

Angling Unlimited

State of Alaska Legislature
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Juneau, Alaska

03/11/2025

Subject: Establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on Sportfishing Providers in Southeast Alaska (HCR 1)

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Chuck McNamee, my wife Jenny and I are the owners of Angling Unlimited which is a multi-day, guided charter fishing business in Sitka, Alaska. We have been involved in the charter fishing industry since 1993.

I am writing today to express strong support the HCR 1 as proposed by SEAGO.

I recently participated in the Alaska Board of Fish meetings held last month in Ketchikan. During my testimony in Ketchikan, I tried to make the point that multi-day destination business models like Angling Unlimited provide the most economic benefits to our communities, as the recent 2024 Economic Impact Study completed by the McKinley Research Team indicates. I am frustrated that most conservation measures by ADFG to limit the amount of King salmon and halibut harvested by the Sportfishing industry seem to fall unfairly onto the shoulders of the multi-day, fully guided operators like Angling Unlimited. Annual limits have no impact on businesses that cater to cruise ship passengers, and I can foresee this as a possibility for significant growth in Sitka.

While listening to the BOF member comments prior to voting to change the King salmon allocation to 77/23 with in season management, some suggested that we try to regulate the growth of our industry before it's too late. Let's work together to formulate a long-term solution to protect our local economy, as well as protecting the fisheries that our industries rely on.

I support HCR 1 as a path forward to making informed decisions for the future of Alaska.

Thank you,

Chuck McNamee

Angling Unlimited