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March 11, 2025

Re: Support for HCR1

Dear Alaska House Fisheries Committee:

My name is Seth Bone; I'm a lifelong Sitka resident. I founded Kingfisher Charters in the early nineties and have been operating the business in Sitka ever since. Our company provides full seasons of fishing charter bookings for fifteen local vessel owner/operators. I'm writing to urge you to support HCR1.

The guided sport fishing industry is a valuable economic engine in Alaska and generates large economic benefits to local communities for relatively small amounts of fish resource. A recent economic study by McKinley Research Group shows that in 2024, the guided sport fishing industry in SE Alaska supported 1,750 jobs, \$65 million in labor income, and total spending of \$271 million.

However, harvest opportunities for our customers are declining rapidly and are significantly less than just a few years ago. This is negatively affecting the marketability of the trips we sell. Without entry controls on both guided and unguided boat rental operations, economic instability in the industry will affect more and more businesses in the future.

I believe it is better to act before the situation becomes a lot worse. Managed entry for the for-profit sport fishing sector will also help reduce conflict and competition with other user groups. Thank you for your consideration of HCR1.

Sincerely,



Seth Bone