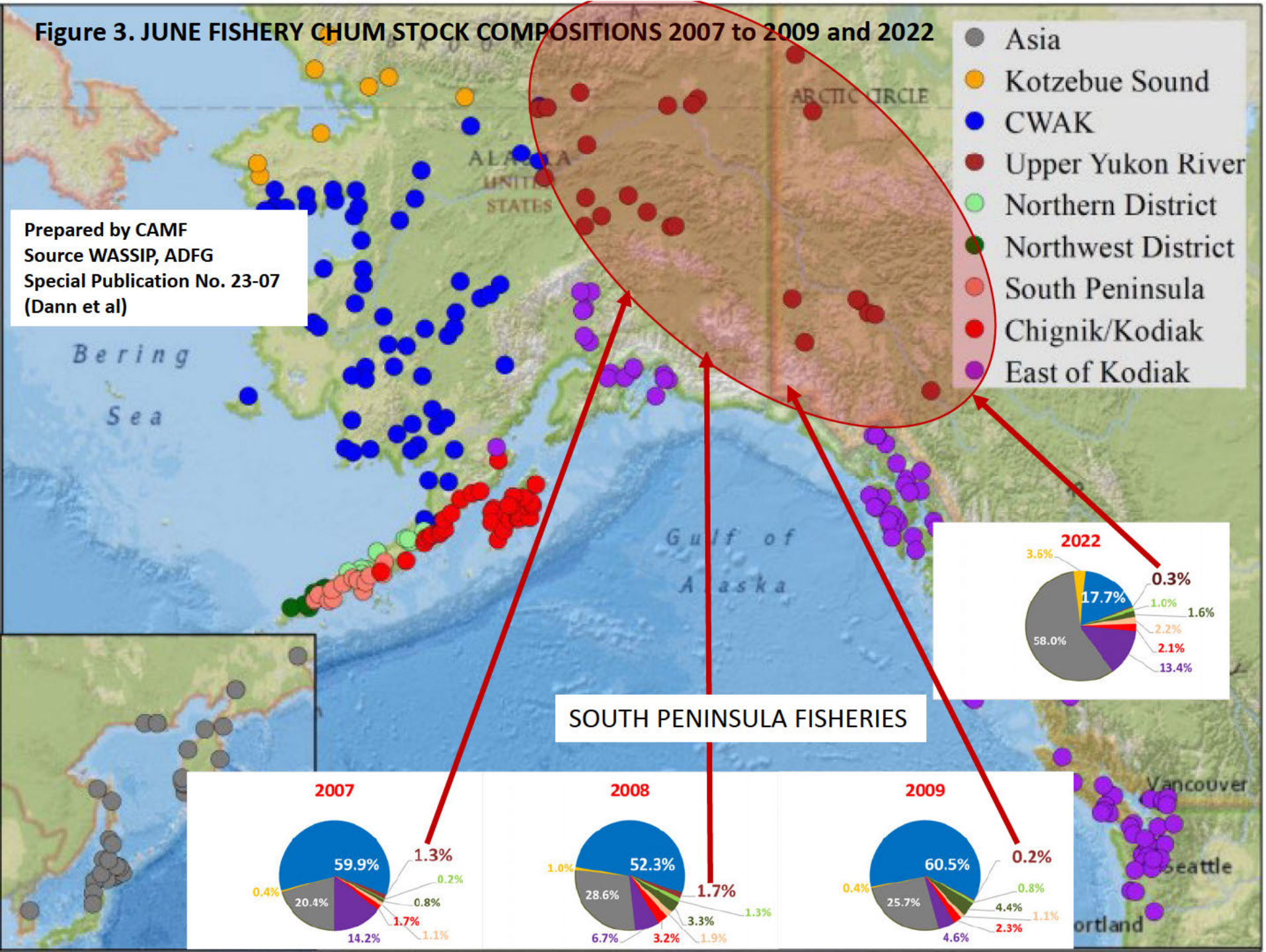
**Figure 3. JUNE FISHERY CHUM STOCK COMPOSITIONS 2007 to 2009 and 2022**

Prepared by CAMF

Source WASSIP, ADFG

Special Publication No. 23-07

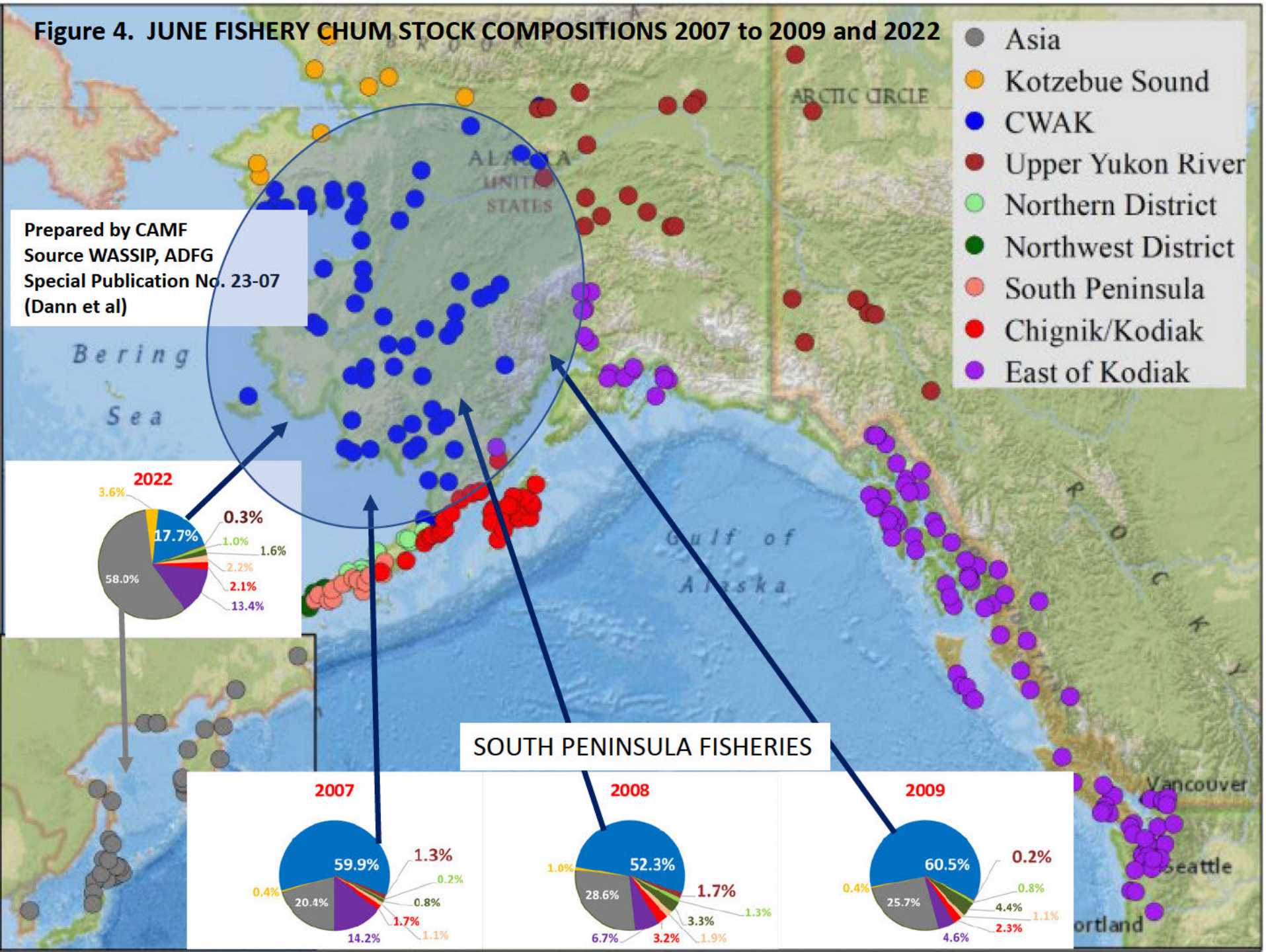
(Dann et al)



**Figure 4. JUNE FISHERY CHUM STOCK COMPOSITIONS 2007 to 2009 and 2022**

Prepared by CAMF  
Source WASSIP, ADFG  
Special Publication No. 23-07  
(Dann et al)

- Asia
- Kotzebue Sound
- CWAK
- Upper Yukon River
- Northern District
- Northwest District
- South Peninsula
- Chignik/Kodiak
- East of Kodiak



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:09:24 PM

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Hello, My name is Kurt Hastings. I have been an Area M purse-seiner for over 25 years. My Father has been in the same fishery for over 50 years. It has been a family business and a major part of our livelihood. I OPPOSE Senate Bill 128. All the credibility of the Board of Fish would be wiped away if this Bill passed. Since 1975 the Board Of Fish has had the responsibility and authority for establishing regulations and allocating the fish and game resources among the various user groups. The scientific facts were presented at the 2023 BOF meetings in Anchorage and a new management plan was developed by ADF&G in regards to the month of June. The new management plan has value and should be practiced for the 2023 Area M June Season. Thank You For Your Time. Because Our time Matters!  
Kurt R. Hastings

Concerned Area M Fishermen

[REDACTED]  
Homer, AK 99603

April 18; 2023

Senator Matt Claman, Chairman  
Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee  
Juneau, AK

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 128

Dear Senator Claman and Committee members:

Concerned Area M Fishermen ( CAMF) represents salmon drift net permit holders who fish the Alaska Peninsula. About 80% of the active permit holders in the fishery are CAMF members, and half of those are Alaska residents living primarily on the Kenai Peninsula, as well as King Cove and Sand Point on the Alaska Peninsula. CAMF strongly opposes SB 128.

CAMF believes the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), not the Alaska State Legislature, is the proper forum for adjudicating regulatory and allocation issues within Alaskan fisheries. In the February 2023 Board of Fisheries meeting for the Alaska Peninsula, the Board listened to a full day of ADF&G staff reports on proposals before the Board, as well as 300 public testimonies over the course of an additional 3 days. In addition, there was another two days devoted to additional committee meetings where the public could offer information not covered in previous public testimony. There is simply no way for the legislature to fairly substitute its judgment for the BOF because it will have nothing resembling the full suite of ADF&G information and public input the Board did.

CAMF understands SB 128 is a result of the recent February Area M meeting and the failure of the Board to adopt proposal #140 which proposed severe restrictions in the June False Pass fishery. However, it seems to be widely misunderstood that the Board took no action in light of recent poor chum salmon returns to western Alaska, primarily the Yukon River. This is false. The Board did take restrictive action in the fishery though not to the draconian degree that proponents of proposal #140 would have liked. Fishing time WAS restricted, area WAS closed in June, and harvest "triggers" were put in place to ensure the harvest of chums caught incidentally to the sockeye fishery was constrained.

The State of Alaska has spent literally millions of dollars studying the June False Pass fishery, including in 2022. Additional catch sampling and genetic analysis of the catches in the fishery are planned for the next several years as well at a cost of additional millions. In fact, I'd be hard pressed to name another salmon fishery in Alaska studied as much as the False Pass fishery. The Board has considered all this information at length. But if we're not going to utilize the information the millions of dollars of expenditures have gained us, why do the studies? If

stakeholders who don't like a BOF decision just go to the legislature and use political muscle to nullify it, why even have the structure of a Board of Fisheries? CAMF believes it's a road the State of Alaska should not, indeed, must not, go down

Finally, CAMF also wishes to express our dismay that this poorly considered bill closes the whole of the Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery for the month of June, not just that portion of the fishery where chum salmon are incidentally caught (i.e. the False Pass fishery). There is a significant sockeye fishery that occurs on the North Peninsula (Bering Sea side) in the last 10 days of June that would also be closed if this bill were to pass. This fishery catches NO western Alaska bound chum salmon. This would have a dramatic negative impact on the participants in the fishery for not even a minimal marginal benefit to western Alaska subsistence users, so why close it? In addition, this bill would close the Nelson Lagoon fishery in June as well, again this fishery catches NO western Alaska chum salmon. Is this an intention of the bill's author? We believe closing fisheries on the Peninsula that the bill's author probably doesn't even know about is a perfect example of why the legislature has no business in involving itself in these issues. Please don't support this bill.

Respectfully,

Steve Brown, President  
Concerned Area M Fishermen  
[REDACTED]  
Homer, AK. 99603

.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** S.B. 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:26:35 PM

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Dear Senator Claman and Judiciary Committee Members,

I'm writing this email asking for the judiciary committee to reject S.B. 128 in its entirety.

This bill if passed would have ever lasting effects on our community's within the Aleutians East Borough, Sand Point, King Cove, Cold Bay, Nelson Lagoon, False Pass and Akutan, the economy of these communities will be greatly impacted by further restrictions to the June Area-M Fishery.

I have lived in False Pass all of my life and subsistence and commercial fished in Area-M for over 60 years. I'm also a member of the False Pass Tribal council, and Aleut Native.

I would ask for this body of government to respect the Alaska Board fisheries on their decision that they made at the February meeting on this matter.

My community of False Pass will probably not exist if this is adopted, we rely totally on revenue that is gained from the Area-M June Fishery.

Respectfully,  
Tom Hoblet

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Sb 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:39:26 PM

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Mr. Chair and members of the committee , My name is Jim Smith I am from Sand Point Alaska. I am representing myself as an area m fishermen and The City of Sand Point as the Mayor. I am against Senate Bill 128 that would close the area M June salmon season. We as an area have just gone through the Board of Fish process in February and with the latest scientific facts worked out a compromise to this chum Issue. It has been said the State of Alaska has the best and most effective process for its fisheries in the world by bringing the Dept, of fish and game ,the Board of fish and the fishermen and stakeholders together to work out the differences to best serve everyone involved. If the senate follows through with Senate Bill 128 is it saying it can do a better job than what is a proven and fair process with the Alaska Board of Fisheries, which has been successful for many years I firmly believe we should continue to rely on the Board of fish process which has been working fairly . Thank you .

Jim Smith  
Sent from my iPhone

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Kiley Thompson, I am from Sand Point Alaska and I am representing the Area M Seiners Association.

In 2022, the Area M seine fleet voluntarily stood down over 200 hours of its available 352 hours of scheduled fishing time to protect migrating chum stocks, the vast majority of which are of Asian hatchery origin. This past February, the Board of fish reduced available fishing time by an additional 42 hours and closed the Sanak Island Section to all commercial salmon fishing, as well as set triggers which will reduce or close fishing. The Area M Seiners Association has agreed to continue, as well as improve upon, its voluntary reductions to once again protect migrating chums. SB 128 is punitive and will have very little impact on AYK chum stocks. It will devastate an entire region of the state that relies entirely on commercial fishing for the basis of its economy.

I understand that there are 2 legal opinions submitted to the committee. I urge you to make them public.

Thank you,  
Kiley Thompson  
President

# Senate Judiciary Committee on SB 128

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## Oral Testimony      Opposing SB 128

Mr. Chair and Members of the committee, my name is Amy Foster, I am of Aleut Native Descent, I am Area M, I am a commercial fishermen. I live in Sand Point, Alaska. I am representing myself, and my tribe, Unga. Our tribe realizes the importance of our established long term fisheries in Area M, a fishery our ancestors have participated in for over 10,000 years for both subsistence and commercial use. Our fishery is important to the Economic Welfare of our people and our livelihood, it is not just the economics of our fishery but a vital part of our history, our customary and traditional lifestyle and without access to our salmon fishery we too can become history.

In February the Board of Fish listened to several proposals put forth with the board taking more restrictive action in the Area M Fishery. Due to political pressure, Area M has been made to suffer the blame for the demise of fish stocks in other area river systems shouldering the burden to fix the problem. Now we are facing SB 128 that we strongly oppose. Real lives are at stake here.

No other area within the State of Alaska has witnessed or been constantly under attack from others whenever fish are missing in Area M. The current issues of a crisis in another fishing area will not be solved by passing SB 128 and curtailing our June salmon fishery. Salmon declines are complex and several factors are playing a role in the salmon industry, circumstances that should not be utilized in putting the blame on Area M.

We strongly oppose SB 128.

*Amy M Foster*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Rebecca Himschoot](#); [Senate Judiciary](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Lōki Tobin](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Against SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:47:44 PM

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Senator Claman

Senate Judiciary Committee

Juneau AK, 99801

RE: SB128 Commercial Salmon Fishery Closure

Dear Chairman Claman and Senate Judiciary Members,

My name is Aaron Severson, I am a fourth generation lifelong fisherman including Area M seiner.

I am vehemently against SB128. The Board of Fisheries already took action in February to further restrict our fishery. Sanak Island section was closed and fishing time has been reduced; further chum limits were put in place which if reached, would require ADF&G to further restrict fishing. All of this despite the lack of scientific data to prove that we impact Western Alaska chums significantly.

Overruling the authority of the Board of Fisheries would be unprecedented and extremely detrimental to the fisheries management system. They work very hard and put in a lot of time to come to decisions. Only after going over in-depth scientific reports, days of public testimony, written comments and careful consideration of all sides.

The Board of Fisheries seats are already difficult to fill because it is so time and labor intensive. Pushing forward with SB128 and undermining the ruling already put forth would be the beginning of the end for our fisheries management.

Please consider the negative impact you'll have on the State of Alaska fisheries management as a whole if this is to pass.

Sincerely

Aaron & Jodi Severson

F/V Jodi Marie

Petersburg, Alaska

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:10:42 PM

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Good afternoon,


My name is Bridget Rocili. I was raised in King Cove and now reside in Sand Point. I work for the City of Sand Point. I am opposed to SB 128. What are we doing here? Area M just fought for our livelihood at the Board of Fish meetings and here we are having to do it again. The Board of Fish has already made an educated decision. Let them do their jobs. What is the point of Board of Fish if people are going to go over their heads?

If the June fishery is taken from Area M it would destroy our communities. I am on the receiving end of fish tax here at the City. Taking away that revenue as well as the jobs of a majority of the families here would be detrimental to our community surviving. Families would have to look elsewhere for work in turn decreasing our population and slowly but surely these small communities would dissipate.

Please do not allow SB 128 to move through.

Thank you for your time,

Bridget Rocili

**From:**   
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony In Regards To Area M Closure  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:56:19 PM

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This is Max Mezich, from Palmer, AK. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the vote on shutting down salmon fishing in area M for the month of June. As a 4th generation Alaskan and commercial salmon fisherman in this area for the past 10 years, this decision would have a devastating impact on my livelihood, as well as all the other Area M fishermen who depend on this fishery as a primary source of income.

I strongly believe that this decision is not fair to the hard-working fishermen and our families who depend on this income to make ends meet. Shutting down the fishing industry with such short notice would be a severe blow to our financial stability, and it is not a decision that should be taken lightly.

I urge you to consider the impact that this decision would have on our families and to find a more balanced solution that allows us to continue to support ourselves while also preserving our natural resources. Please do not make this decision without taking into account the long-term effects on our community.

Thank you

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition of Sb128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:56:24 PM

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Good afternoon members of the legislature.

My name is Drayton Newman and I am in opposition of SB128. I am an Area M fisherman, and live year round in Sand Point Alaska. I understand the issues faced by my fellow Alaskans on the AYK are immense; but the fact of the matter is SB 128 isn't going to be the solution they are looking for. Rather another hurdle for the Area M Region and my family to over come, on that will prove detrimental if not catastrophic for our region.

Scientific study points out what is happening to AYK's Stock, in 2004 a draft prepared for Kuskokwim Fisheries Resources Coalition (KFRC) sub committees titled " Fresh water life cycle of Kuskokwim area Chum salmon." Highlights what these salmon need to survive. Page 16's opening paragraph also suggests Yukon river chum salmon share a larger grouping genetically with Russian chum salmon than any other!

More recently NOAA published an article August 23rd, 2022 titled "what's behind chinook and chum salmon declines in Alaska?" Focusing on climate affects on this stock and in no way blaming Area M as the cause.

In my opinion this bill only proves our capability of ignoring facts and casting blame in hopes a band aid solution will fix a missing limb!!

Thank you for your time

Drayton Newman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 2:03:29 PM

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Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Zach Wooding. I have been an Area M drift gillnet fisherman for 18 years and a permit holder for 10 years and am representing myself.

If senate bill 128 were to pass, it would be devastating for the fishing community in Area M. This is a misguided attempt to ignore the hard work of the Board of Fish and many community members that attended the meeting in February.

The board heard almost 300 public comments, results from multiple studies from ADF&G and NOAA, and from the biologists that manage the Alaskan Peninsula. The board built relationships and had conversations with the people of AYK and the Alaska Peninsula and carefully considered the outcomes of their actions. The Board of Fish made an informed decision to reduce the time and area of the South Unimak fishery to prevent the catch of Chum salmon. This bill would disregard those changes as well as impose unnecessary closures of the North Alaska Peninsula June sockeye fishery that does not catch any Coastal Western Alaska Chum salmon according to expansive genetic research done in the area.

We've always described our fishery as a marathon, not a sprint. While areas like Bristol Bay can catch large amounts of fish on a daily basis and make a living on only about a month of work, we must pluck away at smaller numbers for a much longer period to make a living. Missing out on the June North peninsula fishery would cut a significant amount of time for no improvement of Western Alaska Chum salmon stocks. The closure of the North Peninsula fishery would serve no benefit, only as a political victory for the supporters of this bill. Our natural resources should be managed based on science and not on politics..

Please Oppose Senate Bill 128 and protect the Board of Fish process that has been effective at managing fisheries and fish stocks in Alaska.

Thank You for hearing our voices,

Zach Wooding

## **Senate Judiciary Committee SB 128**

### **Opposing SB 128**

Mr Chairman and members of the committee, my name is John Foster from Sand Point, Alaska . I have fished in Area M for 55 years and am President of the Unga Tribal Council (Native Village of Unga). I am here to speak in opposition of SB 128.

It is getting harder and harder to hire a crew and keep crews for fishing vessels. If the June fishery is closed, it will be almost impossible to hire and hold crews for the rest of the season. Salmon crew members usually show up in May to get the boats and gear ready. Crewmembers may not come at all if they have to sit around all June. This is also true for the 3 processors, tenders and the crews.

The Economic losses from missing the June Fishery will be felt by the whole South Peninsula including: Fishing Vessels and crews, processors and crews, borough and city tax loss and local businesses and local Aleut people.

The whole economy in the South Peninsula is based on commercial fishing.

John Foster

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Sb 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 2:34:44 PM

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Hello, Mr. Chair and members of the committee

My name is michael wooding and i have been fishing area m for over 35 years and representing myself. I strongly oppose senate bill sb128. This bill would devastate the alaska peninsula communities, processors, fisherman and all other stakeholders. The alaska state board of fisheries held over a week long meeting in february where this issue was of main concern. There were hundreds of people there to testify. There were experts in the world of salmon science present to educate the board of fish to keep this fishery open in june.

I was told this bill also effects the north alaska peninsula in june. This fishery is a sockeye fishery targeting local sockeye stocks with minimal chum harvests. I just want to give one example of how devastating this bill would be if passed. In 2022 48% of my entire catch was achieved in june. That decrease in revenue would put everyone out of business. and leave communities of the alaska peninsula in jeopardy to survive. Please oppose senate bill 128!

Thank you for your service and time.

Sincerely michael wooding

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 4:11:13 PM

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My name is Kayla Foster, I am Unangan and a member of the Unga Tribe. I am from Sand Point Alaska and I started commercial fishing with my father and at 13 years old. At 22 after a good salmon season I was able to move down to Washington where I ended up running a womens clean and sober house and then eventually going to school and becoming an ER vet tech. I never would have had these opportunities without the money I made from fishing. This past summer I was able to bring my fiancé back to experience fishing in Alaska, something my family has done for generations and I hope to one day bring my kids back to fish to continue that tradition. I am an Alaska native fisherman and I am against SB128.

SB128 will directly harm the Area M fishermen, processors, and the communities dependent on these fisheries, especially Sand Point, King Cove and False Pass. These harvests sustain families, and provide the vast majority of the operating revenue for these communities through local, borough and state shared fish taxes. 80% of the private sector jobs in the AEB communities are seafood related and Over 70% of the salmon permits are owned and fished by Alaska residence. If this bill is passed you will be overriding a decision made by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature. You will be undermining the authority of the Board of Fisheries. Not only that you will be decimating these small native fishing communities.

I strongly urge to vote in opposition to SB128. Our Unangax̂ ancestors have fished these lands for the past 10,000 years. We have seen surrounding villages turn into ghost towns, The government has already once tried to erase our culture by sending our families to residential schools, including my great grand father. We have fought and will keep on fighting for our families, our home and our culture. Please listen to the voices of the people you are supposed to be representing and vote against sb128.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Bill 128  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 4:18:45 PM

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To the Senate Judiciary of the state of Alaska,

My name is Patrick Springer, I have fished area M for the past 33 years. I am adamantly opposed to this bill which will close the entire Area M fishery for all of June. I have endured some poor seasons, but this would be catastrophic, I could lose everything. We just went thru a lengthy Board of Fish meeting in February, and debated this issue in great length. I think everyone is sympathetic to the AYK chum issue, but closing down Area M is not going to solve the problem, but it will probably put many Area M fishermen out of business. I don't mean to sound overly critical toward Senator Olson, but I really have to question his expertise in drafting this bill which negates the entire BOF process. The Board of Fish members and all those that attended the meeting in February deliberated this issue for many days. Not only is senate bill 128 scientifically unsound, but it sets a horrible precedent. If this Bill were to pass it would open the door for any state legislator to override a BOF decision just to appease the constituents that they represent that are in disagreement with a BOF decision. If politicians start managing the State's fishing resources, it will be a disaster. I would ask the Judiciary Committee of the Great State of Alaska to please reject senate Bill 128.

Thank you,

Sincerely, Patrick M Springer

April 21, 2023

Renee Fliris

[REDACTED]  
Wasilla, AK 99654

[Senate.Judiciary@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Judiciary@akleg.gov)

Re: **House Bill 128**

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Renee Fliris and I was raised in False Pass, AK and I am Alaska Native. I am proud to share that I have participated in the Area M fishery, a way of life for our People. My eldest child is now old enough to learn and continue the family tradition as a commercial fishermen. I oppose House Bill 128 as it threatens the Area M fishery.

I can't comment on what is happening in Alaska's river systems, but our salmon fishery has been healthy and is thriving. Our target fish are sockeye and pink salmon. Our People are not commercially harvesting chum salmon. However, we do subsist on chum salmon from our local streams. Not all the chum salmon caught within Area M are traveling to the Alaska Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers. I know because I've watched them return year after year in False Pass streams.

June is an important time for our Area M fishery, the weather is calm and the sockeye salmon are abundant. We have seen record returns of sockeye. Current management supports us being able to continue fishing in June.

Having fished in Area M, I support what has been arranged by our respective Board of Fish. There have been compromises made the proceedings in February. The Board of Fish needs to be able to do their job.

I do not support House Bill 128.

Sincerely,



Renee Fliris

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing SB 128  
**Date:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 1:31:36 PM

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I am Arlin Galovin, representing myself. I am from Sand Point, AK and have been a fisherman in Area M all my life. I am opposed to Senate Bill 128. If passed this bill will be devastating to me and my family's livelihood. I am a crew member on a boat with five other people. That is six families that will not have an income if this bill is passed. The board of fish had a meeting in February where almost three hundred people provided testimony. Overriding the Board of Fish process because people are not happy with the outcome is setting a bad precedent. I ask the legislature to not take act on Senate Bill 128. Allow the process approved by the board of fish to move forward. I thought this issue was taken care of in February. Why have Board of Fish meetings if we aren't going to go with the outcome of the meetings. Thank you

Arlin Galovin

DAVID O. OSTERBACK  
ORAL & WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON  
SENATE BILL 128

MR CHAIR, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS DAVID O. OSTERBACK, I RESIDE IN SAND POINT ALASKA AND I'VE COMMERCIAL FISHED FOR SALMON THE PAST 60 YEARS. I'M A CITIZEN OF THE OUAGIN TAYAGUIN TRIBE, SHUMAGIN CORPORTION, ALEUT CORPORTION, AND ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION. I SERVED AS THE SAND POINT FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND AS A MEMBER FOR 40 YEARS.

AREA M COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR SALMON HAS BEEN IN EXISTANCE OR OVER 100 YEARS!!! COMMERCIAL FISHING DID NOT EXIST EXCEPT FOR SOME KING SALMON IN AYK UNTIL THE 1970'S AND WAS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOHN SACKETT. AYK WAS SUBSISTANCE, AND IT WORKED JUST FINE UNTIL COMMERCIAL FISHING & ROE STRIPPING STARTED.

THE ABOF DID NOT ADOPT PROPOSAL 140 WHICH ASKED TO SHUT DOWN AREA M FISHING DURING SPECIFIC TIMES DURING THE SEASON IN HOPES TO GET MORE CHUM SALMON UP TO AYK. THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AFFECTIVE BECAUSE MIGRATION OF CHUM SALMON CANNOT BE NAILED DOWN TO A SPECIFIC TIME. SAMPLING DATA PROVIDED FROM ADFG TO THE ABOF IN 2022 INDICATED ABOOUT 17% OF THE CHUM HARVEST IN THE JUNE AREA M SALMON FISHERY WERE CHUMS FROM COASTAL WESTERN ALASKA. COASTAL WESTERN ALASKA IS CONSIDERED THE LARGE COASTAL AREA THAT SPAN FROM NORTON SOUND TO BRISTOL BAY. GENETIC SAMPLING-WHICH IS CREATED TAKING DNA SAMPLES FROM THE SALMON SHOWED THAT LESS THAN 5.5% OF THE CHUM HARVESTED IN AREA M WERE RETURNING TO THE VAST COASTAL WESTERN ALASKA RIVERS OF WHICH THE YUKON & KUSKOQUIM ARE ONE OF MANY.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 9:17:34 AM

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April 21, 2023

Dear Senator Claman and committee members,

My name is Jared Danielson, I come from a long line of fishermen in Area M. For us, fishing is not just a family tradition but a way of life. Unfortunately, recent events have threatened the future of our fishing industry, and I strongly disagree with Senate Bill 128. I firmly believe that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) should regulate fisheries instead of the state legislature.

The state of Alaska has invested millions of dollars in studying the June False Pass fishery, including the 9-year, \$9 million WASSIP study. This study is one of the most recognized and referred to for the difficult decisions made in prior board meetings. I don't believe there is another fishery in the state that has had more time and money invested into studying genetics than Area M. Moreover, a new genetic study funded by the state in 2022 once again found that Area M still does not significantly impact AYK chum salmon populations, reaffirming the consistency of science and WASSIP for that matter. Additional catch sampling and genetic analysis of catches in the fishery are planned over the next few years as well.

It's essential to have a thorough understanding of the situation before implementing drastic measures like closing a fishery. Puzzling thing, Senate Bill 128 would close the North Peninsula and Nelson Lagoon fishery in June, even though these fisheries catch no Western Alaska bound chum salmon. This would occur without any benefit to Western Alaska subsistence users.

While some people are unhappy with the BOF's decision not to adopt proposal #140, it's important to note that the Board took significant action to restrict the fishery. They implemented fishing time restrictions, closed areas in June, and established harvest "triggers" to limit the catch of chum salmon.

Although it's concerning that Western and Interior Alaska have experienced detrimental collapses in chum salmon returns, Senate Bill 128 is not the answer. The closure of Area M would have severe negative impacts as it's a vital source of income for many people in Alaska. A sudden closure could lead to job losses and economic hardship for local communities, and it will also have a ripple effect on the entire seafood industry and the economy of Alaska. This would endanger thousands of jobs in rural Alaska.

In conclusion, Senate Bill No. 128 is not a solution, but rather a knee-jerk reaction that fails to consider the complex nature of the problem. The Alaska Board of Fisheries is the proper process for regulatory and allocation issues within Alaskan fisheries. Allowing the state legislature to override intricate decisions made by the BOF could establish a hazardous standard. If

stakeholders can simply go to the legislature to overturn decisions, then what is the point of having the structure of the BOF? It's crucial that lawmakers trust the process of the BOF, trust science, and do not support SB 128.

Respectfully,

Jared Danielson

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition of Bill #128  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 9:17:36 AM

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Mr. Chair and member of the board-

My name is Christopher Wenzel and I am an Area M commercial fisherman. I Oppose Bill #128 and I will note a few reason why. At the Area M BOF meeting in February of this year the Alaska Board of Fish received the most recent sampling data (from 2022). The harvest rate was 5.5% for South Alaska Peninsula (Note: The scientists explicitly presented this as an overestimate). This means that Area M harvested less than 5.5% of the total chum returning to coastal western Alaska.

Proposal 140 didn't pass – The proposal didn't/couldn't guarantee that its passage would increase chum passage to the AYK region. A fixed closure is not necessarily effective as fish migration doesn't always start and stop on a certain date. Fixed closures do not allow for flexibility in managing according to the on the grounds, real time data. There was action taken at the BOF, Closing the Sanak Island section, a section of the area that is known for higher chum harvest. The Alaska Board of Fish also approved the fleet implementing a cooperative management agreement for the False Pass fishery, which requires 100% of the fleet to sign on, share all harvest data, monitor chum harvest in-season in space and time, and stand down or move fishing locations when directed, to create opportunity for chum to pass through.

This adaptive approach is actually the only way to ensure more passage to coastal western AK, as opposed to fixed closures in regulation that don't correspond to when chum are actually on the fishing grounds. This bill also closes the whole of the Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery for the month of June, not just that portion of the fishery where chum salmon are incidentally caught (i.e. the False Pass fishery). There is a significant sockeye fishery that occurs on the North Peninsula (Bering Sea side) in the last 10 days of June that would also be closed if this bill were to pass. This fishery catches NO western Alaska bound chum salmon. This would have a dramatic negative impact on the participants in the fishery for not even a minimal marginal benefit to western Alaska subsistence users. Additionally, it also closes Nelson Lagoon which also harvest no western Alaska chum. Why are areas that do not catch Western Alaska chum being closed in this bill if the idea behind the bill is to save chum? Please Vote No on bill#128 it's unjustified.

Thank You for your service,

**Christopher Wenzel**

[REDACTED]

**F/V Lil Annie**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** Steven Galovin Personal Testimony Opposing SB 128  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 2:23:56 PM

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Dear Chairman and members of the board,

My name is Steven Galovin and I am from Sand Point, Alaska. I have lived here my entire life. I began fishing at 11, running a boat and 19. I am now 66 and still actively fish Area M. I come from Aleut descent and fish like my father and grandfather before me. 71% of Area M seine permits are held by Alaskan residents like myself. Almost everyone in our 6 communities works in the fishing industry. SB 128 would economically ruin the Aleutians East Borough. This bill would cause the harvesting practices that I have passed onto my children and grandchildren to be changed forever, while only potentially preserving a fraction of another fishery. Our people put a lot of time into the Board of Fisheries meetings, and passing this bill would erase those efforts. Following the Board of Fisheries decision that involved public input would be the best thing for our communities.

Thank you,

Steven Galovin

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Bill 128--a bad bill..  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 5:31:28 PM

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Plz allow the [B.O.FISH](#) to deal and solve fishery problems..I believe the billions of hatchery chums and pinks put into the ocean every year are causing the problem..also the by catch by bering sea draggers..as an AREA M gillnetter since 1969 we are not causing the problem. With the CHUM POOL in place there is no reason for me to catch and deliver chums...i do feel for my ak natives in AYK not catching chums,kings,silvers..something is wrong...we avoid chums..the main AYK CHUM run going thru south side is pre june until june 10th..it seems every fishery around AREA M wants us eliminated..we are the scape goat for every other fisherys problems..thanks for hearing me on this..i am an AREA M native ALUEUT with a long history fishing in AREA M..john ludvick F/V VIKING...

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** No to SB128  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:25:06 AM

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- > Mr chair and members of the committee,
- > my name is Marideth Arbelovsky from Kasilof Alaska. Me and my husband own and operate a drift gillnet boat/permit in Area M salmon fishery.
- >
- > I'm writing to oppose SB128.
- >
- > In February at the board of fish meetings this group introduced proposal 140 as their preferred management plan for our June fishery on the south peninsula.
- >
- > After days of deliberations and hundreds of in person public testimonies, proposal 140 failed.
- > If proposal 140 was the management plan they wanted; why doesn't SB128 mirror that proposal?
- >
- > SB128 looks to close thousands of miles of fishing area from east of Shumigan island out to the Aleutian's island in the south peninsula. And from the Aleutian island to north of port Heiden in the north peninsula.
- >
- > All I hear when others talk of the area m salmon fishery; is that it is a "intercept fishery." That statement is far from the truth.
- >
- > Area M has vast amounts of river systems that produce all five of the salmon species.
- >
- > Sb128 also proposes to close the north peninsula June sockeye fishery.
- >
- > This fishery has 5 major sockeye producing rivers: Nelson, Bear, Sandy, Ilnik and Meshik River; which are managed/monitored by in river weir counts and aerial flying by the department of fish and game.
- >
- > Thru genetic study's and sampling , the north peninsula fishery shows it catches 0% of AYK chums.
- >
- > SB128 would put our Alaskan owned fishing operations out of business.
- >
- > Furthermore; the bill sponsor's opening statement in front of this committee on 4/21/2023, said that in February the board of fish took no actions against area m's June fishery. That is 100% not true. As clarified by the commissioner of fish and game in his opening comments.
- >
- > This is another obvious reason to not under mind the board of fish process and continue to let science manage our fisheries.
- >
- > Thank you
- > Marideth arbelovsky

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:11:03 PM

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Honorable Senators,

Senate Bill 128 seeks to close commercial fishing along the Alaska Peninsula (Area M) for the month of June, 2023. This bill is an effort to address Chum salmon run declines of approximately 90% since 2019. The Area M fishery harvests only 3-6% of the run, however.

Scientific consensus is that marine warm water conditions are responsible for the chum run declines, not fishing in Area M.

Having spent 22 years as a professional fishery biologist, I am appalled at the lack of attention and effort directed towards mitigating the causative factors for salmon declines in the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim region. I have participated in numerous projects that identified and addressed limiting factors affecting salmonid stocks throughout the western USA.

In the most extreme cases, we retained and reared genetic broodstock throughout their life history (Snake River sockeye, Elwha River chinook, and Sacramento River winter chinook). In other cases, we trapped, transported, and raised salmonids in lieu of allowing mass mortality events (ESA bull trout, Sacramento fall chinook, Puget Sound coho). Such efforts made a significant difference in the recovery and legacy of the respective salmonid stocks.

The net effect of SB 128, if implemented, would only be to expand the hardships of fishing families, communities, and the State of Alaska as a whole. Affected parties should be spending time, energy, and money on AYK salmon run mitigation and restoration efforts rather than scapegoating Area M fisheries for climate-induced factors affecting said populations. More laws and regulations are a cop-out effort and failure to address the proximate causes of AYK salmon declines.

Respectfully,

Tony Parra  
Area M Fisherman & retired fishery biologist

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SB 128 Testimony Alanna Kochuten  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 3:37:46 PM

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Greetings Fellow Alaskans and Esteemed Legislators,

My name is Alanna Kochuten. I am a 24-year-old Unangax-False Pass native, Area M permit holder. The permit I hold has been in my family since it was originally issued. After university I worked to save up enough money, purchasing my own vessel late last year, with intent to fish this summer. As a young fisherwoman I have a huge stake in the outcome of your deliberations. I come from generations of native fisher-persons. Job opportunities for our people of Area M communities have been difficult and sparse. Therefore, after high school I attended university, to ensure I had an opportunity for career employment outside of fishing, and my community. Not everyone has the opportunity or resources I have had to go to university. I strive to give back to my community in all ways that I can, as do many others, and hope you all consider giving back to us. 2023 is supposed to be my first season on my owned and operated vessel, crewed by my family who I aspire to teach how to fish, keeping our traditions and careers alive. Without an income, living subsistence is no longer an option either. Past closures have negatively impacted Aleutian families and communities without accomplishing the desired effect on the Western Alaska/AYK Chum Salmon stocks. How will this time be any different? I am sorry that the way of life in Western Alaska is being lost. Please do not take away my opportunity to hold onto my people's culture. Please weigh carefully on the consequences of your deliberations. Oppose Senate Bill 128. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Alanna Kochuten

April 25, 2023

Senator Matt Claman, Chairman  
and Senate Judiciary Committee  
Juneau, AK

Re: SB 128 Opposition

My name is Bob Murphy and I live in Kodiak and I am opposed to SB 128. I was one of many that was hoping to testify on Friday but did not get the chance because of the large number of people that wanted their voice to be heard. I worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for five decades before retiring six months ago. I was an Area Management Biologist for the Division of Commercial Fisheries for over 30 years and in the same position for over 32 years and truly loved my job. I have been told I may have been the longest serving commercial fisheries Area Management Biologist in Alaska's history. I have been privileged to know or work with every person who held my very position since 1957. I feel honored to have that history with my predecessors. I can only imagine what they would think of SB 128 and the legislature getting involved in fisheries regulations.

While working for the department, all the while believing that my job and those of my coworkers was for the primary reason to protect the resources of the state, never once did I think the Alaska Legislature could do a better job implementing fishery regulations. Not once. Currently, regulations are developed by the Board of Fisheries and through the public process that exists by the dedicated men and women that have made up the Board of Fisheries over the years. Alaska is unique with this model process and other states do not have the public so involved and should. This process works.

The 350 miles of coastline on the North Alaska Peninsula, which lies within the Area M fishery, would be impacted negatively for no apparent reason other than the waters lie within the boundaries specified in the poorly constructed SB 128. Management areas that are closer than Area M to the AYK Region were not included in SB 128. The chum salmon harvest on the North Alaska Peninsula is small in numbers. In 2022, the North Alaska Peninsula harvested about 6 million pounds of sockeye salmon during the month of June, which would be included in the closure in SB 128. Millions of pounds of fish providing hundreds of fishermen and crew income for their families, countless processor employees many hours of work, two boroughs (Aleutians East and Lake and Peninsula) with tax revenue, and 20 million meals across the country. And at the same time these sockeye salmon were caught, there was 800 pounds of chum salmon caught. Yes that's 800. These chum salmon are not bound for AYK based on past genetics studies that the state has spent many millions of dollars trying to get the best available science to help answer these controversial fishery migration questions. Senate Bill 128 wants to close the North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon fishery for 800 lbs of locally caught chum salmon? It's obvious that the legislature getting involved in fisheries they are not familiar with and trying to make fishery regulations is not a positive step for the state or its people based on the impacts from SB 128 to a fishery that doesn't harvest AYK chum salmon.

SB 128 would be a first in the 64-year state history in having the Alaska Legislature become the regulatory authority for fisheries, not just in Area M as stated in SB 128, but across the state in the future because that is the precedence this bill starts. If you don't like the decision that the Board of Fisheries makes, then try the Alaska Legislature. It's poor policy that the Legislature should not even consider dabbling in. I cannot think of a reason the Legislature has the time or expertise to start regulating commercial, sport, or subsistence fisheries across the state and still be able to handle the necessary and important business of the state. Two months ago, over 300 people attended the Area M and Chignik Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage for 7 days. There were mountains of data presented to the Board of Fisheries by the Department of Fish & Game, other scientists, the public, and stakeholders. The Board of Fisheries looked at the science and facts and heard public testimony on the controversial issues and took action to reduce the chum salmon harvest in the South Peninsula June fishery. The Board of Fisheries is where fishery regulations should be developed, not within the legislature.

I encourage you to not support this bill and I am adamantly opposed to it. Thank you for your service.

Bob Murphy

cc: Senator Gary Stevens  
Representative Louise Stutes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing SB128  
**Date:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 10:52:11 AM

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Requesting that SB128 stay in Judiciary Committee

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony, regarding SB128, as provided by Senator Donny Olson, which I am in support of.

For the record my name is Raymond Oney. I come from the village of Alakanuk on the south Bank of the Yukon River. Lifelong resident of the Yukon River, which I've enjoyed as a Way of Life.

Our Way of life is facing a true crisis as a result of overfishing in Area M, as an intercept fishery. Wanton waste, by catch and interception has been a concern for the AYK Region since 1970-80s. As you all well know, Yukon inriver users has not had an opportunity to subsist since 2020. Outlook for 2023 salmon fishing, doesn't look too promising either.

I strongly believe something needs to be in place for the AYK salmon to recover. The Board of Fish has totally disregarded an opportunity for this to happen under proposal 140, which I gave testimony in support of it.

The BOF statutory of litigation under AS16.05.258, "Subsistence Use and Allocation of Fish & Game", otherwise known as the State Subsistence Law, needs to be followed, otherwise bof is breaking there own law(s).

Therefore, I am in support for SB128 that would close Area M from June 6 to June 30, to give an opportunity for salmon to recover. This should be in place for the cycle of chinook, chum & coho salmon to recover and giving Subsistence users an opportunity to put food on the table.

Raymond Oney

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** SB 128 Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, May 5, 2023 12:38:18 AM

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Hello,

My name is Steven Gould. I'm proud to be a fourth generation, Alaskan Native fisherman from King Cove, Alaska. King Cove is a special place to grow up because of its strong sense of community and cultural values. For me, it's home and the place I chose to raise and support my family. I wish to see my community's commercial fishing way of life continue to thrive in years to come, therefore I am in opposition of SB 128.

As a small gillnet owner, majority of my income comes from salmon. I keep hearing Yukon comments saying we have other species to fish for. As a small boat operator, we do not. For the winter seasons, my vessel only fished a total of 14 days in regards to the severely reduced quota. Fishing and solely relying on these short winter seasons alone are nowhere near the income I need to support my family for the year. With a reduced salmon season, I will not be able to continue our way of life in King Cove, Alaska.

We all are being affected by climate change. In 2020, we had the cod crash from the heat wave. Area M's state cod season quota used to be in the 20 to 30 million pound range; this year it was only 4 million pounds and lasted only 6 days. Area O in the Bering Sea is right next to us and had a 36 million pound quota. Climate change is affecting us all, therefore we should be working together and not pointing fingers to who's to blame.

With the high costs of living, not only in King Cove but in all rural Southwest Alaska, we need the salmon season just to make ends meet. In preparation for the upcoming salmon season, I have necessarily spent \$29,000 on a chiller, \$15,000 on gear, and \$9,000 for required insurance. I need the full salmon season in order to try to make a living. Shutting our June salmon season down is going to cause many families hardship and make it difficult to make a sustainable living in our area.

I appreciate you taking the time to take my comments into consideration when considering SB 128.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven Gould

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Bill 128  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2023 12:53:54 PM

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Hello, I would like to comment on Bill 128. I have been testifying at board of fish meetings since 1989. I worked on purse seiners and set betters since 1979 and owned a set net permit. I testified about 30 years ago at a bof meeting that was held at the 4th Avenue theater. I ran the slideshow projector for Ray Vergin. He was a science teacher at schools on the Yukon River and owned a Yukon River drift permit. He was hired to teach school in Sand Point and transferred there and bought a set net permit and boat. His presentation was about illegal roe stripping by fish wheels in the AYK. People were catching chum salmon, stripping the eggs and throwing the carcasses back in the river. They would put the roe into 5 gallon buckets and then sell them for cash. This illegal practice went on for many years and the people on the Yukon River knew about it. In fact this helped kill off the run. For them to attack and blame Area M is dishonest and ridiculous. They killed off their own run and are blaming us, fishermen almost 1000 miles away. Please vote this bill down.

James Brown

[REDACTED]

Sand Point, AK 99661

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Please include in written opposition to SB 128 for Judiciary committee meeting on 5/12/23  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2023 4:52:31 PM

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Senator Claman and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association, representing shoreside processors across Alaska, does not support SB 128. Please do not pass SB128 out of the Judiciary Committee, especially absent a review from legal services.

The bill should not advance even if just for process concerns resulting from circumventing a management decision under the purview of a board that the legislature has explicitly tasked with the conservation and management of the state's fisheries. We disagree with BOF decisions all the time, but that does not mean a better place for those decisions is in the legislature, which lacks the days of public testimony, Advisory Committee input, development of proposals by further public input during committee of the whole, legal advice, and ADFG staff supporting the meetings throughout with science, technical, and management expertise.

Thank you for taking this issue very seriously. It will negatively affect Alaskan fishermen, communities, and processors in these very remote communities in the eastern Aleutians that are dependent on salmon fisheries, without the intended benefit to other salmon fisheries that are extremely critical to coastal western Alaska. Part of the reason the Board of Fish exists is to have science be part of the management decision, and to groundtruth whether a particular action will have the intended effect. This occurred in this case through the Board process, but science-driven management would be lost if the legislature starts inserting itself in specific fisheries management decisions as is the case in SB 128.

Nicole Kimball  
Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA)  
Anchorage

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Senate bill 128  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 3:50:25 PM

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I am writing in opposition of SB 128

It is not right to even think about closing area m in june for numerous reasons,

1 We are catching mostly all Asian hatchery chums as far as chum catch goes

2 coastal western alaska chums also swim through bristol bay too, are you also going to shut them down?

3 there have been quite a few studies saying it is ocean conditions affecting AYK chums and kings

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_http://4it\\_!!LdOKC6s!MVx6j3Wylh4CoaR59hHtV\\_V3wwwnz9EEexm5Zdh6jzrOO1UYC4EFuryamvh1thWvD2p3pTYkEFawRt7t3im3wIqlS](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://4it_!!LdOKC6s!MVx6j3Wylh4CoaR59hHtV_V3wwwnz9EEexm5Zdh6jzrOO1UYC4EFuryamvh1thWvD2p3pTYkEFawRt7t3im3wIqlS)

doesn't make a bit of sense to close area m down without closing other mixed stock fisheries that may be catching AYK chum

5 according to ADFG commissioner's presentation to your committee, the only fisheries that aren't mixed stock fishery's are the ones that occur on the spawning beds

6 Unfortunately, closing us down, isn't going to significantly help AYK fisheries What it is going to significantly do is put a big hurt on area M communities

I can go on and on but I don't even know if you'll read this much

Fisheries need to be science based and not on political decisions

Thank you for your time,

Dale Pedersen

Area M seiner and set netter

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing Senate Bill 128  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:32:12 PM

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Hello,

I would like to voice my concern for the implications of this bill. Alaska has an extremely robust and vetting system for managing its fisheries. These systems have proven themselves to be the best in the world at upholding the ideals of sustainable fisheries. The Board of Fish decided to put in place a number of restrictions that ramp up as the fishery shows a higher interception of chum salmon, the vast majority of which are not even bound for the systems of concern. Through this board of fish process many people on both sides of the issue put a lot of work into bringing valuable information before the board members and through this process a compromise was made that holds the survival of the salmon runs in as its highest goal while maintaining sustainable fisheries. Please allow the Board of Fish to continue to make policy decision to manage the fisheries in the most effective and also sustainable manner into the future. Thank you for your time.

Charlie McCullough

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Destroying fisheries management in Alaska!  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:34:19 PM

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Grant Newton/KIng Cove/AreaM/senate bill 128. We have a state department of fish delegated and dedicated to managing a delicate, changing, complex, and vital resource. They have spent thousands of dollars and hours collecting, analyzing, and advising how to manage a fishery that is vital to all of us. We also have an appointed board that spend days reviewing the data, the public, and then makes educated informed decisions on management.

The system we have now has a history of successful management. To even think that beneficial justice and management can be obtained politically is sad and a detriment to the resource and the Alaskans that rely on it.  
Thanks