

HB

366



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE ELDON MULDER
DISTRICT 23 MULDOON-FT. RICHARDSON

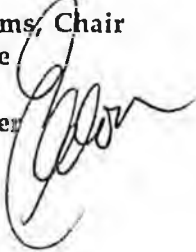
- CHAIR -
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- CO-CHAIR -
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

- CO-CHAIR -
MILITARY AFFAIRS FOR
ANCHORAGE CAUCUS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Bill Williams, Chair
House Resources Committee

FROM: Representative Eldon Mulder 

SUBJ: Hearing of HB 366

DATE: Thu, Jan 27, 1994

I respectfully request that the House Resources Committee schedule a hearing on HB 366, relating to the management of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. My staff is currently compiling backup information for the bill which will be forwarded to you as soon as possible. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game is also currently compiling fiscal information and a position statement which will be forwarded to your office upon completion. Please contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.



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ANCHORAGE CAUCUS

Representative Mulder Introduces Cook Inlet Sportfishing Allocation Bill

1/13/94

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: REP. ELDON MULDER: 465-2647

Legislation that would set aside 15 percent of the projected Cook Inlet commercial sockeye harvest for sport fishing on the Kenai, Susitna and other river systems has been introduced by Representative Eldon Mulder (R) Anchorage. The legislation, House bill 366, is co-sponsored by 19 members of the House of Representatives, including House Speaker Ramona Barnes (R) Anchorage, and Finance Committee Co-Chair Ron Larson (D) Palmer.

"This bill," said Mulder, "will give Cook Inlet sport fishermen their fair share of the red salmon resource. We've appealed to the Board of Fisheries for a greater allocation and they haven't listened. So now we're taking it to the Legislature." Mulder said the issue revolves around equity. "Fish is a resource, and the Constitution says resources belong to all the people of the state. This measure is fair to everybody involved."

Mulder said that for years, sports interests in the entire Cook Inlet system have received an allocation that is not fair. "The demand by sport fishing groups has increased, but the allocation has remained the same. What this bill means is that sport fishermen will have an opportunity to catch more red salmon"

Board rejects plea for

By CHRIS GRYGIEL
The Associated Press

The state Fisheries Board has rejected proposals to set aside a larger percentage of Cook Inlet's commercial salmon harvest for sport fishing.

Supporters of the two proposals say the action demonstrates contempt for sportsmen.

But Board Chairman Tom Elias said Thursday the proposals did not meet strict guidelines, and that the board had no choice but to reject them during its meet-

ing in Ketchikan this week.

With the board's rejection, the fight for the proposals shifts to Juneau. Advocates on both sides say any action lawmakers take could set a precedent for other state regulatory boards.

Anchorage-area lawmakers are pushing legislation that also would take red salmon away from commercial fishermen and give them to sport fishermen.

"It's beyond my comprehension that these people don't understand that sports fishermen have as much

right as commercial fishermen," Rep. Eldon Mulder said Thursday.

The Anchorage Republican is the prime sponsor of a measure that would set the sport catch at 15 percent of Cook Inlet's commercial red salmon catch every summer.

State policy classifies red salmon as a commercial species, and sport fishermen catch about 5 percent.

Mulder said he had hoped his introduction of the bill would force the board to address the concerns of sport fishermen.

more Inlet sport fishing

"I'm really disappointed," he said. "It leaves me little alternative but to push as hard as we can on the legislation we have."

Phil Cutler, president of the Alaska Sports Fishing Association, said his group had spent a lot of time on its proposals and believed they met all administrative codes.

"We've gone to the gamut with the Board of Fisheries and they have not addressed the situation," he said.

But Elias said board rules forced members to reject the

proposals. He said the sport fishermen would have had to show a biological emergency in Cook Inlet for the board to approve the requests.

"We would like to hear this, but our hands are kind of tied," he said.

Cutler said sport fishermen are counting on the legislature to help them out. But he said his group was not happy about having to take its case to lawmakers.

Elias said if lawmakers take up the Cook Inlet issue, they will be deluged by re-

quests from groups upset over other state boards' decisions.

"I think the legislature would be extremely stupid to take it up," he said. "It would be opening up a Pandora's box."

The board, whose members are appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature, is responsible for managing the state's fisheries. It was set up to remove management as much as possible from political influence.

Political fires are set

In response to SB241 and HB366, a story:

Bob Penney is chief of the River Guide Money Changers Tribe and is known for his ability to hoard much Shiny Stuff using smoky fires, and holding king salmon in the air during Councils of Fish. Penney's tribe only recently came into the North Country, and they wore false masks of Everyone Citizen. As they fed on Everyone's salmon, they grew in number, until the quiet murmurings of ordinary folks were drowned out by the ever-louder River Guide tribal chant of Gimme, Gimme, Gimme

Most of the local tribes ignored Chief Bob, but his shiny stuff attracted politicians like Ramona Barnes, Eldon Mulder, Rick Halford, Johnny Ellis and others, who also liked smoky fires to hoard stuff and hide in. Chief Bob is very jealous of a local tribe, the Commercial Fishers, and he wants their food, the red salmon, for his River Guide Tribe. So, being true to his tribal song of Gimmee, Gimmee, Gimme, he sent his political flunkies to the Council By The Waters, to set smoky fires and steal salmon. The plan was to steal 15 percent the first year, 15 percent the second and, as the Commercial Fisher Folk starved out, to steal the rest.

Today, the fires have been set and the flunkies are preparing to steal salmon. I think, however, with all the hot air at the council, a breeze will blow, clearing the smoke and exposing the deceit and false masks. Then, if we banish the flunkies and send Chief Bob back to polishing his smoke-tarnished Shiny Stuff, peace will reign and all the tribes will live together, forever.

— Eric Thompson

Meeting to address longevity

Alaska State House Bill 81 eliminated the state Longevity Bonus Program for any Alaska resident turning 65 after Dec. 31, 1988.



not really matter because some men school board are going to vote the way to and don't care what the taxpayer school board that really undermines and values of the community.

They also are sick and tired of the public schools. It is...

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Brock See for donating the fish we served. We also wish to thank Safeway,

University of Alaska for supporting the Nikiski Bulldog Hockey Team: A.E. Poynor for writing an entertaining again!

Robin Bennett Nikiski

Will legislators manage fish like finances?

Let's see if I have this straight. A group of Anchorage politicians, backed by a multimillionaire who likes to fish, thinks they know best how to manage fishing on the Kenai River.

Never mind that the state Department of Fish and Game has oodles of biologists looking at this very issue, or the state has a long-standing board in place to deal with these same issues, it's an election year, darn it, and some Anchorage boys with big pickups want to catch more reds.

Sounds good to me.

Both sides of the issue like to quote mind-numbing numbers of fish compared to the economic value those fish generate in the community. That's the only way something like resource management can be managed is by economic value, you know.

The whole pot of fish stew boils down to a simple idea. Sport fishers want the commercial fishing industry to fish less, because then they could trample the bank of the Kenai River even more while wearing their fancy little vests. Besides, with the new rules, sport fishers might get to keep six eight-pound fish instead of only two, and that's important.

I've been told by many a sport fisher



DIRK VINLOVE

standing in goopy muck along the Kenai River that the reason it's so hard to catch fish is because the commercial fishers have a curtain of nets across the mouth of the river. I went to check that out and only saw a bunch of beluga whales. The whales were eating fish, but they can't go to the supermarket to get their meat like Anchorage hunters anyway.

Tourism statistics show that most Kenai Peninsula sport fishers are actually Anchorage residents. Maybe they have bad maps in Anchorage, because part of this whole problem is most of those same people seem unwilling to recreate more than 10 feet off the established road system.

There are so many lakes and streams that bear fish on the Kenai Peninsula that

there is no need for bumper-to-bumper pickups pulled just off the road whenever the Kenai River is in sight. The sad fact is the fish are a little bigger on the Kenai River, and someone built a road too close to the river.

No matter what is done, the whiner-type sport fisher will never be happy anyway.

Last time I checked there was an over escapement of reds into the Kenai River last year. That means more fish than is healthy made it past commercial nets and sport hooks and lines to spawn. The whole question of what percentage of the red run the sport fishers were allowed last year was moot because of this, yet I still got a "Red Alert" flyer snick under my windshield wiper whenever I parked in the parking lot at the mall in Soldotna.

So I guess we might as well let the Legislature manage fishing on the Kenai River. I'm sure they will do a great job, mainly because they did such a great job with the budget last year.

I just can't wait until a judge orders sport fishers to replace 600 million reds in the Kenai River.

Dirk Vinlove is a reporter for the Peninsula Clarion.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



FROM THE OFFICE OF
REP. MIKE NAVARRE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Clarion - Jan 18, 1994

Fish allocation not Legislature's job

For your information
distributed by Rep. Gary Davis

The fight over fish allocation that darkens just about every fishing season in Cook Inlet has now moved to the halls of the Capitol.

The proposal being pushed by some key Anchorage-area legislators would set the sport-fishing catch of sockeye salmon at 15 percent of the commercial red catch. Under the current policy, sport fishers catch about 5 percent.

The issue we're most concerned with — and the one that should concern other Alaskans — is not whether sport or commercial fishers should get more fish but whether it's the Legislature's job to get in the fish allocation business.

We've said it before and we don't mind repeating it: Fish management is no job for legislators. It's tough enough for the Board of Fish, which has been appointed to make those difficult decisions based on sound biological information.

It's interesting that in an election year a bunch of legislators want to make a lot of their sport-fishing constituents feel good by promising to get them more fish to catch on the Kenai River. (It should be noted that the allocation bill also applies to the Susitna and all other river systems draining into Cook Inlet.)

We can't help wonder if these legislators are just casting for votes, hoping to snag them with a popular issue. Consider the tactic; if someone were to ask almost anyone who sport fishes in the Cook Inlet area if they'd like to catch more reds, the answer, it's a safe bet, would be "yes."

But, ask the same people if they want the Legislature to be making fish allocation decisions, and we're sure "no" would be the overwhelming response.

The Legislature has enough important jobs to do — getting the budget under control should be No. 1 — without meddling in fish allocation.

In the event, however, the Legislature chooses to do what should be left to the Board of Fish, then it must also address what it's going to do about the added people pressure to the Kenai River and other Cook Inlet drainages.

How much more people pressure can the Kenai River take? Certainly, those legislators pushing for more reds for sport fishers know that such a change will mean more people coming to fish on a river where, on most fishing days, it's hard to imagine squeezing in even one more person with a rod and reel.

Most people realize people pressure is damaging the precious fish habitat which ultimately will mean disaster to the Cook Inlet fish runs if something isn't done to check it. Inviting more people to come and fish — as the proposal giving sport fishers a greater portion of the red catch will do — is not exactly taking care of the habitat.

Is the Legislature prepared to come up with some system to reduce the pressure on the Kenai while increasing the number of fish for sport fishers? Maybe it could consider a proposal where half the sport fishers can fish only on odd-numbered days and the other half on even-numbered days? Maybe only out-of-state people could fish on even-numbered days and Alaskans could fish on odd-numbered days? Maybe the Legislature wants to put what days people can fish on individual fishing permits? Maybe it could place more limitations on sport-fishing guides? Or restrict access to popular areas?

We can understand that promising sport fishers a bigger share of the red catch would be a popular thing for legislators to do, but fish allocation is best left to the Board of Fish. Forgive the pun.

NEWS CLIPPINGS IN
Anchorage Daily News

Fishing review planned

Panel will reconsider Cook Inlet allocations

By TOM KIZZIA
Daily News reporter

Boistered by the appointment of two new sport fishermen, the state Board of Fisheries agreed Monday to create a task force to reopen the controversial question of who gets Cook Inlet's salmon.

Meanwhile, Fish and Game Commissioner Carl Rostler told the board he will ask biologists to reinterpret existing policies this summer to increase the daily sport-fish limit for red salmon on the Kenai River to three.

"I think we've gained the beginning of something quite positive," said Phil Cutler, president of the Alaska Sportfishing Association. "We got our three-fish (daily) limit back. It does nothing to put more fish in the river, but it might relieve some of the outcry."

Commercial fishermen may lose some fishing time, but Monday's actions appear balanced, said Loren Flagg, executive director of the Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association, a setnetters group. He said Rostler's decision to allow anglers three reds a day from the Kenai could reduce pressure in Juneau for a new law giving sport fishermen more reds.

"I would think this would help defuse some of the controversy in Juneau over

Please see Page B-2, FISH

FISH: Cook Inlet allocation

Continued from Page B-1

those bills," Flagg said.

Meeting in Cordova this week, the fish board once again turned down a sport fishermen's request to take up Cook Inlet salmon as an emergency issue. But instead of the 7-0 votes of recent meetings, this time the vote against reopening Cook Inlet was 4-3. Voting in favor of the measure were Trefon Angasen and new members Larry Engel and Dick Bower.

Engel and Bower were appointed earlier this month by Gov. Wally Hickel after sport-fish groups complained their predecessors on the board had not stood up for anglers' interests, particularly on Cook Inlet issues. Those same groups have pushed for the legislature to step into fish management, normally the fish board's responsibility, and allocate more Cook Inlet reds to sport fishermen.

The board agreed Monday to create a task force composed of various users of Cook Inlet salmon to make recommendations for changing the current allocation plan. Appointments to the board will probably be made in March, said Ken Flacey, a regional commercial fisheries supervisor with the Department of Fish and Game. Under the current schedule, the fish board is not expected to take up Cook Inlet management issues again until late 1993. But the board may decide to take up the recommendations of a task force sooner than that, Flacey said.

"I think there was agreement that the Cook Inlet management plan is not perfect," Cutler said. "If you're going to make changes, you want the user groups to buy into them. That saves the board from having to make the real tough decisions."

A key to making the delay palatable to sport fisher-

plan to be reviewed

men was a lunch-hour teleconference between the board and Rostler in which the commissioner said he would loosen sport restrictions for the time being.

The existing Cook Inlet plan sets aside the midsummer red salmon runs primarily for commercial fishermen and allocates most king and silver salmon runs for sports fishermen. But sport fishermen have clamored in recent years for more reds, especially from the Kenai River.

Last summer, the state cut back the daily bag limit in the Kenai River from three fish to two to enforce the current plan. That plan holds anglers to 10 percent of the fish reaching the river. Rostler said Monday that he will tell biologists to consider 10 percent a "guideline" rather than a "hard cap." That way, fishermen can begin the year with a three-fish limit, and be cut back if the run proves unexpectedly weak, Rostler said.

"We're trying to operate within the plan, but a different interpretation of the plan," he said.

Such an approach appears to liberalize the sport-fish rules at the same time that Rostler is saying commercial nets will be managed more conservatively because of forecasts of a poor salmon run. But last year's two-fish limit was probably unnecessary because so many fish entered the river, Flagg said.

"Looking back, we had all this aggravation and disharmony over the two-fish limit, and yet they ended up 100,000 over their maximum goal," Flagg said. "I think they're realizing they could have done things differently."

The state tries to allow 400,000 to 700,000 runs past the Kenai River each summer. Last year, with sport fishermen restricted, 913,000 fish passed the counter.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Delta Junction Office.
P.O. Box 1189
Delta Junction, AK 99737-1189
907-895-4236



While in Juneau:
State Capitol, Room 110
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-4859

Representative Harley Olberg

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Ramona Barnes, Speaker
Alaska House of Representatives

Representative Gail Phillips, Majority Leader
Alaska House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Harley Olberg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Olberg".

DATE: January 19, 1994

RE: House Bill 366 committee referral

I regret that I will not be in attendance at the Thursday, January 20th Majority caucus scheduled for 10:00 am.

Should the issue of committee referrals of House Bill 366 "Management of Cook Inlet/Kenai River salmon" come up for discussion, I would like to make the following two points:

- 1) It seems that a fisheries issue, which House Bill 366 is should be referred to the Special Committee on Fisheries and;
- 2) It appears to me that we are asking too much of Representative Williams, who is the Resources Chair, to take all the heat on this controversial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your kind attention.

HO/spp

cc: Rep. Carl Moses, Special Committee on Fisheries Chairman
Rep. Bill Williams, Resources Committee Chairman

COOK INLET SPORTFISHING COMMITTEE
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222

December 23, 1993

Representative Harley Olberg
P.O. Box 1969
Valdez, Alaska 99686

Dear Mr. Olberg:

House Speaker Ramona Barnes suggested we address a letter to you and tell you how important this bill would be to people along the railbelt.

Many people from Fairbanks fish the tributaries of Cook Inlet each year for different species of salmon. This bill would provide about twice as many reds to the sportfishing public as we have harvested historically.

The number of reds we've been allocated for over eight years has been fixed, while the need and demand from the public has increased at least ten fold.

The bill would also allow a bigger escapement of mixed stock salmon into upper Cook Inlet. It really is in the public's best interest.

We'd appreciate it if you would join with many other of the railbelt legislators in helping sponsor this important public legislation. We'll be contacting you next week to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Committee
Robert C. Penney (276-2222)
Larry J. Engel (745-4132)

cc: R. Barnes

HOUSE BILL NO.
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE MULDER, *BARNES*

Introduced:
Referred:

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the management of Cook Inlet stocks of salmon."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 Sec. 16.05.740. MANAGEMENT OF COOK INLET SOCKEYE SALMON.
5 Subject to AS 16.05.258, it is the policy of the state that each year a number of
6 sockeye salmon equal to at least 15 percent of the sockeye salmon from Cook Inlet
7 stocks taken in the commercial Cook Inlet drift gill net and east side Cook Inlet set
8 net fisheries be utilized exclusively for sport fishing purposes in the Kenai, Susitna,
9 and other river systems draining into Cook Inlet. The in-river harvest of Cook Inlet
10 stocks of sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet region for sport fishing purposes shall be
11 allocated among the river systems of the region in the proportion that each river
12 system has traditionally contributed the production of sockeye salmon.

December 6, 1993

Attachment:

SUGGESTED LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Passage of the attached bill should also carry some legislative intent.

1. In the event it is necessary to harvest any reds surplus to the escapement, it is assumed that the Board of Fish will give the department the right to open a dip net fishery (with an appropriate bag limit) in the Kenai from the river mouth to approximately river mile 40. It's assumed such a dip net fishery would be disallowed from the river's banks but only allowed from a boat, a dock, a riverside board/metal walkway, or a gravel bar.
2. The term "minimum of 15%" is meant to allow for additional sports or public harvest if such need for more fish is evident on a yearly basis.
3. The number of Kenai River reds allocated for the sports fishery shall be measured by their crossing of the red counter at mile 19 of the Kenai River.
4. An additional red salmon sonar counter should be installed at approximately mile 41 of the Kenai to more accurately count the red salmon actually escaping onto the spawning grounds. It would require a separate bill to secure the \$150,000.00 funding.

12/6/93

DITTMAN RESEARCH CORPORATION

DRC BUILDING
8115 JEWEL LAKE ROAD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99552(907) 243-3345
FAX (907) 243-7172

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: November 11, 1993

TO: (NAME) Bob Penney
(COMPANY) Kenai River Sport Fishery, Inc.
(ADDRESS) _____
(PHONE #) _____
(FAX #) (808) 667-0366FROM: (NAME) Dave Dittman
(OPERATOR) M.N.TOTAL PAGES TO
FOLLOW COVER SHEET: 5

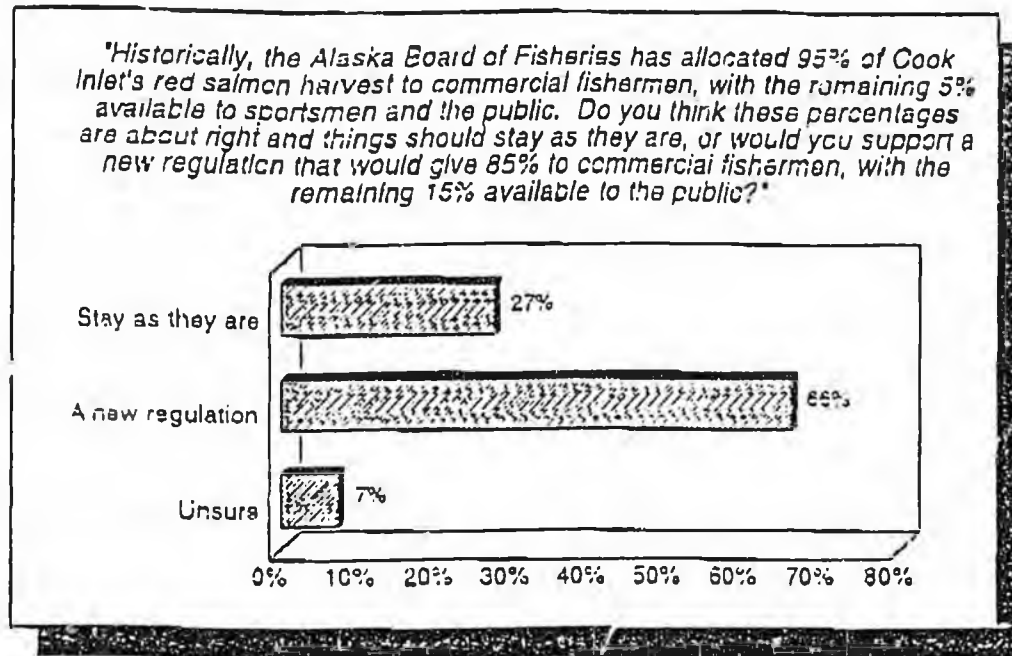
COMMENTS:

Draft report to follow.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES INDICATED ABOVE,
PLEASE CALL US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE -- (907) 243-3345

FINDINGS

Overall, by well over a 2:1 ratio (66% to 27%), Alaskans living in Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Kenai Peninsula report they support a new regulation that would reduce the red salmon allocation to commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet from 95% to 85%...



Regionally, Anchorage residents are more likely to support a new regulation...

<u>REGION:</u>	<u>STAY</u>	<u>NEW</u>	<u>UNSURE</u>
Anchorage	22%	71%	7%
Southcentral	36%	56%	8%

...however, there is little difference based on whether citizens are registered to vote or not...

<u>VOTER REGISTRATION:</u>	<u>STAY</u>	<u>NEW</u>	<u>UNSURE</u>
Registered	27%	66%	7%
Not registered	24%	68%	9%

...or how they are registered...

<u>VOTER PARTY:</u>	<u>STAY</u>	<u>NEW</u>	<u>UNSURE</u>
Democrat	25%	67%	9%
Republican	29%	68%	4%
Non-partisan	26%	65%	9%

Younger people are more likely to support the status quo...

<u>AGE:</u>	<u>STAY</u>	<u>NEW</u>	<u>UNSURE</u>
18-29 years of age	49%	44%	7%
30-45 years of age	22%	70%	8%
46-59 years of age	25%	67%	8%
60 years or older	27%	69%	3%

...and more recent arrivals to Alaska are more likely to be "unsure", but otherwise respondent preference on this issue is basically consistent regardless of length-of-time-in Alaska...

<u>TIME IN COMMUNITY:</u>	<u>STAY</u>	<u>NEW</u>	<u>UNSURE</u>
Less than 5 years	27%	59%	15%
5-9 years.....	22%	73%	5%
10-14 years.....	25%	70%	5%
15 years or more	28%	67%	5%

METHODOLOGY

During the period October 27 through November, 1993, three hundred fourteen (n=314) Alaskans over the age of 18, located in Anchorage and Southcentral Alaska were personally contacted by telephone by professional interviewing employees of the Dittman Research Corporation of Alaska. The views and opinions of the Alaskan residents were recorded on a strictly confidential basis.

Research Design

A random sample design was featured which provided that all households listed in the most current telephone directory for each community had essentially an equal chance of being interviewed.

Sample Selection

The sample was randomly selected from the most current telephone directory for each community.

Processing the Data

Dittman Research employees completed coding, editing, data entry and verification, while data processing was completed through the in-house Dittman Research Corporation computer system featuring the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS/PC+) program. The SPSS program is one of the most sophisticated research-oriented data processing and analytical systems available, and is designed specifically for the processing and analysis of survey research data.

Measurement History

Citizen opinion measurements by the Dittman Research Corporation, using the methodology described in this methodology, analytical procedures and data processing systems, have proven to be virtually perfect predictors of political election results in Alaska for the past twenty years.

RED SALMON H... ST TO COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN, WITH THE REMA... G 5% AVAILABLE TO SPORTSMEN AND... E PUBLIC. DO YOU THINK THESE PERCENTAGES... ABOUT RIGHT AND THINGS SHOULD STAY AS THEY ARE, OR WOULD YOU SUPPORT A NEW REGULATION THAT WOULD GIVE 85% TO COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN WITH THE REMAINING 15% AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	STAY AS THEY ARE	NEW REGULATION	BASE
TOTAL.....	7%	27%	66%	100.0%
LOCATION				
SOUTHCENTRAL.....	8%	36%	56%	32.3%
ANCHORAGE.....	7%	22%	71%	67.7%
MALE.....	7%	20%	72%	48.4%
FEMALE.....	7%	32%	60%	51.6%
18-29 YRS OF AGE...	7%	49%	44%	10.9%
30-45 YRS.....	8%	22%	70%	49.0%
46-59 YRS.....	8%	25%	67%	24.2%
60+ YEARS OF AGE...	3%	27%	69%	15.8%
UNION HOUSEHOLD				
UNSURE.....	27%	36%	36%	1.0%
YES.....	10%	19%	71%	24.3%
NO.....	6%	29%	65%	74.7%
REGISTERED TO VOTE				
UNSURE.....	0%	0%	100%	.3%
YES.....	7%	27%	66%	88.9%
NO.....	9%	24%	68%	10.7%
DEMOCRAT.....	9%	25%	67%	16.8%
REPUBLICAN.....	4%	29%	68%	24.3%
GREEN/LIB/AIP.....	0%	30%	63%	7.3%
NON-PARTISAN.....	9%	26%	65%	51.5%
TIME IN COMMUNITY				
0-4 YEARS.....	15%	27%	59%	21.1%
5-9 YEARS.....	5%	22%	73%	11.5%
10-14 YEARS.....	5%	25%	70%	17.0%
15+ YEARS.....	5%	28%	67%	50.4%

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Committee
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

December 6, 1993

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of sport fishing enthusiasts, we appeal to you as our court of last resort. We know you don't wish to involve yourselves in fish allocation issues, but we have no other choice. The Board of Fish has continually denied the public's overwhelming requests for more of the Kenai River's plentiful run of sockeye or red salmon. The public lost again in November of '92 on a negative vote of 7-0 for an additional sports allocation. More recently, last October the Board again refused to approve several agenda change requests for a larger sports allocation. Consider the following:

- * 1,100 Cook Inlet commercial fishers are allocated 95% of the red harvest while 46,000 sportfishers get only 5%.
- * When voting against more reds for the public last year by 7-0, the Board confirms the current plan which resulted in ADF & G reducing the sports harvest limits from three salmon to two and further restricted sport fishing time by one third. They gave those fish to the commercial fishery. This resulted in the sportsfishery getting less than 2% of the available harvest.
- * Earlier this year, thousands of tourists vowed never to return when the Board's actions shut down escapement into the Kenai for 23 of 24 straight days by commencing back to back 24 hour "emergency openings". The rationale given was there were "too many reds". The sole beneficiary was the commercial fishery.

- * The Kenai River now boasts the largest sport salmon fishery in our nation. It holds more sport world records for salmon than any other river in the world. Yet the Kenai is still primarily managed as a commercial fishery.
- * A sport caught salmon has 20 times more economic value than a commercially harvested fish. Per a state study¹, sportspeople spent over \$38,000,000.00 to fish the Kenai in 1986. We are still however choked off from a fair allocation of this public resource.
- * In an evident effort to restrict public input and requests, the Board of Fish has now reduced the opportunity for comments and new regulations effecting the Kenai to "once every three years". These choke holds now disallow any potential Kenai River changes until the fall of 1995.
- * Sportfishing is now restricted to "10% of the escapement goal for Kenai reds targeted at 400,000 to 700,000". We're restricted to that harvest, yet in a bountiful year such as '93, the commercial fishery got 4.7 million reds (twice their average harvest). We were restricted from sharing in these extra fish even though it was a bonanza run.

The attached bill very simply would allow sportfishing interests to fairly share the harvest during good or bad years. We're asking to be allowed a minimum of 15% of whatever the commercial harvest is. We're saying that whenever the commercial fishery gets to catch 5 reds, we get to catch at least 1. That's sure not asking for too much.

The public pent-up demand for more reds is tremendous. Per a November 11, 1993 David Dittman poll, Anchorage residents approve of a new regulation (such as the attached bill) by a strong majority of over 3 to 1! It's been proven impossible to get any change from the present Board of Fish. We therefore appeal to you, our elected officials, as our court of last resort. Please support this bill and consider co-sponsoring it. Give your constituents a more equitable share of one of our state's natural resources. It is in the public and the state's best interest.


 Cook Inlet Sportfishing Committee

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

January 21, 1994

The Honorable Bill Williams
Chair, House Resources Committee
House of Representative
State Capitol, Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to legislation introduced in both the House and Senate relating to the management of Cook Inlet stocks of salmon. These bills, Senate Bill No. 241 and House Bill No. 366, have been referred to the House and Senate Resources committees.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has technical, programmatic and budgetary concerns about the proposed legislation, and my department is developing a formal position paper which details our negative review of this proposed legislation. Because of the importance of this issue, however, I am writing to you directly regarding my major policy concern.

Alaska's legislature, in establishing the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries, wisely chose to insulate itself from the process of making fish and wildlife allocation decisions. The legislature looked at Alaska's territorial experience, as well as the experience of 48 states that preceded us and learned from the many examples of resource and social problems that accompany political management of renewable resources. Successive legislatures have for 35 years affirmed the wisdom of this approach. As pointed out in the position paper signed by the entire Kenai delegation, allocation of fish and wildlife resources is an extremely complicated and technical matter, involving public policy as well as specific scientific and biological considerations.

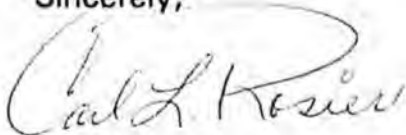
The issue currently before the legislature is the allocation of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. When the Board of Fisheries last considered this issue, many days of local advisory committee meetings led up to thirteen very long deliberative days by the Board on Cook Inlet salmon issues. Over 72 hours were spent specifically on this issue. This past year, the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries collectively met for more than one hundred days and considered over one thousand proposals.

Each regulatory proposal has people who support or oppose it and those not winning their issue would eagerly pursue additional opportunities to press their case in the legislature. Should the legislature decide to intervene in the allocation of Cook Inlet sockeye, and I sincerely hope they do not, I believe you can depend on a continuing stream of public demands to intervene in other allocation battles. If the legislature once starts down this road of management by statute, the resource will truly be at much higher level of risk.

We all recognize that the board process is not perfect and it is impossible to keep political considerations totally out of the board process. However, I believe that any careful study of the board and its history will demonstrate that politics is indeed a minor consideration in the decisions of the boards. During the 1980s two studies, one conducted by the legislative branch and one by the executive branch, concluded as much.

With its system of local advisory committees and the Boards of Fish and Game, Alaska has the most democratic system of fish and game allocation in the United States. I know that both the board members and the Department of Fish and Game are committed to working with the public to be responsive to their needs. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this issue in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner



RED SALMON ALERT!!

SPORTS FISHERMEN, DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS!!

The commercial fishing interests and their lobbyists are flooding Juneau in opposition to House Bill 366 and Senate Bill 241 because those bills support the right of sports fishermen to a harvest equal to 15% of the commercial harvest. Commercial fishing interests are trying to kill those bills so they can keep over 95% of the red salmon resource in the Cook Inlet area reserved just for them!

You can do something about it. Sports fishermen need to let their voice be heard in defense of sports fishing. PLEASE CALL your local Legislative Information Office listed below and send a Public Opinion Message (POM) in support of sports fishing. It doesn't cost anything -- it takes less time than putting on waders or tying a hook -- and they're your fish !!

ANCHORAGE
POM
Call Now!! 258-8111

KENAI PENINSULA
POM
Call Now!! 262-9364

MAT-SU VALLEY
POM
Call Now! 376-3704

JUNEAU
POM
Call Now!! 465-4648

STATEWIDE -- 800-478-4648

Just dial the number above for your area and say you want to send a POM to all legislators in Juneau, then just say your message. It's free and fast, and best to keep it short. For example, you can just say...

"I support House Bill 366 and Senate Bill 241. Dear legislator, please support those bills. Thank You."

...it's that simple -- or...

"I support sports fishing and I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 241 and House Bill 366. Please help. Thank you." -- or --

"Please support House Bill 366 and Senate Bill 241 to help provide more red salmon for sports fishing in Cook Inlet. It's not fair that a few commercial fishermen get to take and keep over 95% of what should be a public resource."

Please call in your POM as soon as you read this.
Have every fisherman in your family call -- they all count!!
Call: Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm -- if the line's busy, keep trying, messages must be received by Feb. 10th.

**'YOU are one of over 40,000 sports fishermen in Southcentral Alaska who are registered to vote.
YOU can make a difference!**

Most legislators listen to their constituents and try to do a good job. If they don't hear from you, they won't know how you feel! So call in your POM right now or first thing tomorrow. Even though there are only approximately 1,100 commercial fishermen in Southcentral, they are well-organized and well-funded, so they have been able to gain priority access to virtually all (over 95%) of Cook Inlet's red salmon resource. **IT'S NOT RIGHT! IT'S NOT FAIR, IT'S NOT GOOD POLICY, IT'S NOT GOOD FISHING, AND IT WON'T CHANGE WITHOUT YOUR HELP!**

Speak up, sports anglers

Red salmon alert! Our legislators in Juneau need to hear sport anglers' voices loudly and clearly on their support for the Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon Allocation bill.

This bill, which was the headline story in the Daily News Dec. 30 — "Juneau to tackle fish wars" — has now been introduced into the legislative process and has been assigned bill numbers HB366 and SB241 with more co-sponsors than any other bill in the history of the state.

As the Daily News story stated, the bill is very straightforward. It simply states that it is the policy of the state that a number of sockeye salmon equal to at least 15 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the Cook Inlet central district commercial fisheries will be utilized exclusively for sport fishing purposes.

The Alaska Constitution states that fish are a resource owned by all the people of the state. Why should the roughly 1,100 red salmon commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet be allowed to harvest more than 97 percent of this publicly owned resource? Last summer, the sport anglers and their guests, numbering well over 150,000, caught an estimated 129,000 reds. The 1,100 commercial fishermen caught more than 4,729,000. That's just not a "fair share."

Please join me in sending a public opinion message to our legislators stating that you support the Cook Inlet Salmon Allocation bill. Call the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage and Kenai.

— Phil Cutler

Since the new legislation will increase the sport fishing allocation from 5% to 15%, the commercial fishing powers trying to kill HB 366 and SB 241 say the legislation will hurt their economic interests. Actually the effect will be minimal. Commercial fishing interests in Cook Inlet currently catch and keep over 9½ out of every 10 red salmon. After the legislation passes, they will still be able to catch and keep 8½ out of every 10 red salmon!

HOUSE BILL NO. 366
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE -
SECOND SESSION

By Representative Mulder
(with eighteen co-sponsors)

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An act relating to the management
of Cook Inlet stocks of salmon."

LET IT ENACTED BY THE
LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
ALASKA:

Section 1. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:
Sec. 16.05.740. MANAGEMENT OF COOK INLET SOCKEYE SALMON. Subject to AS 16.05.258, it is the policy of the state that each year a number of sockeye salmon equal to at least 15 percent of the sockeye salmon from Cook Inlet stocks taken in the commercial Cook Inlet drift gill net and east side Cook Inlet set net fisheries be utilized exclusively for sport fishing purposes in the Kenai, Susitna, and other river systems draining into Cook Inlet. The in-river harvest of Cook Inlet stocks of sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet region for sport fishing purposes shall be allocated among the river systems of the region in the proportion that each river system has traditionally contributed the production of sockeye salmon in the region.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD !

Please call in your POM today!

If passed, the legislation will take effect THIS YEAR!

Remember, they're YOUR FISH !!

ANCHORAGE
POM
Call Now!! 258-8111

KENAI PENINSULA
POM
Call Now!! 262-9364

MAT-SU VALLEY
POM
Call Now! 376-3704

JUNEAU
POM
Call Now!! 465-4648

STATEWIDE -- 800-478-4648

Paid for by: Cook Inlet Sportsfishing Caucus,
3620 Penland Parkway, Anchorage, AK. 99508

Bob Penney 276-6639 Phil Cutler 243-4667 Pat Carter 344-2377 Russ Redick 344-8674 Bix Bonney 262-8002

Join other sport fishermen,
in the Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
WE WILL BE A STRONG VOICE FOR SPORTS FISHING!

Please enclose any messages, and check one of the following boxes if you would like to help

I would like to have a committee assignment

I can help on a "phone tree"

Call me! I'll help any way I can (Ph. _____)

*I think CISC should have
an annual meeting*

Other _____

This mailing is a costly event (reaching over 35,000 people). If you can help financially, please enclose a check payable to CISC--any amount appreciated--thank you!

Alaska State Legislature
Representative Carl E. Moses

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FISHERIES

MEMBER FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES ON:
DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY



SESSION:
CAPITAL BUILDING, ROOM 204
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1102
PHONE: (907) 485-4451
FAX: (907) 455-3445

INTERIM
710 W. 4TH AVE. #630
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-2133
PHONE: (907) 258-8167
FAX: (907) 258-8468

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kay Andrew, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

FROM: Representative Carl E. Moses

DATE: February 14, 1994

SENT BY FAX TRANSMITTAL

I strongly urge you to follow proper board procedures and not succumb to any pressures to do otherwise being exerted by the legislature, Governor's office, Commissioner's office or special interests.

The board should operate according to consistent policies with sound public notice. Any attempts being made to pressure you or any other board members should be regarded as immaterial to the business at hand. The board should conduct its business without regard to any proposed or threatened actions by the legislature.

Please follow your operating policies and examine the facts surrounding each proposal according to the best information available. In my view, to do otherwise will belittle the integrity of the board.

Kay Andrew
Page 2
February 14, 1994

If necessary, adjourn the meeting and future meetings until the confirmations are in place.

Thank you for your hard work.

cc. Board of Fisheries Members

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Carl E. Moses

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FISHERIES

MEMBER FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES ON
DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY



SESSION:
CAPITAL BUILDING, ROOM 204
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
PHONE: (907) 465-4451
FAX: (907) 455-3445

INTERIM
716 W. 4TH AVE. #630
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-2133
PHONE (907) 258-8167
FAX: (907) 258-8468

January 27, 1994

Mr. Bob Penney
Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Fenland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Mr. Penney:

Thank you for your letter dated January 20. I would like to reply to several comments contained in your letter.

First, I would like to address the question of "fair share" that you raised. After examination, I found that Cook Inlet commercial fishermen have lost early-run Kenai kings, early-run Russian River sockeye, a major portion of early-run Kenai silvers, and all of the late-run Kenai silvers to the sport fishery. These stocks were historically fished by commercial fishermen but now are exclusively managed for the recreational fishery. How is the "fair share" rule applied to these stocks?

I also understand that the current management plan for Cook Inlet does not state that 95% of the sockeye will be allocated to the commercial fishery. It appears that the recreational fishery has limited capability to harvest sockeye salmon -- even in times of abundance. The years from 1987-1989 showed large numbers of sockeye escaped into the Kenai River which raised concerns within the Department of Fish & Game over the negative effect on smolt production for the Kenai system. The Department has well-documented information on the effect of overescapement to the rearing habitat. In fact, monies have been allocated to assess the extent of the damage. The legislature appropriated 3 million dollars last session for Kenai River habitat restoration.

ADAK • AKUTAN • AMCHITKA • ATKA • ATTU • BELKOFSKI • CHERNOFSKI • CHIGNIK • CHIGNIK LAGOON • CHIGNIK LAKE
COLD BAY • DUTCH HARBOR • EGEGIK • EKWOK • FALSE PASS • IVANOF BAY • KING COVE • KING SALMON • KOLIGANEK • LEVELOCK • NAKNEK
NELSON LAGOON • NEW STUYAHOK • NIKOLSKI • PEDRO BAY • PERRYVILLE • PILOT POINT • PORT HEIDEN • PORT MOLLER • SAND POINT
SHEMYA • SQUAW HARBOR • SOUTH NAKNEK • ST. GEORGE ISLAND • ST. PAUL ISLAND • UGASHIK • UNALASKA • UNGA

Mr. Bob Penney
January 27, 1994
Page 2

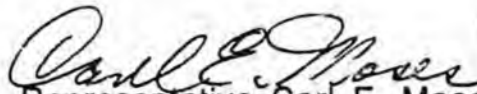
Encouraging increased sport fishing pressure on the Kenai River system, in particular, seems contradictive to the the very positions you advocate. Information from the Department of Fish & Game clearly states that the near-shore habitat is suffering extensive damage from sport fishermen and the connection to the health of chinook salmon is direct. Common sense tells us that no river system can sustain endless amounts of pressure -- whether it be from boats or banks.

Apart from all of these real and convincing facts, my overriding objection to either House Bill 366 or Senate Bill 241 is based upon the fact that the legislative body has no business, as a matter of policy, getting involved in the allocation of fish. The legislature clearly stepped back from the business of attempting to allocate fish over 20 years ago when they created the joint board of fish & game. The legislature recognized then, as it ought to recognize now, that they are incapable of allocating fish and game resources.

We have created the Board of Fisheries and we should allow them to perform their duties as spelled out in statute. Interference by the legislature can only cause the kind of pressure the board does not need and hinders their ability to judge fairly in their decisions. I view my responsibility as ensuring that I confirm the best candidates for appointment to the board.

From all the information it appears to me that sport fishermen have more than abundant opportunity to harvest fish in the Cook Inlet area. It actually appears that subsistence fishermen have taken the biggest beating.

Sincerely,


Representative Carl E. Moses
Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Carl E. Moses

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FISHERIES

MEMBER FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES ON
DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME
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SESSION
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PHONE (907) 258-8167
FAX (907) 258-8468

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Carl E. Moses *C E M*
Chairman, House Special Committee on Fisheries

DATE: January 31, 1994

RE: House Bill 366

The attached letter is for your information regarding House Bill 366. My letter is in response to a letter dated January 20 from Mr. Penney of the Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus.

I thought it was important to state my position on this legislation as Chairman of the House Special Committee on Fisheries and to advise my colleagues in the House.

Mary McDowell

REASONS WHY HB366 SHOULD NOT HAVE
A SINGLE HEARING IN THE LEGISLATURE

This is NOT like other (even bad) bills which might at least deserve a fair hearing to get the arguments on the record.

This bill is INAPPROPRIATE, it should not even be IN the legislative arena, and the scheduling of a hearing on it would represent an endorsement by the chairman of the committee that it does indeed BELONG in the legislative committee process.

Our state constitution and laws are set up to give specific powers and responsibilities to various entities, and those things are established for good reasons. One such division of powers, is the delegation of fish and game management decisions, particularly area-specific regulations and allocative decisions, to the boards of fish and game. Decisions such as these have been left to autonomous boards because they are technical, biological, and time-consuming, and in order to be sound they must to be made without the political considerations of elected officials who must make their decisions based on constituent numbers and pressure and re-election desires.

What message would it send to the public to have even one legislative committee hearing on HB 366?

It would say that if you don't like an action of the Boards of Fish or Game, come to the legislature, and demand to have IT take up the issue. A hearing would say that we believe this is an appropriate arena to have allocations debated and decided.

Unless the legislature is ready to dump the board process and BECOME the fisheries management board for the whole state, it is not smart or fair to take up ANY such allocation issues.

(Note that the Board of Fisheries meets for many weeks per year, spends thousands of hours studying, debating, taking testimony to reach its decisions. Public input comes through the local advisory and regional council panels as well as from individual testimony. At the last meeting of the Board of Fish they has 500 proposals before them, and that happens several times a year. Is the legislature ready to take on all of that? And of course, if we take on the role of fish board, the duties of game board will be right behind).

Even if the legislature was an appropriate arena for fisheries allocation decisions, making such decisions BY STATUTE, which is the only option for the legislature, as opposed to BY REGULATION, which is the tool of the board process, is a TERRIBLE idea. There is no flexibility in management by statute. Every time that resource fluctuations or other factors made allocation, gear, harvest level, or other changes necessary, it would take the introduction of a bill during a legislative session, and passage through the entire legislative process, to make the needed adjustments. That is slow and cumbersome at best, and usually just plain impossible to accomplish.

Furthermore, no specific resource allocation issue should ever be made in isolation, out of the context of all the related decisions. Every fishery decision affects the resource itself, and a number of user groups, not only in the immediate area but in other, sometimes distant areas. Unless the legislature can take on all of it, can take the time to study and understand the whole big picture, we don't belong sticking our noses in to tweak any selected piece of the big puzzle.

It IS appropriate for the legislature to add, subtract , or clarify powers of the boards of fish and game, to make sure that they have the tools, authority, and flexibility to deal with the decisions which are their responsibility.

But, having the legislature take up an allocation issue such as is proposed in HB 366 is SIMPLY BAD POLICY. A chairman of the Resources committee has the responsibility to uphold sound policy and PROCESS. It is hard to imagine that we could defend having a hearing on HB 366 as a responsible action for a Resources chairman.

A final point: Even though this bill does not belong in the legislative arena, and it is demanding huge amounts of time and energy by the legislature by even having been introduced. We have LOTS of issues, bills, and problems that DO belong here, and which the legislature HAS to deal with. It would not only be irresponsible to hear HB 366, it is irresponsible of the legislature to be wasting so much time and effort on even hassling over it. The only responsible thing to do is to make a firm, solid, public decision to just say NO, put the issue to bed, and get on with the work at hand. We have plenty on our plate between now and adjournment that IS the legislature's responsibility -- we don't need to go looking to do somebody else's job too.

PUBLIC COMMENT
SUPPORTING HB 366

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

MSCVB

RESOLUTION 94-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU SUPPORTING Senate Bill No. 241 and House Bill No. 366 relating to the management of Cook Inlet stocks of salmon.

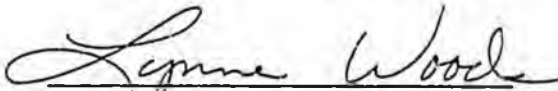
WHEREAS: The Alaska Visitor Statistics Program II study done by the McDowell Group found that visitors chose Alaska over Mexico and Canada as a destination due in part to sportfishing opportunities; and

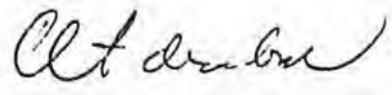
WHEREAS: The "Economic Impact Study of Sportfishing in Alaska" conducted in 1991 by the National Sportfishing Institute found that resident and nonresident anglers spent a combined 384 million dollars on sportfishing activities; and

WHEREAS: According to the 1991 Sportfishing Institute Study, direct contributions to the state of Alaska from license and tax revenues exceeded 15.7 million dollars ; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska- Susitna Convention and Visitors Bureau supports the management of the resource to guarantee maximum benefit to the growing visitor industry through passage of Senate Bill No. 241 and House bill No. 366.

Adopted this twenty-seventh day of January, 1994.


Lynne Woods, President


Cathy Dunbar, Executive Director

COOK INLET SPORTFISHING CAUCUS

3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-2099
(907) 276-6639

March 9, 1994

*Representative Bill Williams
Capitol Room 128
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182*

Dear Mr. Williams:

Wake Up, Sport Fishermen

Thank you, Rich Septien from Cordova. For proving my point that commercial fishermen are ignoring the source of their problems.

Instead of understanding the need for proactive marketing and better utilization of Alaska's superior salmon, they choose to wrap themselves in an Alaska flag and salmon leather and waste their money trying to squeeze every last fish out of their virtual monopoly over the sockeyes.

Sport fishermen eat and love Alaska salmon. The consumers are the ones that need convincing, not us. The consumers are the ones steadily replacing Alaska salmon with farmed salmon. Also, if raping Alaska's waters of its resources and taking the majority of the proceeds outside without giving residents anything in return, isn't "Un-Alaskan," I don't know what is.

There is not a more pro-Alaska group of people than the sport fishermen. The money from licenses and fees paid by sport fishermen helps to make the fisheries in Alaska the best in the world.

The small contribution made by commercial fishermen to aquaculture programs is self-serving and often backfires.

I appeal to all 200,000 sport fishermen to call their legislators in support of HB 366 and SB 241, which give Alaskans a fair share.

It is time for the vast silent majority to wake up and yell. Otherwise we will find that the commercial fisheries-controlled Fisheries Board has given away the farm, so to speak, to the special interests lining their pockets.

-Kevin Thomas

This letter to the editor, published in the Anchorage Daily News on 3/8/94, says it all!

Sincerely,



Ben Ellis



ALASKA SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

FAX COVER SHEET

To: Representative Williams Fax Number: 465-3793

Attention: Rep. Williams Date: 1/20

RE: attached Time: _____

FROM: PHIL CUTLER- PRESIDENT, ALASKA SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

ASA is the largest sportfishing organization in the State of Alaska. Last evening,

January 19, ASA's Board passed a unanimous resolution endorsing H.B. 366 and S.B. 241.

Attached is informational data for that action and the Board of Fisheries appointments as well as other sportfishing support.

1. The Alaska outdoor Council has endorsed the nominations of Dr. Richard Bower and Larry Engel to the Board of Fisheries. Ralph Seekins, President of the Alaska Wildlife Preservation Association (in Fairbanks, Alaska) has also endorsed the nominations of Dr. Bower and Mr. Engel.

2. Attached is the copy of my letter to the editor published in the January 19 edition of the Anchorage Daily News. Also enclosed is a resolution from the (cont.)

PAGES TO FOLLOW 4 (Does Not Include Cover Sheet)

ALASKA SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

FAX COVER SHEET (CONT.)

(cont.) Anchorage Visitors Association (#93-11), with some important statistics on sportfishing in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration on these matters.

Phil Cutler, Alaska Sportfishing Association



ALASKA VISITORS ASSOCIATION

3201 C Street, Suite 403 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Tel: (907) 561-5733 • Fax: (907) 561-5727

1993-94

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Westmark Hotels
Anchorage, Alaska

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Phallus Cruises & Tours

Tom Ingas

Kenai Fjords Tours

Brad Walker

Alaska Airlines

Andrew Westcott

Little's Expeditions
Gold Camp

Naren Conway

Executive Director

#93-11

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALL SPORT ANGLERS AND THE ECONOMIC IMPACT CONTRIBUTED BY SPORT FISHING TO THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, more Alaskans and visitors to the state participate in sport fishing as a major recreational activity in the state; and

WHEREAS, per the 1991 "Economic Impact Study of Sportfishing in Alaska" conducted by the National Sport Fishing Institute, resident and nonresident anglers spent a combined 384 million dollars on sport fishing activities; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned study identified that 5,933 jobs were generated from sport fishing activities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, per the 1991 Sport Fishing Institute study, direct contributions to the State of Alaska from license and tax revenues exceeded 15.7 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, per the 1988 Alaska Department of Fish and Game study, resident and nonresident anglers spend a combined 61.3 million dollars for sport fishing in Southeast Alaska, of this total, 22.9 million dollars was spent on king salmon fishing. Total effects of angler spending includes the equivalent of 1,113 full-time jobs and 28.3 million dollars in earnings; and

WHEREAS, per the Alaska Visitor Statistics Program II study done by the McDowell Group, visitors chose Alaska over Mexico and Canada as a destination due in part to sport fishing opportunities; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Alaska Visitors Association supports the management of the resource to guarantee the greatest socio-economic benefit to the state of Alaska. The Association also supports the guarantee of public access to the resource by the residents of Alaska and its visitors.

Adopted by the AVA Board of Directors

January 10, 1994



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

2932 C Street, Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 563-4AOC
FAX: (907) 561-0800

January 3, 1994

The Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Hickel:

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) Board of Directors recently completed its review of applicants for the Boards of Fisheries and Game.

The AOC recommends Mr. Larry Engel and Dr. Dick Bower for the Board of Fisheries. Both men have a strong record of public service. Mr. Engel is a highly respected fisheries biologist of long Alaskan experience. Dr. Bower has a strong background in conservation and in the challenging field of public education. We believe both men will give conservation of our fisheries first priority, and will be fair-minded and thoughtful in dealing with the many difficult fisheries management issues.

The AOC recommends the reappointment of Chairman Richard Burley and Mr. Ernie Polley to the Board of Game. Both men have proven to be excellent Board members during a very difficult year. Mr. Burley has a record of solid performance for approaching three years. It is very clear that these gentlemen put wildlife conservation first, and deal fairly and thoughtfully with management issues.

We appreciate the opportunity to make our views known on these critically important appointments. Please feel free to contact me if further information is needed regarding our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Bishop

Richard H. Bishop
First Vice President

RHB:WJ

Official State Association of the National Rifle Association



Alaska Sportfishing Association

3605 Arctic Blvd., Suite 800 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, AK 99508

January 20, 1994

Gentlemen,

Last night the Board of Directors of the Alaska Sportfishing Association, Alaska's largest sport fishing group, unanimously voted to support the Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon Allocation bill---SB241/HB366.

Discussion of the bill included the fact that the ASA, other sport fish groups, and several sport anglers had made innumerable proposals, agenda change requests, and petition requests to the Board of Fisheries over the past several years to address the issue of red salmon in Cook Inlet. In every instance, the results were the same....our initiatives were unsuccessful. We and the other groups have tried for years to work within the established Board of Fisheries' practices and procedures. Each and every time, we were turned away; sometimes without a good reason for the denial of hearing our cases.

This bill addresses one of the issues we are concerned with in regards to Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. There has been significant increase in the demand for fish by both residents and visitors who utilize the in-river fishery. This demand is not being met by the current Cook Inlet Sockeye Management Plan. The economics of the sport fishery and its impact on the Southcentral area begs for a change in the management plan. The bill would, in fact, make this change.

Phil Cutler, President

Speak up, sports anglers

Red salmon alert! Our legislators in Juneau need to hear sport anglers' voices loudly and clearly on their support for the Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon Allocation bill.

This bill, which was the headline story in the Daily News Dec. 30 — "Juneau to tackle fish wars" — has now been introduced into the legislative process and has been assigned bill numbers HB366 and SB241 with more co-sponsors than any other bill in the history of the state.

As the Daily News story stated, the bill is very straightforward. It simply states that it is the policy of the state that a number of sockeye salmon equal to at least 15 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the Cook Inlet central district commercial fisheries will be utilized exclusively for sport fishing purposes.

The Alaska Constitution states that fish are a resource owned by all the people of the state. Why should the roughly 1,100 red salmon commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet be allowed to harvest more than 97 percent of this publicly owned resource? Last summer, the sport anglers and their guests, numbering well over 150,000, caught an estimated 128,000 reds. The 1,100 commercial fishermen caught more than 4,729,000. That's just not a "fair share."

Please join me in sending a public opinion message to our legislators stating that you support the Cook Inlet Salmon Allocation bill. Call the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage and Kenai.

— Phil Cutler



KENAI RIVER HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM
ESTABLISHED BY
KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING, INC.
1992



January 24, 1994

Dear Legislator:

The introduction of HB 366 and SB 241 has created a large amount of misinformation spread by groups that represent the commercial fishing industry. Recently, many of these groups would have you believe that an increased allocation to the non-commercial users will result in massive destruction to the banks of the Kenai River. **This is just not true.**

The latest ploy to mislead lawmakers is one hidden under the guise of conservation. It is true that sport fishermen fishing from the banks of the river causes bank degradation. To say that more fish in the river will cause more fishermen and therefore, more bank degradation is not true, at least not according to a recent carrying capacity study performed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. This summary¹ found that the Kenai River was **not** beyond its carrying capacity; instead it found that overcrowding was site specific and considered to be more a problem of perceived quality of fishing time at those specific sites. Also, it was found that sport fishermen will go fishing even though fishing is perceived to be poor.

There have been several organizations that have made concentrated efforts over the past few years to preserve and enhance the Kenai River habitat. These programs include:

- The Soil & Water Conservation District has published the Kenai River Land Owner's Guide, which provides detailed information, guidance and direction on habitat preservation, conservation and restoration.
- Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc.'s Habitat Protection program (HabPro) was awarded a citation from the Alaska Legislature for its innovative approach in providing technical expertise to habitat restoration and protection projects free of charge to Kenai River land owners.
- Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board is currently formulating recommendations to regulatory agencies concerning the results of a Kenai River carrying capacity study that dealt with such issues as habitat protection and restoration, developing additional public access to the river, regulating habitat destructive fishing and more.

¹"Important Findings and Implications for Management", by Doug Whittaker and Bo Shelby, PhD.

Alaska State Legislators
January 24, 1993
Page Two

In addition to these efforts, the Legislature appropriated \$3 million dollars to the Department of Fish & Game for habitat protection and preservation on the Kenai River. As you can see, non-commercial users are very concerned with protecting the habitat of the Kenai River. For commercial fishing groups to state that a non-commercial sockeye allocation will result in massive bank degradation is untrue. It is inconceivable that any non-commercial user would support a measure that would result in the destruction of the natural resource that we strive to protect.

While conservation and preservation is foremost in every Alaskan's mind, in this particular case it is being misused as a vehicle to cloud the issue. This misinformation is being distributed for one reason and one reason only, to mislead lawmakers from the central issue, which is allocation.

As stated in our bylaws, the primary goal and objective of Kenai River Sportfishing is to protect and preserve the Kenai River and its watershed. Our organization, funded solely by non-commercial users, and its volunteers have invested thousands of hours and many thousands of dollars working to protect the habitat of this great river and I take great exception to any accusation that our organization would support any measure that would be counter-productive to these efforts.

I have attached some information that you may find helpful while you deliberate this issue. Please feel free to contact Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. for more information on our habitat protection program or this allocation issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Carter', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pat Carter
President, Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc.



For your files

KENAI RIVER HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED BY
KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING, INC.
1992



WHY THE CONCERN?

There has been a tremendous growth in development and recreational use of the Kenai River since 1982. The development of homes, RV and camping parks, boat launches, and public access easements are a few examples. There has been an increase in demand for recreational opportunities and an increase in river use by fishing guides. This has been accompanied by a steady degradation of the river banks. Sixty six percent of the river banks, from Skilak Lake to the mouth, are private property. The remainder is publicly owned and managed by federal, state, borough or municipal governments. There are over 4,000 small lots on the river banks and over 12,000 lots within 1/4 mile of the river. In addition, Kenai River water quality is being affected by sewage disposal, cannery waste disposal, and road and urban runoff. The use of the river has steadily increased over the years with the heaviest impacts occurring in the past ten years.

Eighty percent of the King and a significant percentage of the Coho salmon in the Kenai River, as well as the young of many of the 25 species of fish, live within 6 feet of the river bank. They must have natural grass or brush overhanging the banks and reduced currents for them to survive.

If the amounts and types of use the river is now receiving continue, it is inevitable that the major part of the habitat needed for rearing baby fish will be destroyed. Once the habitat is gone, the great runs of salmon, which includes the world's largest King salmon, as well as various species of trout, will be no more. There are no examples of salmon streams in the United States or elsewhere in the world that have had extensive development along their banks and still continue to produce substantial salmon runs. NOT ONE! In fact salmon are an endangered species along most of the west coast. Attendant to loss of fish will be the loss of other animals and birds that are a part of the ecosystem and the river's unique natural beauty and diversity. This isn't just a possibility. Unless, current land use practices and personal attitudes change and damaged habitats are restored the river's productivity will continue to decline.

Destruction of fish habitat can be stopped and reversed if property owners start today to change the way they use their property. We must also make major effort to educate public users on positive actions they can take, such as, using authorized access to the river, staying off sensitive stream banks, using provided boardwalks or boats for fishing, and remembering it is every one's responsibility to stay off unprotected banks wherever they are.

WHAT IS KR HABPRO?

The Kenai River Habitat Protection Program (KR HabPro) was created by Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. in 1992. Program goals are to promote:

Restoration, a process involving the Kenai River and its tributaries that will recreate and provide a productive in-stream habitat for the continuity of all species of fish and riparian and upland ecosystem that will ensure a healthy river.

Education in all forms that will teach users of the river to be thoughtful and protective of the river environment.

Encourage public and private land managers to cooperate in efforts to voluntarily protect and restore the river habitat.

Protection of the critical in-stream border of the river through the use of approved erosion control methods, boardwalks, floating docks, non-erosive boat tie-downs, animal control, unobtrusive fencing, limited access to the river, and other recommended techniques in order to provide for enjoyable fishing opportunities for future generations of users.

REEP the benefits!

Goal

Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. is dedicated to the education of the general public to preserve of the greatest salmon sportfishing river in the world.

Objectives:

- 1) **Protect Salmon Habitat Within The Kenai River Watershed.**
Establish and maintain the Kenai River Habitat Protection Program HabPro to encourage private property owners and managers of public lands to work together in safeguarding the Kenai by: restoration of the Kenai River and its tributaries, providing a productive in-stream habitat for the continuity of all species of fish and riparian and upland ecosystems; education in all forms that will teach users of the river to be thoughtful and protective of the river's environments, and protection of the critical in-stream border of the river through the use of approved erosion control methods, boardwalks, floating docks, non-erosive boat tie-downs, animal control, unobtrusive fencing, access to the river only when habitat damage has been mitigated and other recommended techniques in order to provide for enjoyable fishing opportunities for future generations.
- 2) **Seek A Fair Allocation Of Salmon For The General Public** by proposing changes to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and testifying during public hearings in support of such proposals.
- 3) **Seek Membership, grants and other forms of funding** to support the goals and objectives of Kenai River Sportfishing.
- 4) **Encourage And Foster Economic And Conservation Studies** of Cook Inlet salmon, especially targeting those stocks bound for the Kenai River.
- 5) **Work As A Liaison** between KRSI members and the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the Alaska State Legislature and other agencies requesting public input concerning the Kenai River. The association will also maintain a presence on the river to educate members of the Legislature, Board of Fish and other agencies, as well as the media, on this dynamic fishery.
- 6) **Provide Educational, Public Relations And Recreational Services** for our members, while promoting conscientious and courteous sportfishing, through publishing a membership newsletter that will inform and educate the public; hold monthly meetings in Soldotna during June, July and August and meetings in Anchorage in October, January and April's membership hook tying party; and establishing a Grand Slam Kenai River fishing tournament.

Dear Kenal River Landowner,

Its 1994 and time for reflection, taking stock and setting personal goals for the coming year. We hope this will include thinking about what the Kenal River means to you. Perhaps you purchased property here because of the great fishing, as an investment for the future or because this looked like a great place to recreate and eventually retire to. Whatever your reasons, the future of the river is up to you and with it the value of your investment. Eighty percent of juvenile salmon live within six feet of the river bank. They must have the overhanging plant roots and foliage to live and hide in. With from 3,500 to 5,000 people fishing along the banks of the Kenal during the peak of the red salmon run, the plants cannot survive the impact of that many feet. Plants die, ground becomes bare and packed or muddy, high water washes away the loose soil, as it freezes the hard packed earth freezes deeper and becomes more susceptible to ice scouring and high water wash out the next year. Accelerated erosion occurs and the habitat is lost.

We hope in your goals for this year you will include one to help the river and in doing so help yourselves. As a landowner you can provide for better fish habitat, prevent further river bank erosion and help yourself by protecting your investment. We think we can offer you some assistance in designing projects for your bank that may make it easier for you to achieve your goal. Every reach of the river is unique and what works one place may not work in another. From the simplest of designs to the most complex, there does appear to be a way to make a difference. We have educated ourselves on all the latest information, have participated in

- * Soldotna's efforts on rehabilitation of two of their parks and have gained invaluable information from their consulting Engineer Bill Nelson and Soil Bioengineering Consultant Robin Sotlr.
- * reviewed the City of Soldotna's Airport property, provided a report and are participating in that planning effort
- * participated in the planning effort for the Russian River Restoration,
- * visited several private landowner sites and are in the process of issuing our first "Eagle Award".

We offer a site visitation by our team members. An informal exchange of ideas in which we all look at the bank area, listen to your ideas for use, habitat, erosion control, and try to share ideas and answer questions that may make it easier for you in protecting the habitat while still using it for fishing. We follow up the visit with a written report that gives you soil information on your property, types of native plants that can be used in restoration, where to find them, suggestions on willow fascines or the use of spruce trees, and how to develop a plan, a personal guide for your specific endeavor all at no cost to you. We also have copies of the Soil Conservation Service's LANDOWNER'S GUIDE available for you to borrow on a short term basis, and copies of brochures on types of material available for projects. We also offer and encourage you to apply for the Kenal River Sportfishing, Inc.'s (KRSI) Eagle Award which is an effort by KRSI to recognize those people who have contributed to the saving of the river habitat.

If you want help, we enclose a card with topics/services that we can provide. Please check the items you are interested in, add others if you wish, and we will get back to you with a date for that particular meeting. We are also enclosing the latest Fish On from KRSI so if you like what we're doing and want to help you may wish to consider joining us and the application is there for you. But either way, if we can be of help, or if you are interested in any of the items mentioned on the reply card, please return it to us as soon as possible or call Ben Ellis at (907)262-8588, or 1-800-478-0724.

Sincerely Yours,

Ben Ellis, Executive Director

13 FEB 94

Dear Representative Williams:

I'm writing to ask you to support House bill 366, and Senate bill 241. I've contacted all the legislators in hopes we can correct a wrong to all Alaska Sports Fishing people. I'm enclosing an article from Today's (Sunday 13 FEB) Daily News that tells it like it is - IT'S ONLY ONE OF MANY ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE NEWS.

Common Hickle's newly appointed people to the Fish board will NOT improve allocations. Nor will they improve escapements. Therefore, it's up to you and the rest of the legislators to do the right thing - which also, must include a review of the damage done

To The Sport Harvest of
King and Silver Salmon.
I've begun soliciting support
for these bills and have
become vocal about the
positive responses I've
received from the
legislators.
Please help Alaska Sport
Fishing -
Thank You.

Sincerely,

James O. Kaiser

8351 Henry Cir.
Anchorage, AK. 99507

Political plunges brave, brash and best for the GOP

I don't normally like to use the "f" word. With their constant use of the term, liberals have given it a whining connotation.

But in discussing the allocation of red salmon in Upper Cook Inlet, it's a hard word to avoid.

Last year the 1,100 commercial harvesters in this fishery averaged around 4,400 reds apiece. At the same time, daily sports harvest limits were reduced from three fish to two. Sports fishing time was cut back by a third. The 150,000 or so sports anglers wound up getting about 2 or 3 percent of the catch.

Is that fair? Is it right that such a gross misallocation takes place in a state with the following provision in its constitution: "Whenever occurring in the natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for the common use."

Of the privileged 1,100, 230 are non-residents. Their share of the commercial haul was a million sockeye. Sport fisher-



FRITZ PETTYJOHN

~~men got about 125,000. So it is that the Alaska Legislature is on the verge of passing a law that would require 15 percent of the Upper Cook Inlet red salmon to be reserved for sport and personal use fisheries.~~ *1/10 Sci*
The legislators are actually loath to take this step. It would set a precedent of getting them in the middle of fish wars all over the state. Such battles are more properly fought out in front of the Board of Fish.

Use it always, not just now
But the board, until just recently, has been totally dominated by commercial interests. The two new members appointed by Gov. Hickel may change that. If they don't, it seems almost certain the legislature will reluctantly take the plunge into the troubled waters of the Upper Inlet.

The Senate Majority has taken a plunge in a different area — legislative reform. For many years a cardinal rule in House and Senate has been the right of committee chairmen to kill any bill assigned to their committee. It hasn't mattered if the bill had broad public support. It didn't even matter if most members of a Majority Caucus wanted the bill, or if it would pass overwhelmingly on a floor vote. All that mattered was that the power of committee chairmen be upheld. This power has been shamelessly abused on countless occasions. This unwritten rule has been one of the most undemocratic features of the Alaska Legislature. In the state Senate, this rule

APPROXIMATELY 1000
With Murkowski at the head of the state ticket, the entire party would be revitalized. All Republican candidates would benefit, and solid Republican majorities in House and Senate might well result.

is no longer in effect. A move-the-legislature bill was pulled from the Senate Judiciary despite the objections of Chairman Robin Taylor. This bodes well not only for such legislation as tort reform but for the entire legislative process. While discussing plunges, it's still uncertain if U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski will be leaping into the governor's race. He'll be in Juneau to address the legislature in a couple of days, and he can expect to get an earful of

earnest encouragement from a whole lot of Republicans. More and more of them are concluding not only that Murkowski would win, but that it's extremely doubtful any other Republican nominee could prevail. Republican legislators have some self-interest involved in urging a gubernatorial candidacy on our junior senator. With Murkowski at the head of the state ticket, the entire party would be revitalized. All Republican candidates would benefit, and solid Republican

majorities in House and Senate might well result. The senator is expected to make a decision in the next few weeks. So far he's keeping his cards close to his chest. The question will probably be resolved in a quiet tets-a-tete with wife Nancy. Regardless of that decision, Republicans in Alaska will have a pair of aces up their sleeve come November. The Clintons are the leaders of the Democratic Party and will be a drag on every member of that party in the Great Land. Shutting down resource development, gay rights, gutting the military, increasing taxes, and trashing the Second Amendment aren't exactly popular in Alaska. There's an intensity of animosity toward Clinton that's unprecedented. How's this for a bumper sticker? "Annoy Clinton. Vote Republican."
Fritz Pettyjohn, an Anchorage lawyer, served in both the state Senate and the state House of Representatives.

OK *LOOK INTO*

February 2, 1994

Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Bill Williams :

I ask you to support HB366.

The State and local governments spend thousands, hundreds of thousands, and even millions of dollars to promote tourism in Alaska. One segment of the tourism, Sports Fishermen and Boaters, according to a 1991 economic survey, spend over 140 million dollars per year on trip related expenditures such as fuel, food, repairs, fishing licenses, etc. Many jobs in many communities are generated due to these expenditures.


With the oil industry revenues decreasing, we need to create and nurture other industries such as the Sport Fishing Industry.

The Alaska Fish and Game Department budget is the second highest of the western states (78.6 million), and the third highest in the United States (copy of survey attached). This budget money belongs to all Alaskans, not just Commercial Fishermen. We Sports Fishermen have not gotten our fair share of salmon.

Certainly, we should be entitled to 15% of the fish.

I once again ask you to support HB366.

Thank you,



Roy J. Burkhart
P.O. Box 204
Willow, AK 99688-0204
(907) 495-6337



NEWS NEWS WEST NEWS NEWS

CONSERVATION BY CATALOG... volunteers save Washington's steelhead stocking program... UPLAND BIRD STAMPS CATCH ON

HEY, BIG SPENDERS

western states boast biggest

FISH AND GAME BUDGETS

BUDGET RANKINGS of western states

STATE	1991 BUDGET RANK	1991 BUDGET *	1979 BUDGET RANK	1979 BUDGET *
CALIFORNIA	1	\$119.0	2	\$38.9
ALASKA	3	78.6	3	31.0
WASHINGTON	5	65.5	12	18.0
OREGON	6	65.3	4	27.0
COLORADO	8	56.9	5	26.0
TEXAS	9	56.0	11	19.3
MONTANA	14	35.9	13	10.8
WYOMING	18	30.5	20	10.6
IDAHO	19	26.4	23	9.6
ARIZONA	26	23.5	30	8.0
UTAH	27	22.3	25	8.9
NEW MEXICO	33	18.3	38	5.7
NEVADA	42	11.9	42	4.2
HAWAII	47	7.1	48	1.8

national top ten

CALIFORNIA	1	115.0	2	38.9
MISSOURI	2	89.4	1	46.7
ALASKA	3	78.6	3	31.0
PENNSYLVANIA	4	72.4	6	25.3
WASHINGTON	5	65.5	12	18.0
OREGON	6	65.3	4	27.0
MICHIGAN	7	57.0	8	23.6
COLORADO	8	56.9	5	26.0
TEXAS	9	56.0	11	19.3
FLORIDA	10	55.0	15	14.65

Source: Wildlife Legislative Fund

* In Millions

Recycled Paper

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222

February 7, 1994

All Legislators
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear ~~Legislator~~ ^{Bill},

The attached letter is for your information regarding HB366 and SB241. This letter is in response to a letter dated January 27, 1994 from Rep. Carl Moses to Bob Penney of Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus.

I felt it important to clarify and expand on some of the comments contained in this letter.

Sincerely,



Patrick Carter
Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus

I HOPE THIS LETTER CAN HELP TO CLARIFY
SOME OF THE CURRENT MISREPRESENTATIONS!
THANK YOU FOR TRULY KEEPING AN OPEN
MIND.

THANKS AGAIN,

PAI

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222

February 7, 1994

Representative Carl Moses
Alaska State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Moses,

I would like to reply to several comments contained in a letter dated January 27, 1994 to Bob Penney and regarding HB366 and SB241.

With respect to your statement regarding the "fair share" and "all" of the fish that the Cook Inlet Commercial fisherman have lost; according to Department of Fish and Game records, these stocks were so severely depleted from over harvest that they were considered to be "in trouble." It was only years later, after the runs had recovered, that the commercial fishermen started complaining about "all they had lost". For example, according to record, the early run Cook Inlet King Salmon run was so severely over harvested in the early 1950's that the Department was forced to close the fishery to all commercial fishing in Cook Inlet. In 1978, when the new management policy was adopted, the closure was still in effect. For over 20 years the devastating effects of over exploitation had closed the fishery, so how is it possible that the commercial fisherman could have lost something in 1978 that hadn't been theirs for more than two decades?

The early sockeye salmon run is primarily of Russian River origin and is considered to be very small in size and not a viable commercial target. Total average harvest is around 20,000 fish for all user groups and the fact is, that the run is so small that it would be of very little value to the commercial fishing industry.

Regarding the early run of silvers, the commercial fishing industry of Cook Inlet has given up very few of the early run silvers. According to Department of Fish and Game records, the early run of Kenai River silver salmon occurs almost completely within the time frame of the commercial fishing season. Department of Fish and Game "Area Management Report" dated May 1993 states that "Given normal run timing, the majority of early run Kenai Silvers are subject to interception by the Commercial Fishery."

Regarding the current Cook Inlet Management Plan for allocation of late run sockeye salmon, you were correct in stating that 95% of the harvest is not allocated to the commercial fishery. In actuality, the commercial fishery is allocated 100% of the harvest. The sportfish "allocation" (and I use that word loosely) comes from the biological escapement goal of 400,000 to 700,000 fish. Actually, the management plan does not define this as a "allocation," it is a limit. "The sportfishery shall be limited to 10% of the escapement," 40- 70,000 fish. Please note that this allocation does not fluctuate with the size of the run, rather, it is a fixed range. This amounts to less than 2% of the 10 year average of 4,000,000 fish per year.

With respect to your comment that the Sportfishery has a limited harvest capability, I agree that the Sportfishery has not been used effectively as a harvest tool. By limiting the means and methods, bag limits, and restriction of fishing hours, the Sportfishery has been kept far below it's harvest capacity. According to the Area Management Report, "The Sportfishery is consistantly capable of exceeding the current harvest levels." If used properly and in conjunction with the personal use dipnet fishery, I am sure that most would agree that this could be extremely effective in protecting against "overescapement." Although the negative effect of overescapement is widely accepted by the commercial fish division of Fish and Game, the fact is that this effect remains a theory and is widely disputed by experts outside that division.

Apart from all these "real and convincing facts," my overriding objection to your letter was your comment that "the Legislature has no business getting involved in the allocation of fish." Under Article VIII of the Alaska State Constitution, the Legislature is charged with the responsibility of "distributing all natural resources belonging to the state for the maximum benefit of its people." The Legislature then created the Board of Fisheries and delegated it's

Rep. Carl Moses
February 7, 1994
Page 3

and delegated it's authority to them. Please note that while authority can be delegated, responsibility cannot! Thus, the Legislature has the utmost business in fisheries allocation.

The Board of Fisheries has continued to deny the non-commercial users "Change of Agenda" and "Petition" requests for a public hearing on these issues, stating that the guidelines under which the board will consider these requests were not met. These guidelines are stated in 5 AAC 39.999. Guideline A states that "The board will accept an agenda change only (A) for fishery conservation purpose or reason;..." Conservation is defined in the statutes as implying "controlled utilization of a resource to prevent its exploitation, destruction, or neglect". The total imbalance of the current allocation would certainly seem to be exploitive on the part of the commercial fishing industry. This alone would allow the Board of Fisheries to grant a change of agenda if it were so inclined. Apparently it is not. The Board of Fisheries has been reluctant to resolve this issue and it will not simply go away. It is the Legislature's responsibility to ensure that the authority it has delegated to the Board of Fisheries be conducted in accordance with the State Constitution.

Based on this factual information, it is obvious to me that the biggest beating has been taken by the non-commercial users. For years, this issue has caused a great deal of turmoil throughout Southcentral Alaska. It has pitted neighbor against neighbor and friend against friend, yet still the issue remains unresolved.

Sincerely,



Patrick Carter
Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus

cc. All Legislators

2/6/94

State Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams,

The purpose of my letter is to voice my support for House Bill 366. I am a sport fisherman who has used, and plans to continue using, the fish resources of the Cook Inlet central district. My wife and I have taken out of state guests to this area for the past four years. Everyone has enjoyed the fishing. I hope you and the other members of the Senate will vote in favor of increasing the allotment of sport caught red salmon to 15%.

The state has contributed much to the fishing industry in the state. But, the world salmon market is changing. Alaska no longer has the clout it once had in this line of commerce. The number of tourists and residents desiring to catch salmon has increased over the years and I see it going up even more. Please allow the opportunity for us to enjoy our sport by allotting more sport caught reds.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Austin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Thomas Austin
Eagle River, AK

77 13 376
513 24 / Dave

Sec. 16.05.740 MANAGEMENT OF UPPER COOK INLET SOCKEYE SALMON.

Subject to AS 16.05.258, the Board of Fisheries shall adopt the management plans and regulations necessary to provide, on an annual basis, a number of sockeye salmon equal to 15% of the average annual total harvest of sockeye salmon in the Upper Cook Inlet area since the adoption of the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan (1978), to the sport and personal use fisheries of the Upper Cook Inlet area and in addition, the Board shall amend 5 AAC 77.010 to add the use of handheld rod, reel, hook and line as a method and means of harvest in selected personal use fisheries for sockeye salmon.

Historically the annual Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Salmon harvest represents no more than 5% of the total statewide annual historical commercial salmon harvest.

The Upper Cook Inlet total residential population represents more than 60% of total statewide population and should be allocated more than 5% of 5% of total statewide annual historical salmon harvest.

When our Alaska Legislative passed Alaska Limited Entry Commercial Salmon fisheries law they made the largest allocation of our common property salmon resources in history, and I'm convinced its time for all concerned Alaskans to stand-up, and speak out, for their common property resource rights. Re: Natural Resources Article VIII, Section #3, Common Use states:

"Wherever occurring in the natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use."

The highest and best use of Alaska Salmon is on Alaskans' dinner table.

Sam E. McDowell
Concerned Alaskan
P.O. Box 240329
Anchorage, AK 99524-0329

Sam E. McDowell

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To <i>R & P Williams</i>	From <i>KEN AGL</i>	
Co.	Co.	
Dept.	Phone # <i>376 2140</i>	
Fax # <i>1 465 3743</i>	Fax # <i>376 2140</i>	

Appendix A.7. Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by species, 1954-1992.

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1954	63,780	1,207,046	321,525	2,189,207	510,068	4,291,626
1955	45,926	1,027,528	170,777	101,680	248,343	1,594,254
1956	64,977	1,258,789	198,189	1,595,375	782,051	3,899,381
1957	42,158	643,712	125,434	21,228	1,001,470	1,834,002
1958	22,727	477,392	239,765	1,648,548	471,697	2,860,129
1959	32,651	612,676	106,312	12,527	300,319	1,064,485
1960	27,512	923,314	311,461	1,411,605	659,997	3,333,889
1961	19,737	1,162,303	117,778	34,017	349,628	1,683,463
1962	20,210	1,147,573	350,324	2,711,689	970,582	5,200,378
1963	17,536	942,980	197,140	30,436	387,027	1,575,119
1964	4,531	970,055	452,654	3,231,961	1,079,084	5,738,285
1965	9,741	1,412,350	153,619	23,963	316,444	1,918,117
1966	8,544	1,852,114	289,837	2,005,745	532,756	4,688,996
1967	7,859	1,380,062	177,729	32,229	296,837	1,894,716
1968	4,536	1,104,904	469,850	2,278,197	1,119,114	4,976,601
1969	12,397	692,175	100,777	33,983	269,847	1,108,579
1970	8,336	732,605	275,399	814,895	776,229	2,607,464
1971	19,765	636,303	100,636	35,624	327,029	1,119,357
1972	16,086	879,824	80,933	628,574	630,103	2,235,520
1973	5,194	670,098	104,420	326,184	667,573	1,773,469
1974	6,596	497,185	200,125	483,730	396,840	1,584,476
1975	4,787	684,752	227,379	336,333	951,796	2,205,047
1976	10,865	1,664,150	208,695	1,256,728	469,802	3,610,240
1977	14,790	2,052,291	192,599	553,855	1,233,722	4,047,257
1978	17,299	2,621,421	219,193	1,688,442	571,779	5,118,134
1979	13,738	924,415	265,166	72,982	650,357	1,926,658
1980	13,798	1,573,597	271,418	1,786,430	390,675	4,035,918
1981	12,240	1,439,277	484,411	127,164	833,542	2,896,634
1982	20,870	3,259,864	793,937	790,648	1,433,866	6,299,185
1983	20,634	5,049,733	516,322	70,327	1,114,858	6,771,874
1984	10,062	2,106,714	449,993	617,452	680,726	3,864,947
1985	24,088	4,060,429	667,213	87,828	772,849	5,612,407
1986	39,240	4,787,982	756,830	1,299,360	1,134,173	8,017,585
1987	39,661	9,500,186	451,404	109,801	349,139	10,450,191
1988	29,060	6,834,342	560,022	469,972	708,573	8,601,969
1989	26,742	5,010,698	339,201	67,430	122,027	5,566,098
1990	16,105	3,604,064	500,634	603,630	351,197	5,075,630
1991	13,535	2,177,576	425,724	14,663	280,223	2,911,721
1992	17,171	9,108,340	468,911	695,859	274,303	10,564,584
1993		4,754,698				
Average	20,653	2,222,842	316,506	776,915	626,068	3,962,984

Historical Average Commercial Harvest = 4,175,833

Annual 15% Allocation to Sport & Hand-held rod, reel, hook & line personal use fisheries (1978-1993) = 626,375

Jan. 20, 1994

Rep. Bill Williams, Chairman
House Resources Committee
Room 128
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Williams,

As a resident of the Kenai Peninsula and a commercial and non-commercial fisherman I have been closely watching the developing controversy regarding allocation of the Cook Inlet sockeye salmon harvest. I have read and heard many comments from the Inlet's commercial fishing interests regarding this issue as I'm sure you have also. Unfortunately, it seems that most of these comments are based on emotion, opinion and personal economic gain rather than sound biological data, logic, and constitutional law.

The battle has recently been heated up by the introduction of legislation which would mandate an allocation of sockeye salmon for the Kenai's non-commercial fishermen. Note that I use the term non-commercial fishermen rather than the oft misused term sport fishermen. In reality, it matters little whether the fisherman chooses to fish with a hook and line or a dip net, or a regulation personal use set gill net the same fish will be available for harvest and personal consumption.

It is indeed unfortunate that the legislature has been forced to take action on this issue. I believe that everyone would agree that following sustained yield concerns, allocation is the primary responsibility of the Board of Fisheries. Unfortunately, it has chosen to turn a deaf ear to the concerns of the majority of the Cook Inlet's sockeye users the non-commercial harvesters.

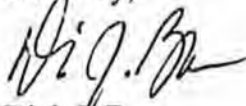
Recent figures that I have seen indicate that there are some 1300 limited entry permit holders in the Cook Inlet fishery. By contrast, some 113,000 non-commercial fishermen participate in the same fishery. By previous board action, based on pressure from commercial fishing groups, the 1300 commercial fishermen receive some 95% of the harvest while non-commercial fishermen receive a meager 5%.

It is also interesting to note that Cook Inlet is responsible for only 5% of the States overall commercial salmon harvest yet its non-commercial fishing grounds are accessible to nearly 60% of the States population. Considering that the harvestable salmon belong to all of the people of Alaska and the United States, it would seem reasonable to allow the general public greater access to this resource.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have submitted for publication to the Peninsula Clarion in Kenai. I believe that it clearly, and with reason and logic shows exactly why fisheries allocation is rightly a political matter. I hope that you will take the time to look it over and consider the points it contains. While the non-commercial fishing public may not be as organized as the commercial fishermen they are the majority. They deserve to be recognized and heard. They deserve a fair share of our fisheries resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. If you have any questions which I may answer please feel free to give me a call at 262-8332.

Sincerely,



Dick J. Bower

Jan. 19, 1994

Ms. Lori Evans, Editor
Peninsula Clarion
P.O. Box 3009
Kenai, AK. 99611

Dear Ms. Evans,

For the last few weeks we have heard and read many statements and positions relative to the recently proposed legislation mandating a non-commercial allocation of the Cook Inlet's sockeye salmon harvest. Biology, politics, economics, habitat and other relevant and irrelevant points have been raised. In the words of more than one observer such legislation opens a "Pandora's Box". Indeed it has.

This legislation has opened a "Pandora's Box" of narrow visioned theories, misconceptions, misrepresentations, fear and loathing on the part of all of Alaska's fishermen, commercial and non-commercial alike. These contents, now spilled, have only served to further agitate the already mountainous seas surrounding this issue. It's time for everyone to take a clear headed look at the elements of this miasma and calm the waters with the oil of fact.

Many have said that biology should be the only basis on which to manage our fisheries resources. This is an incontestable fact. Through sound management practices based on accurate biological data, escapement ranges are established which allow enough fish to reach the spawning grounds for continued healthy future runs. This escapement is the essence of biological management. For many hundreds of years before "biological management" came on the scene, the Kenai, Kasilof and Susitna rivers produced healthy runs without the "over escapement management" which has now become the norm. Returning fish above and beyond this escapement range are "over escapement" and become "harvestable".

If these fish are not biologically critical to the continued health of the runs and have become harvestable then they must be allocated between the various harvesters. How this allocation is derived is certainly more a matter of politics and economics than of biology no matter who is making the decision.

The State Constitution in Article VIII, Section 2, states that "The Legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people". Thus the legislature, a political body, has a constitutional responsibility to address allocation of resources. The authority to carry out this responsibility in this instance has been delegated to the Board of Fisheries.

The seven member Board of Fisheries which is charged with making allocation decisions is appointed by the Governor, a political position, and confirmed by the legislature, a political body. Its members are mandated by statute to be appointed "on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgement, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership". (AS 16.05.221 (a)). They are not hired for technical expertise they are political appointments; nowhere in the appointment criteria does it mention a background in biology. The fact is that the board then is a political body and by statute politics is inherent in the allocation process.

A look at the present make-up of the Board of Fisheries will also shed some light on the facts of the issue. Commercial fishing interests have a long history of aggressive, organized involvement in the allocation and regulation of the State's fisheries. This involvement has paid off in past appointments to the board. Of the seven current members at least five can be said to have a financial interest in the commercial fishing industry. The actions of the board in refusing to place allocation on its agenda when petitioned by non-commercial groups, to deny this issue even a

public hearing in one of its meetings, certainly seems to reflect the prevailing interests and constitution of the board. As one well known fishing observer has been quoted as saying, "them that has the gold...rules". The fact is that economics is also inherent in allocation issues.

That the legislature should find it necessary to introduce legislation mandating a non-commercial allocation reflects the failure of the system to assure that the board has a diversity of interest and points of view in mind. It points out that the board has not done its job in this case by fairly allocating the harvestable resource among the various user groups. It shows that in a democracy political issues will be decided by the people and their elected representatives if the administrative branch fails to address the majority's concerns. It proves that the system works.

Some would say that habitat and the ability of non-commercial fishermen to harvest an increased allocation are significant factors in the allocation issue. But are they? Fishermen will continue to fish the Kenai regardless of an increase in the allocation. Habitat degradation will continue, fish or no fish, until people take steps to protect and restore the river's ecosystem. In fact, the technology exists to protect the river's habitat from far greater human pressure than it now receives and at least three groups are currently active in addressing the habitat issue.

The Soil and Water Conservation District has undertaken comprehensive studies of the flora and fauna of the Kenai River. These studies results are available in the District's publication The Kenai River Land Owner's Guide. This guide not only provides data about the wide variety of flora and fauna inhabiting the river's ecosystem but also provides in-depth information, guidance, and direction on habitat preservation, conservation and restoration. It is available to anyone interested in the Kenai's habitat regardless of their user group affiliation.

Kenai River Sport Fishing Inc.'s Hab-Pro program is promoting and lending technical expertise to habitat restoration and protection projects undertaken by land owners on the River. This is a program that takes a hands on approach to habitat concerns and has been developed and funded by non-commercial users. Yes, those same folks who receive only a paltry 5% of the harvest. How much commercial fishing money has been put directly into habitat protection for the Kenai, or the Kasilof and Susitna for that matter? Not much. Yet these folks receive the lions share of the harvest and have the most to lose economically from habitat degradation.

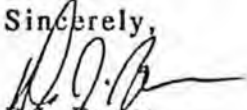
Additionally, the Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board is presently formulating recommendations to the various regulatory agencies with regard to the results of a recently completed carrying capacity study. These recommendations will encompass such things as habitat restoration and protection, limiting access to critical habitat areas of the river, developing and protecting existing and additional public access to the river, regulating habitat destructive methods of fishing and more. All ways of mitigating habitat concerns created by current and future increased levels of non-commercial fishing pressure.

Regarding the non-commercial fishermen's ability to harvest an increased allocation of fish, this is simply a non-issue. Given changes in the regulations to allow non-commercial users to harvest their allocation, it is highly unlikely that the increased allocation will go to waste. Presently, sport fishermen are limited to fishing from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm. They are allowed a bag limit of only two fish per day. Personal use dip net fishermen are restricted to the mouth of the river and are only allowed to fish after the river has been assured of its upper escapement range. Subsistence fishermen are not allowed a part of the Kenai's harvest. Are these restrictions based on biological management of escapement? No. They are based on the fact that non-commercial fishermen were estimated to be catching more than their allocated 5% of the harvest. They are the by-product of past politically and economically based decisions of the Board of Fisheries.

The fact is, the issues of habitat degradation and ability to harvest increased allocations have little if any relevance to the allocation issue. Rather they are separate issues and perceptions which are brought into play in an effort to further confuse an already confusing situation. They comprise the types of misrepresentations, misconceptions and narrow visioned opinions too frequently taken as fact by an uninformed, trusting public. A public which for the most part, like Will Rogers, only knows what it reads in the newspaper.

Yes, the idea of fisheries allocation by legislation has opened a "Pandora's Box". But the contents of that box are not what some had feared. Now, as the box is emptied we must fight the escaping evils with what weapons we have at hand. They are facts, truth, understanding, and the fruits of living in a democratic society by, of, and for the people. Allocation is a political and economic issue not a biological one. The Board of Fisheries has the opportunity to do it's job and provide a fair allocation of Cook Inlet's fisheries resources to all users. But if this administrative avenue fails to listen to the people it is appointed to serve then the legislature has a sworn duty to become involved and represent those who elected them.

Sincerely,



D.J. Bower
P.O. Box 2241
Soldotna, AK.
262-8332

✓

*Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222*

January 20, 1994

*Representative Bill Williams
Alaska State Capitol
Capitol Room 128
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182*

*Ref: SB 241
HB 366*

Dear Mr. Williams: (Hi Bill)

As expected, you have been lobbied very heavily this week by Cook Inlet Commercial Fishermen. They have been giving out misinformation and creating questionable innuendoes. The facts we've given you speak for themselves. A direct response to one of their lobbyists is:

"Don't you think the public should have a fair share of these salmon? Is *5% fair? The public doesn't think so and that's what this bill is all about - the constitutional right of the public to have a fair share of a state owned resource."

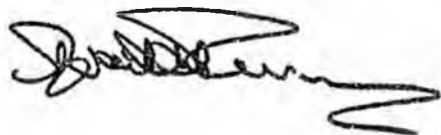
The legislature is the public's 'Court of Last Resort'. If we can't ask you, our elected officials for help, where else can we turn? If we could vote for members of the politically appointed Board of Fish, we wouldn't be bothering you. The will of the public would have settled this issue years ago. We would "have turned those rascals out"!

In what would seem to be an arrogant action, on January 19th, the Board of Fish voted 6-0 to turn down two petitions submitted by Alaska Sportfishing Association and Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. These requests would have allowed a review of the Cook Inlet Sockeye Management Plan by the fish board at it's March meeting. They could have resolved this allocation issue then and there. They have refused...again. It could be viewed by some that this action is a direct affront to the Legislature in that the Board was very aware of the pending legislative bills. It is another example of the cavalier and insensitive action we sportsmen have been receiving for the last ten years.

Pat Carter, Phil Cutler or Bix Bonney of our caucus will be in Juneau in a day or so to answer some of the false innuendoes about "damage to the habitat" and "over-escapement" that you've been hearing.

Thanks for your consideration. The overwhelming majority of the public is on this side of this issue. For tens of thousands of sportsfishermen, we ask for your support as you truly are, our 'Court of Last Resort'.

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bix Bonney", with a long, sweeping underline.

**Historically the commercial Fishery has harvested over 95% and the public has gotten less than 5% of Cook Inlet sockeye (red) salmon.*

AN ALASKAN ADVENTURE

CHINOOK CHARTERS

TOM RAMISKEY

428 Tower • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 • 907-225-9225

January 8, 1994

Representative Ramona Barnes
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
Room 208, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Barnes,

I was pleased to learn from an article in the Ketchikan Daily News, 12/31/93, that you and other legislators plan to address the Board of Fisheries Cook Inlet red salmon allocation decisions.

In my opinion, it is time for the Legislature to step in as the Board of Fisheries seems to function as an entity unto itself with little or no regard to statutory allocation criteria or facts presented. The Board has clearly demonstrated it's commercial use bias in it's allocation decisions regarding Cook Inlet reds, Southeast chinook, and Nushagak chinook. And in these decisions, the Board's blatant disregard of the allocation criteria is a mockery of the regulatory system and lends credence to the statement that the Board is a nothing more than a "dog and pony show".

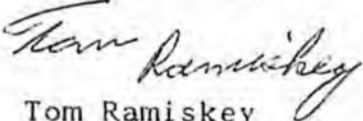
I would hope that the Legislature would step in and resolve more than the Cook Inlet red allocation issue. In my opinion, it is time to restructure the Board in such a manner to ensure that no single user group can maintain a majority position. It is time for the Legislature to ensure that the Board has to consider all allocation criteria and not just the history of a fishery. It is time for the Legislature to prioritize resource use based on a "best use" determination that maximizes the socio-economic benefit of fishery resource use. And, it may be time for the Legislature to reduce the size of those limited entry commercial fisheries, as authorized within the provisions of the Limited Entry Act, that restrict and diminish sportfishing opportunity.

Page 2

The issue is more than just a battle between commercial and sport fishermen. The issue is that the Alaska Board of Fisheries allocation decisions between sportfishermen and commercial fishermen are contrary to and inconsistent with Constitutional and statutory provisions. Article VIII of the Constitution clearly defines that fishery resources are to be utilized for the maximum number of people in a manner consistent with the public interest in order to maximize the benefit. AS 16.05.251(e)(1-7) clearly states that the Board of Fisheries shall establish allocation criteria. However, the Board has steadfastly allocated in favor of commercial fisheries that do not maximize the resource "use-benefit", have the least number of participants, and have no growth potential.

Unless the Legislature intervenes or redirects the Board, the Board of Fisheries will continue, as it has in the past, to act as a regulatory agency that seems to be responsible only to the political pressures of the commercial fisheries.

Respectfully,



Tom Ramiskey

cc: Senator Rick Halford
Senator Robin Taylor
Representative Eldon Mulder
Representative Bill Williams
Representative Gail Phillips

*Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222*

January 20, 1994

*Representative Harley Olberg
Alaska State Capitol
Capitol Room 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182*

*Ref: SB 241
HB 366*

Dear Mr. Olberg:

As expected, you have been lobbied very heavily this week by Cook Inlet Commercial Fishermen. They have been giving out misinformation and creating questionable innuendoes. The facts we've given you speak for themselves. A direct response to one of their lobbyists is:

*"Don't you think the public should have a fair share of these salmon? Is *5% fair? The public doesn't think so and that's what this bill is all about - the constitutional right of the public to have a fair share of a state owned resource."*

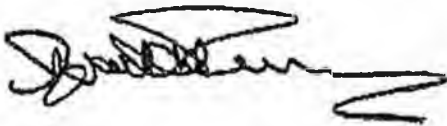
The legislature is the public's 'Court of Last Resort'. If we can't ask you, our elected officials for help, where else can we turn? If we could vote for members of the politically appointed Board of Fish, we wouldn't be bothering you. The will of the public would have settled this issue years ago. We would "have turned those rascals out"!

In what would seem to be an arrogant action, on January 19th, the Board of Fish voted 6-0 to turn down two petitions submitted by Alaska Sportfishing Association and Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. These requests would have allowed a review of the Cook Inlet Sockeye Management Plan by the fish board at it's March meeting. They could have resolved this allocation issue then and there. They have refused...again. It could be viewed by some that this action is a direct affront to the Legislature in that the Board was very aware of the pending legislative bills. It is another example of the cavalier and insensitive action we sportsmen have been receiving for the last ten years.

Pat Carter, Phil Cutler or Bix Bonney of our caucus will be in Juneau in a day or so to answer some of the false innuendoes about "damage to the habitat" and "over-escapement" that you've been hearing.

Thanks for your consideration. The overwhelming majority of the public is on this side of this issue. For tens of thousands of sportfishermen, we ask for your support as you truly are, our 'Court of Last Resort'.

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus



**Historically the commercial Fishery has harvested over 95% and the public has gotten less than 5% of Cook Inlet sockeye (red) salmon.*



Alaska Sportfishing Association

3605 Arctic Blvd., Suite 800 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Mr. Laird Jones, Executive Director
ADF&G Division of Boards-Fish
1255 West 8th Avenue
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

December 9, 1993

Subject: Petition to the BOF to request an opportunity to revisit the Board's actions of November 1992 as it related to Kenai River Sockeye Salmon.

Dear Mr. Jones,

The Alaska Sportfishing Association would like to formally initiate the petition process in order to request that the Board of Fisheries hold public hearings on Proposals #47, 48, and 49. We request that the public hearings be held prior to the 1994 fishing season.

The record of the November 1992 BOF Cook Inlet meetings clearly indicates that the Board of Fisheries' overriding justification for rejecting these proposals which would have increased the allocation of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River sport fishery was the high probability of district wide restrictions or possible total closures resulting from projected seriously depressed returns forecast for the Kenai River in 1994 and 1995. The forecast implied that there was the possibility that escapement goals might not be met. It was evident that the Board considered the dismal forecast and did not employ an objective analysis of their allocation criteria when rejecting these proposals.

The Board's rejection of proposals seeking to increase the allocation of sockeye to the sport fishery left the Department of Fish and Game obligated to restrict the sport fishery to bring it into compliance with the allocation set out in the Kenai River Sockeye Management Plan. These restrictions were enunciated in an Emergency Order issued on June 22, 1993 (effective July 1st) which reduced the bag limit from three to two sockeye and prohibited fishing for sockeye from 11 P.M. to 6 A.M.

The Board's rejection of Proposals #47, 48, and 49 created a situation where the sport fishery was precluded from taking part in additional harvest opportunities of fish which were in excess of the minimum escapement goal and what would have been a biologically allowable harvest.

This situation occurred primarily because the 1993 Sockeye returns were more than twice the forecast for 1993 as provided to the Board in November 1992. Recently, the Department of Fish and Game announced a revised forecast for the 1994 season. The new forecast of 2.0 million sockeye for the Kenai River is a 43% increase over the November 1992 forecast of 1.4 million fish.

Based on the new forecast and the fact that the next scheduled Board of Fisheries review of Cook Inlet is in 1995, we ask the Board to review the above mentioned proposals prior to the 1994 fishing season. Any further delay might create the situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest was precluded by delayed regulatory action and the lost harvest would be unrecoverable to sportfishers because the resource (the 1994 sockeye run fish) will be unavailable in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Phil Cutler, President

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Committee
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222

January 4, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
Room 128
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

You can see by the attached letter how frustrated and vexed the sport fishing public is becoming. Something must be done. Possibly, introduction of this legislation will get the Board of Fish to do something this March.

Per the attached poll, people in Anchorage, over 3-1, approve a new regulation.

Sportsmen aren't stopping with just this effort either. In May, we'll be mailing a 10-14 question poll to all 40 House candidates, 20 Senate plus Gubernatorial bidders. We'll "score" their responses and in July, will mail those results to over 133 000 resident sportfishing license holders in the Railbelt area. The silent majority isn't going to be silent anymore!

We have about 15 sponsors so far in the House and Senators Halford, Pearce, Kelly, Donley and Kertulla in the Senate. We would appreciate it very much if you'd join us as co-sponsors also. Ben Ellis and I will be in Juneau tomorrow before session and would appreciate an appointment to see you. We'll call your office.

Thanks!



Robert C. Penney

**IS 1/4 OF 1% A "FAIR SHARE" OF OUR SALMON
FOR 60% OF THE STATE'S POPULATION?....
NO IT'S NOT.**

- * HISTORICALLY, THE COOK INLET COMMERCIAL SALMON CATCH IS ONLY 5% OF THE STATEWIDE HARVEST.**
- * THE BOARD OF FISHERIES HAS LIMITED THE RECREATIONAL ANGLER CATCH TO LESS THAN 5% OF THAT COOK INLET COMMERCIAL HARVEST.**
- * INSTEAD OF HARVESTING THE EQUIVALENT OF 9 1/2 FISH, WITH THE NEW BILL A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN WOULD HARVEST 8 1/2 FISH, A SMALL DIFFERENCE.**
- * PASSAGE OF THE 15% BILL WOULD ALLOW SPORT ANGLERS TO CATCH ABOUT TWICE AS MANY SALMON OR PERHAPS 1/2 OF 1% OF THE STATE'S SALMON HARVEST.**
- * IS THAT ASKING TOO MUCH?....WE DON'T THINK SO.**

COOK INLET SPORTFISHING CAUCUS

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222

December 20, 1993

The Fishery Board has continually kept the clamps tight on the requests of the sportfishing public by historically allocating 95-98% of the Kenai River's bountiful salmon harvest to commercial fishing interests.

Well, the lid just blew off the steam kettle! The public is bypassing this outdated board and going direct to the legislature for equitable treatment. A new fishing day has dawned! To the 133,000 resident anglers in south-central Season's Greeting. The democratic process is at work for you!

- * A recent poli by Dittman and Associates showed that south-central residents favored a regulation change, to 15% for sportsmen, by a strong majority of 71% - 22% (or over 3-1).

COOK INLET SPORTFISHING CAUCUS

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222

What this bill would do:

- * Allocate approximately twice the average of the last 10 year sports harvest of reds to the public.
- * While the public's demands have increased by 10-15 times over the last decade, we've been restricted to the same fixed number of salmon. We want to share in the bountiful years and have less in leaner years just like the commercial fishery.
- * Create a real tourist boon to South-central Alaska bringing in many more millions of visitor dollars.
- * By allowing such a restricted dip-net fishery, it will take a strong message to fishermen to "stay off of the river's banks", and will make the public aware of the need to protect the river habitat.

PUBLIC COMMENT

OPPOSING HB 366



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 112
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907/586-2820
Fax: 907/463-2545

January 18, 1994

The Honorable William K. Williams
Alaska State House of Representatives
The Capitol Building, Room 128
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Williams:

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) opposes HB366 in regards to the management of Cook Inlet stocks of salmon. UFA is aware that there are some legislators in favor of this bill and that it is on a "fast track." It is our hope that all legislators will consider all sides of the issue prior to making a decision and casting their vote.

United Fishermen of Alaska normally does not intercede in allocative issues. However, we do not believe that this is just a regional allocative issue. UFA feels if this bill passes, it will just be the beginning of political intervention on a statewide basis into fisheries regulatory matters and would set a precedent to manage fisheries politically rather than scientifically.

The Board of Fish was created by the Legislature for the purposes of conserving and developing fisheries resources in the state of Alaska. Again, it is a major concern of UFA that if the Legislature passes HB366, it will set a precedence for future allocative issues on a statewide basis and could include many other areas including, but not limited to, fisheries. It is appalling to us that the Legislature would even think to enter into Board matters and put fisheries resources into the political arena. Fisheries resources needs to be in a scientific, not a political, decision-making process and include public participation. UFA feels that political intervention could have a devastating affect on Alaska's fisheries regulated by law. We have an agency (ADF&G) to handle fish and game resource matters. The Board of Fish covers one-third of the state on fishery matters and regulations in 60 days. You have 120 days and could be opening a legislative nightmare with a flood of fishing issues from all over the state.

We are also very concerned about the long-term affects of the health of the fisheries resources for all user groups on a statewide basis.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Longline Fisherman's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Area K Seiners Association
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association • Bristol Ba, Driftnetters Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Peninsula Marketing Association
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Seafood Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association

The Honorable William K. Williams
January 18, 1994
Page Two

UFA urges you to look at this matter very closely. Do you feel enough research has been done or that you have enough information on the possible depletion of the state's fisheries resources and habitat? Can you even imagine what it would be like if Alaska didn't have this resource? Don't take things for granted. Look at fisheries in the Lower 48, look at the mess they are in. Give this issue your full consideration for better fisheries in the entire state of Alaska.

We urge you to defeat HB366, a bill that could devastate fisheries resources in the state of Alaska, and stick with the public process set up under the Alaska Constitution.

Sincerely,


Jerry McCune
President



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 112
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907/586-2820
Fax: 907/463-2545

February 7, 1994

The Honorable Bill Williams
Chairman, House Resources Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
The Capitol Building, Room 128
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

As you already know, United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is in opposition to SB 241 and HB 366.

Holding hearings on these bills will take valuable time away from other important legislative issues, as well as undermine the Board of Fisheries process. A hearing in the House Resources Committee will involve a review of the Cook Inlet Management Plan, teleconferences, and days of sorting out the issue.


The burden of maintaining and allocating our fisheries resources falls on the Board of Fisheries and a public review process. The Board of Fisheries is the recognized board for fish matters and we believe involvement by the Legislature would set a dangerous precedent.

Although there are many times we are dissatisfied about decisions made by the Board of Fisheries, we feel the State has an excellent public process and it should continue to use this process which has proven records of success. UFA does not feel it is necessary to fix something that is not broken, especially when it is working!

Alaska's fish and game resources cannot supply all of the desires of all user groups all the time.

We need to all work together to maintain fishing habitat and provide for healthy salmon runs for all users in Alaska.

Sincerely,


Jerry McCune
President

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Longline Fisherman's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Area K Seiners Association
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association • Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
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Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Seafood Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association

February, 15 1994

Bill Williams
Capital Room #128
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

I am writing this letter to express my strong objection to house bill #366. I am a Cook Inlet drift fisherman and support my wife and children from fishing. The proposed bills allocating 15% of salmon for sports fisherman would put too much pressure on the already overstressed Kenai river system.

The board of fisheries has done a good job in managing the Cook Inlet salmon despite intense political pressure, and should be allowed to continue its duties based on biological facts. To shift management to the legislature would eliminate public participation. Once exposed to the facts even the members of the board of fisheries who represent sports fisherman realize the need for sound biological management decision.

I live in the sterling area and I am very familiar with the Kenai River system, Having seen first hand the destruction of the river banks and the habitat which is so vital to the salmon increasing the sport harvest to the proposed levels would be detrimental to the system.

I strongly urge you to get all the facts on this issue and make the right choice by opposing this bill. If you have any questions or comments I would enjoy hearing from you very much.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Ryzin
P.O. BOX 315
STERLING AK 99672

Bill Williams,

2/14/94

I AM WRITING TO OPPOSE SENATE BILL 241 AND HOUSE BILL 366.

I AM A PROPERTY OWNER ON THE KENAI RIVER AND I LIVE HERE YEAR AROUND. MY PROPERTY LIES SIX AND ONE HALF MILES UP RIVER FROM THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER.

I SEE SPORTS FISHERMEN WAIST FISH EVERY YEAR. ESPECIALLY KILLING THE FISH AND THROWING THEM BACK IN THE RIVER.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE NEVER HAD A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN STAND IN MY YARD AND SWEAR AT ME, I HAVE NEVER HAD A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN DUMP GARBAGE IN MY YARD. I HAVE NEVER HAD A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN STEAL THINGS FROM MY YARD. AND I HAVE NEVER HAD TO CALL THE POLICE ON A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN. BUT I HAVE HAD THESE THINGS HAPPEN TO ME REPEATEDLY BY SPORTS FISHERMAN.

I FEEL THAT IF THE SPORTS FISHERMEN WANT TO HAVE MORE FISH, THEY SHOULD STOP STOMPING THROUGH THE SPAWNING BEDS WHEN THEY ARE FISHING.

SPORTS FISHING IS JUST WHAT THE NAME IMPLIES, IT IS A SPORT. WITH COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN IT IS A LIVELY HOOD. THE KENAI AREA IS HAVING A HARD TIME FINANCIALLY NOW BECAUSE THE COMMERCIAL FISHING HAS BEEN POOR THE LAST FEW YEARS.

PLEASE STOP THESE BILLS. OUR COMMUNITIES CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN PUTTING THEIR MONEY BACK INTO IT.

Delora Garcia

P.O. BOX 203
KENAI, ALASKA
99611-0203

Cosmo Mercurio
SR2 Box 550
Kasilof, Alaska 99610
(907) 262-9888

February 23, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

I strongly oppose SB 241 and HB 366 and I am writing to urge you to work to see that they are put to rest.

As a single parent of a teenager, I have commercially fished the waters of Cook Inlet since 1972 and so, have personally witnessed the results of the highly successful management policies here. From the dismal returns of salmon following the removal of fishtraps to the current high volumes of fish returning annually, the basic concept of maximum sustained yield that is the guideline of contemporary Fish and Game management, does work! In other words, the present management policy that uses biological data to work towards maximum salmon runs is very successful!

The harvest of sockeye salmon is my livelihood as it was my father-in-law's and hopefully will be my son's as he has fished with me since he was two years old (he's seventeen now).

During the summer of 1989, thanks to the Exxon Valdez, I had the unique-to-me opportunity of getting to witness the sport fishery in action on the Kenai River. That year saw the best sport fishing harvest of sockeye ever, with over 277,000 caught. I hope that you are aware of the incredible activity and congestion there. The severe overcrowding that I witnessed along with the trampling of the river's banks makes me realize just how badly the quality of the chinook's spawning environment is becoming. Anyways, to add insult to injury, with all that sport fishing activity, including day and night dipnetting, the season ended with mind boggling overescapement of sockeye salmon into the lake! SB 241 and HB 366 are currently asking for twice the harvest of '89 in a comparable year's run! Please don't allow the future sockeye run to suffer the perils of 1989 . . . we depend on those fish!

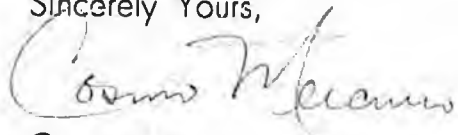
If one were to believe everything that has been printed by the sport fishing industry, they would believe that commercial fishermen are allocated "95% of Cook Inlet sockeye"! The fact is there is no allocation of the sockeye run here. It is a multiuse fishery and it has been managed very well. The numbers support the present management philosophy. The numbers also support the fact that sport fishing the river is not enough to prevent overescapement.

It seems ludicrous to me that some would assume that the legislature would be a better body to ensure the healthiest runs of our salmon. Is there to be extra funding for extended legislative sessions to deal with fish matters? The Board of Fisheries currently meets for upwards of 120 days per year. It seems unlikely to me that a better job would be done by deciding fish matters in the legislature.

One other thing I would like to address is that it is my belief that the loudest voices pushing these two bills are the voices that stand the most to gain monetarily. Those people who are commercial sport fishing guides themselves or who have friends who are guides seem to be at the front of the campaign to get these bills through the legislature. There can be no other explanation as the aesthetic experience of catching a salmon is certainly not to be enhanced by such measures! Only those that can profiteer by squeezing more clients into an already crowded river will gain.

Please see to it that our sockeye resource is protected, not placed in peril by some sort of mandated allocation system.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cosmo Mercurio". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cosmo Mercurio

Vincent P. Arbucci
P.O. Box 821
Kasilof, Alaska 99610
(907) 262-6348

February 23, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams,

I am a 25 year Alaska resident who lives on the Kasilof River. My two daughters and I commercial fish in upper Cook Inlet and my youngest daughter (6 years old) will start soon.

I'm not very politically minded. It's only my deep concern about this 15% sport fishing allocation and my strong desire to keep my partial living and lifestyle that makes me write this letter.

We catch most of our fish in 3 to 4 weeks. How many sport fishermen do you think it would take on the banks of the Kenai River to get their 15% allocation? How much damage will be done to the river's edge? We have a problem with overescapement now. Is it necessary to add more to it? These legislators who are promoting SB 241 and HB 366, what are they really trying to accomplish besides gaining more votes? Have they researched the effect these bills will have on the Kenai system? The effect on a lot of good people who are trying to make a living on the upper Cook Inlet fishery. I'm talking about fishermen to cannery workers.

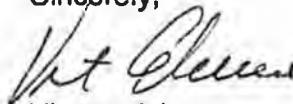
I've never been foreclosed on or gone bankrupt and I will try my best to keep this good record but do you have any idea how hard it will be to make my state payment (\$10,000) in the next few years with the low return forecast? If you pass these bills, you will most likely condemn my future in Cook Inlet and small family business.

I wonder how much is left of the ideals and principles this great State was built on. We seem to have lost some truly basic values that have to do with backbone. Self-centeredness and greed seem to be the rule of the day. I'm not claiming purity, fishermen seem to have their share, but where do we draw the line? Or maybe there is no line anymore.

Just the act of trying to put politicians on top of the Board of Fisheries is beyond my reasoning. Do these legislators know so much about the fishery that they should control it?

I'm the last guy in the world to try to tell people how to act. It's a full time job just trying to support my family. I do know that most legislators have a strong sense of responsibility in their profession. I'm only asking **THAT YOU PLEASE BE VERY RESPONSIBLE WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING DECISIONS ON WHO SHOULD SURVIVE AND SHOULD BE ELIMINATED.**

Sincerely,



Vincent Arbucci

*Roman J. Motyka
835 Dixon Street
Juneau, AK 99801*

(907) 586-1291

February 23, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
Chairman, House Resources Committee
The Capitol Building, Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Williams:

I want to register my opposition to SB 241/HB 366, the so-called red salmon allocation bill.

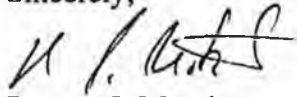
First, legislative intervention in fish or game allocation issues is just bad public policy. Such intervention will undermine the authority of the Boards of Fish and of Game and it will highly politicize sensitive resource issues.

Second, the legislature does not have the time nor biological expertise to address these complex issues. Do you really want the legislature to tackle the 500 or so resource issues that annually come before these boards? Well, that's what you are asking for if you pass this bill.

Third, this particular bill, if passed, would increase sports fishing in areas that are already overused. These areas are already suffering from habitat degradation. Increasing the sports allocation could increase habitat loss.

For the record, I have been a resident of Alaska for 21 years. I am a sports fisherman, hunter, charter boat operator, and a commercial troller.

Sincerely,



Roman J. Motyka

Export Limits on Sport Fisheries (CSSB 153)

We understand that the House Resources Committee may be considering an amendment to this bill which would permit the Board of Fisheries to authorize limits on the amount of fish taken out of state by non resident sport anglers. The Caucus opposes proposals to establish limits on the number of fish which a sport angler may export out of Alaska. We believe that such actions would adversely affect our tourism economy.

Cook Inlet Salmon Allocations (SB 241 and HB 366)

These bills would allocate 15% of Cook Inlet sockeye to the Sport Fishery. The Caucus recognizes and respects the authority of the Alaska Board of Fisheries to manage the fishery resources of the State of Alaska. Allocation decisions by the Board should continue to be based upon scientific and biological evidence which results in the sustained yield of the resource. The Caucus opposes any municipal or legislative action which would interfere with the Board of Fisheries' allocation process.

An act of our Board of Directors must have two weeks written notice and be approved by at least 75% of the Directors present at a meeting. The intent of this bylaw requirement is to assure that any action taken by the Caucus will represent a substantial consensus of opinion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

If you have questions about our positions on these topics or desire personal testimony pertaining to our views, please don't hesitate to call me at 262-9107.

Sincerely,



Ken Lancaster
President

cc: Governor Walter J. Hickel

January 31, 1994

To Senators: Mike Williams and Loren Leman
Chairman and Vice-Chairman Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

To Rep. Bill Williams and Bill Hudson
Chairman and Vice-Chairman House Resources Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Regarding: House Bill 366/Senate Bill 241, Acts relating to the
management of Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

Dear Legislators:

My name is Chuck Robinson. I have been a resident of Alaska for 20 years. I live in Ridgeway, Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula. I have been a commercial set net fishermen for the past 17 years. I'm also a lawyer who has practiced in Alaska since 1973. My wife and I, along with our children and grandchildren fish for salmon in the waters of Cook Inlet each year. The fishery is not only a source of income, mainly for our children and grandchildren, it also is truly an Alaska lifestyle and tradition, dating back more than a century.

My purpose for writing you is to express my strong opposition to the passage of House Bill 366 and Senate Bill 241, or any other amended versions. This legislation concerns the allocation of Cook inlet sockeye salmon stocks between recreational and commercial uses. This legislation if passed will spell the end of commercial and recreational salmon fishing in Cook Inlet and have a devastating impact on the whole economy of one of the Alaska's most valuable regions. Further, the legislature is not the place to make this kind of law.

This legislation has been proposed and sponsored by a surprising number of legislators, many of whom I'm sure would probably not support these bills if they knew the "rest" of the story. There is no overwhelming public support for this kind of legislation. If passed it would only serve to make matters worst, not better or fairer.

There is a segment of the public that has written to the legislators urging the passage of this legislation. The Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus (CISC), has written to each of you as the "court of last resort", pleading for more fish to catch and kill in the Cook Inlet sport fisheries. This group

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Ken Lancaster
President

cc: Governor Walter J. Hickel

KENAI PENINSULA CAUCUS
AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
177 North Birch Street, Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone: 262-9177

Board of Directors

Municipal Governments

Don Gilman, Kenai Peninsula Borough
Betty Glick, Kenai Peninsula Borough
Ken Lancaster, City of Soldotna
Michael O'Link, Kachemak City
Ivan Widom, City of Seldovia
Dave Crane, City of Seward
John Williams, City of Kenai

Chambers of Commerce

Rick Conover, Anchor Point
Gloria Wisecarver, Funny River
Todd Greimann, Homer
Vicki Steik, Ninilchik
Jack Brown, North Peninsula
Darlene Crawford, Seldovia
Elaine Nelson, Seward
John Torgerson, Soldotna

February 22, 1994

Members of the Alaska Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Positions on Topics Currently Under Consideration by the Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Kenai Peninsula Caucus is an organization of Municipal Governments and Chambers of Commerce of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. An objective of the Caucus is to secure legislation which will be beneficial to inhabitants of the Kenai Peninsula. We oppose legislation which would be injurious to the physical, social or economic well being of the Kenai.

At a recent meeting, our Board of Directors took the following positions on topics currently pending before the Legislature. We would appreciate your consideration of our views as you consider these matters.

Long Range State Financial Plans (aka "Cremo Plan")

We petition the legislature to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot for the next general election which would generally: dedicate the state's future natural resource revenues to the Alaska Permanent Fund; transfer assets of various state reserve funds to the Permanent Fund; and, enable a percentage of the market value of the Permanent Fund to be withdrawn and appropriated by the legislature for financing state government.

January 31, 1994

To Senators: Mike Williams and Loren Leman
Chairman and Vice-Chairman Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

To Rep. Bill Williams and Bill Hudson
Chairman and Vice-Chairman House Resources Committee
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Regarding: House Bill 366/Senate Bill 241, Acts relating to the
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Dear Legislators:

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This legislation has been proposed and sponsored by a surprising number of legislators, many of whom I'm sure would probably not support these bills if they knew the "rest" of the story. There is no overwhelming public support for this kind of legislation. If passed it would only serve to make matters worst, not better or fairer.

There is a segment of the public that has written to the legislators urging the passage of this legislation. The Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus (CISC), has written to each of you as the "court of last resort", pleading for more fish to catch and kill in the Cook Inlet sport fisheries. This group

which purports to represent the public is nothing more than a bunch of wealthy good "ole" boys who have more than enough time on their hands, most of which is spent fishing or making oodles of money from sport fishing. Many of them, like Bob Penny, are land speculators and developers hungry for a "killing" on the Kenai.

Probably many of you legislators wish they had the time to travel all over the world, or just here in Alaska, fishing in all the water holes you desire. But probably you are like most people, tied to jobs and supporting your families, with little or no time left over for the leisurely things in life. You probably don't have an abundance of time to go sportfishing. Only the very wealthy, like CISC members, have the time to go fishing when and wherever they please, even if it means taking from others in their path and destroying fish resources and habitat. CISC does not represent your average sportfisher. The average sport fisher doesn't have the time, like CISC members, to pursue fishing all over the world, having fun and flaunting wealth and power along the way.

The urgency claimed for the passage of these bills is that in order to provide the Cook Inlet sport fishery with a "fair" share of sockeyes there is a need to bypass the Board Fisheries administrative policy which allocates fish between public trusts uses. Rep. Eldon Mulder, one of the sponsors of HB 366, admits that his bill is a direct override of Board of Fisheries' policy. This reasoning is not only faulty, but the motive behind the legislation is selfish and shortsighted.

Alaska's Constitution requires the Alaska legislature to provide for the conservation, development and use of the state's natural resources for the maximum benefit of its people. The fish resources, which are common use in nature, have to be conserved and developed in trust for Alaska's people on the maximum sustained yield principle to meet the maximum benefit requirement. Commercial and sport fishing are both common uses of fish. Thus, a commercial fisherman, contrary to some beliefs, is a member of the public who has an individual right to fish for fish resources in common with others. Since fish resources are the common resource of each individual resident held in trust by the state for each person's maximum benefit, a person's access to these resources is, according to Alaska's Supreme Court, a "highly important" right which must be protected from government abuse.

In carrying out its constitutional duty the legislature created the Board of Fisheries and charged it with the public trust responsibility of managing the state's fish resources for conservation and development purposes. There was good reason for giving this task to the Board. To avoid the passage of laws regarding use and disposal of fish resources being heavily based on factors of political affiliation and geography the arena for the passage of such laws, particularly those regulating allocation of fish must be free of political and geographic influence and impartial. Given the nature of the trusts responsibility attached to common use

3 Opposition to HB 366 and SB 241

resources the Board was set up to manage fish free of political affiliation and geographic influence and to make impartial and fair decisions in the interest of conserving fish and making it available for use. The legislature is ill equipped to perform this function free of geo-politics and partiality. When it comes to promulgating and passing laws allocating fish among sports and commercial fishing the Board, not the legislature, should be the "court of last resort". It is better equipped than the legislature to make fair, non-political and impartial allocation decisions.

The Board of Fisheries is made up of residents whose appointments must by statute be made without regard to political affiliation and geographic consideration. By statute their decisions must be the result of impartial and fair deliberation. Since fish resources are common use resources to be utilized for the maximum benefit of all of the state's people, government's management of these resources must be done in a careful, prudent and fair manner free of politics and geographical pressure and influence. Otherwise "might", rather than "right" would be the order of the day in the management of valuable state resources. The resources would be doled out for public use under the "Golden Rule": "He that has the gold makes the rules". The people pushing for passage of these bills have the gold and anxiously want to make the rules. This cannot be accommodated. Fairness and reason must instead prevail.

Since the time when the common people wrestled from the King of England his claimed exclusive ownership of wild creatures, fish cannot be disposed of for use on the might makes right rule. Royalty and wealth no longer have the power to decide who shall participate in the bounties of fish and the fruits of one's labor in catching them. The allocation of fish resources cannot be handled in a political forum like the legislature where politics and geography play such an overwhelming role in conducting government business and where the wealthy and powerful can buy and trade votes. If this ever happened the legislature could not fulfill its constitutional obligation of providing for the management of these trust resources free of political and geographic influences, based on impartial decisionmaking.

The Board has become the expert in carrying out this task in a fair and reasonable manner. It must remain that way. For 35 years the Board has developed expertise for the micro-management of the state's fish resources on a myriad of subjects ranging from establishing open seasons and closing them to stock escapements and allocations. The Board, along with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), which is charged by statute with management of the state's fish resources for the economic interest and general well being of the people of the state, has managed to do a fairly good job in managing the state's fish stocks. That's not to say that it has always adopted or failed to adopt regulations to the pleasure of every segment of the public. It has even made mistakes that have had to be

4 Opposition to HB 366 and SB 241

corrected with court action. Nonetheless, fish management decisions concerning the allocation of fish stocks should be the province of the Board, not the legislature.

The Board considers hundreds of proposals each year that seek to have the fisheries managed one way or another. It wouldn't be prudent or wise to grant every wish of sports or commercial fishers who have suggested laws governing the use and disposal of fish stocks. Many of these proposals, if adopted, would be disastrous to the health of the resource and others are purely selfish in nature. Therefore, the Board must reject many unfounded and unreasonable proposed regulations, including the 15% sport fish allocation scheme.

The subject of the proposed legislation is motivated not out of the claimed frustration with the Board process, but rather by a selfish and greedy attitude that stems from never being satisfied. The appetite of people like CISC members is an insatiable one. No matter how much they have they always want more. It's the classic "gimme" attitude. The sponsors and supporters of these bills claim that what the bills seek to do is to establish a modest increase in the Cook Inlet sportfish allocation of sockeye salmon. It is claimed that at least 15% would be a fair share. This claim is misleading and camouflaged to cover up its true motive. Namely, more fish for the wealthy few.

The concept embodied in the legislation proposed in HB 366 and SB 241 to allocate for "exclusive" sport use at least 15% of all Cook Inlet sockeye salmon, to be taken out of the commercial drift and eastside set net fisheries, was first proposed by the good ole boy well to do's and rejected by the Board for several reasons. This kind of regulation would violate Board allocation policy which has been in place for 15 years. This policy was adopted only after many hearings, much debate, and many considerations, resulting in substantial loss of commercial fishing time on early and late run Cook Inlet salmon stocks. The current policy is that: 1) all salmon, including sockeyes, which are present in Upper Cook Inlet prior to July 1 and those that are present and spawn in Kenai Peninsula drainages after August 15 of each and every year are set aside primarily for sport use; and 2) sockeye, chum and pink salmon which are present in Upper Cook Inlet between July 1 and August 15 are primarily for commercial use.

The reasoning behind this policy is that since the development of salmon sport fishing interest in Cook Inlet in the 1970's the sport fishery has been traditionally more directed at king, silver and early run sockeye salmon than any other stocks and because commercial fishing in the area is and has been for over a century dependent upon the late run sockeye, chum and pink salmon runs the fish stocks were divided by time for primary use based upon the customary and traditional salmon uses of the two fisheries.

The early run sockeye salmon and early run Kenai and Susitna kings are present in Cook Inlet before July 1 each year and are set aside for primary sport use. . The late run sockeyes, chums, pinks present between July 1 and August 15 are primarily for commercial use. After August 15 Cook Inlet late run silvers, chums and pinks present in Upper Cook Inlet are made available primarily for sport use. All of the Cook Inlet salmon runs, no matter when they are present, are intertwined and mixed in together with each other. This complicates the management of these stocks for their intended use.

It order to provide for an ever expanding and unlimited sport fishery and its increasing catches millions of salmon are by Board regulation set aside for primary sport use before July 1. Millions more, including sockeyes set aside primarily for commercial use, are available for secondary sport use during the period of July 1 and August 15. For example, in addition to having late run Cook Inlet sockeye available for sportfishing in both salt and fresh water, the early Russian River sockeye fishery on the Kenai, one of the largest sockeye fisheries in the world, is managed virtually exclusively for sport fish use. The same is true of early run Kenai, Kasilof and Susitna king salmon. No commercial harvests is allowed to be directed on these sockeyes and kings.

In fact, the eastside set net fishery, which the bills seek to take sockeyes away from, doesn't even open until after July 1 and closes August 15. After August 15 the salmon spawning in Kenai Peninsula drainages are by regulation to be used primarily for sportfishing purposes. The sport fish season for sockeye salmon in Cook Inlet begins in May and closes in December. The set net season begins July 1 and ends August 15. The set net salmon fishermen only have about 24 days in a 6 week season to harvest fish for a living, while sport fishers have nearly 5 months to catch fish for fun. The drift fleet too only fishes from June 25 to basically August 15. The drift fisher's season is also extremely short. Prior to the adoption of the Board's allocation policy the commercial salmon fishing season in Cook Inlet began in May or June and ended in December. Prior to the Board's policy there were no priorities established between sport and commercial uses of these fish. Since the adoption of the policy many salmon stocks in Cook Inlet have become almost the exclusive resource of sport fishers. Believe you me that there is no lack of fish available for the Cook Inlet salmon sport fishery.

The sport fishery can't catch the allocation already allotted to it. Between 1987 and 1993 early Russian River sockeyes have escaped into the river for most of those years in huge numbers. Because of these large escapements ADF&G has had to issue many emergency orders opening sport fishing in order to catch the extra fish above escapement needs. The Kenai River late sockeye salmon runs have over-escaped 5 times in this period. In 1988 nearly a million more sockeye escaped into the river than is needed under Board of Fisheries escapement regulation. The latest being 1993 when over 600,000 more sockeye escaped above the regulatory

minimum escapement goal. In 1991 so many fish escaped into Hidden Lake on the Kenai River system that ADF&G opened the stream leading to the lake for dip netting at 6 fish a person to alleviate the excess. Despite these efforts to catch more sockeye salmon the fish still over-escaped.

The inriver sport fishery and dip net fishery couldn't then, and it is extremely doubtful if they could at any time, catch enough sockeye salmon to bring the escapement down to a safe level for the future survival of the stocks and its maximum sustained yield. There is no correlation between the numbers of fish caught in the commercial fishery and those caught in the sport fishery. The sport fishery has a hard enough time catching those sockeyes that are available to it to catch, even when the commercial fishery catches millions. The over-escapement situation bears this out.

The Exxon Trustee Council, which is made up of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ADF&G, the Alaska Department of Law and other governmental agencies has determined, through careful scientific study and research, that the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon, by far the largest in Cook Inlet, has been severely damaged by over-escapement. Too many fish in the system has resulted in a severe shortages of food supply for the infant salmon that live in the river awaiting return to the ocean. This has caused dangerously low out migrations of sockeye salmon. Money from the Trustee Council has been appropriated to ADF&G for the restoration of the stock. It is predicted that for the upcoming seasons there will barely be enough sockeyes returning to meet regulatory escapement goals.

If the sport fishery can't catch what has already been made available to it to catch, what is the need to increase the number of fish available? Further increase will only result in more unutilized fish and contribute to the jeopardy of the resource, preventing it from being managed for its maximum sustained yield. What is very unfair is the allocation of more fish from a commercial fishery to a sports fishery that can't take care of its present share of fish. To triple the sports allocation at the expense of common use commercial fishers would be unreasonable and indeed unfair. This is particularly so when the amount of fish caught by commercial fishers is not related to the ability of sport fishers to catch fish and commercial fishing has not prevented sport fishers from catching sockeye.

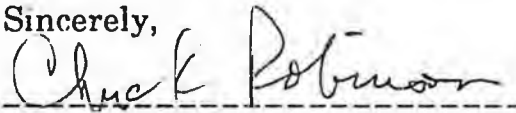
Lastly, the commercial fishery has not in any way impeded the growth of tourism in the state or on the Kenai Peninsula. The tourist industry has continued to grow at a phenomenal rate despite the continuing harvest of millions of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon by commercial fishers. Wouldn't you expect tourism on the Kenai to decline substantially if the commercial fishery was really causing a decline in adequate catches of salmon in the sport fishery. However, there is no link here because since the last 10 years tourism has continued to grow and increase, depositing its enormous economic benefits along the way, even though the commercial fishers have been harvesting lots of sockeyes.

7 Opposition to HB 366 and SB 241

The only true motive behind HB 366 and SB 241 is greed on the part of a very few who claim to represent the many. These bills must be defeated. To do otherwise would place the Cook Inlet sockeye and those who depend on them the most at grave risk of extinction for the sake of the gold owners who want to make the rules only for themselves. These selfish and shortsighted people only wish to satisfy their immediate and insatiable appetite for pleasure at the expense of hardworking Alaskans, who have toiled in the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery for generations in order to make their own way in this great state of ours. These industrious residents live all over the State and the Cook Inlet region, from the Kenai to Anchorage, Kodiak to Palmer, Fairbanks and Juneau. Their work provides income not only to themselves, but for other Alaska workers in the region's processing, transportation, wholesale, retail and tourist businesses. As a legislator please stay out of the fish allocation business. Your involvement will only make matters worse and do more harm than good to many Alaska residents.

The proposal in HB 366 and SB 241 violates Board policy concerning traditional use of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. The motive behind this legislation is selfish and shortsighted. If adopted these bills would directly contribute to a waste of valuable resources and the loss of the viability of the valuable sockeye salmon stocks in Cook Inlet. Eventually, if the legislation is enacted, the very sportfishing people who have proposed and supported this shortsighted legislation will themselves not have sufficient and abundant sockeye salmon stocks available to fish for in Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,



Chuck Robinson



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

2932 C Street, Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 563-4AOC
FAX: (907) 561-0800

February 1, 1994

The Honorable Rick Halford
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

The Honorable Ramona Barnes
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear President Halford and Speaker Barnes:

The Alaska Outdoor Council cannot support SB 241 at this time, because it would set a precedent regarding the involvement of the Legislature in resource allocation, and by implication, in other elements of fish and game management.

However, we are very concerned with the apparent impasse regarding sockeye salmon allocation under the Kenai River sockeye management plan. It appears to us that an additional allocation is technically feasible, provided that adequate provisions are made to assure that incremental habitat damage associated with increased fishing does not occur.

In our view, habitat protection is the critical issue, although allocation is the more controversial right now.

We urge Commissioner Rosier to persuade the Board of Fisheries to make a special effort to address this issue prior to the 1994 fishing season. It seems to us that the situation warrants closer and timely attention by the Board.

Criteria listed in AS 16.05.251.14 (d) and (e) set strong guidelines regarding fish allocation, including "fair and reasonable opportunity", economics, personal and family consumption, past practices and recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.

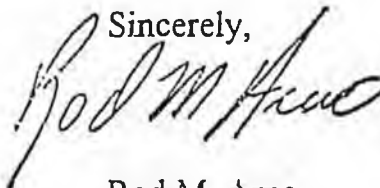
The controversy seems to center on how flexible the management plan is regarding allocation, particularly in response to large runs. Surely under such circumstances an additional sportfishing red salmon allocation is possible without threatening either the spawning escapement or the commercial fishing enterprise.

The Honorable Rick Halford
The Honorable Ramona Barnes
February 1, 1994
Page Two

Increased sportfishing opportunity/allocation could be triggered by a high run projection rather than a specific sonar count, for example. Or provision might be made for emergency opening of sportfishing for reds on all or parts of the Kenai River based on some combination of early indicators of a large run.

However, we re-emphasize that the concern for habitat impacts expressed by all those involved in the debate must be adequately addressed.

Sincerely,

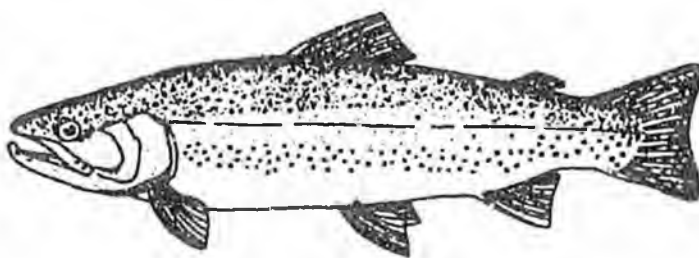
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod M. Arno". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rod M. Arno
President

RMA:RB:ltl

cc: Governor Hickel
Alaska State Legislature
Commissioner Rosier
Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc.
Alaska Sportfishing Association

**WHY
HB 366/SB 241
IS A BAD IDEA!**



HB 366 and SB 241 would mandate that 15% of the Cook Inlet sockeye salmon stocks taken in the commercial Cook Inlet central district fisheries be allocated exclusively for sport fishing in the Kenai, Susitna and other river systems draining into Cook Inlet.



SETS A TERRIBLE PRECEDENT

The Alaska Board of Fisheries was established to handle contentious fisheries conservation and allocation issues for which the legislature has no practical or professional expertise. Legislative interference is liable to create problems which they have neither the ability to foresee or technical expertise to resolve.



THREATENS KEY RIVER HABITAT

Habitat on the Kenai River is already severely damaged by recreational uses. HB 366/SB 241 mandates a large increase in this level of activity on a river that is already being "loved to death." Other rivers draining into Cook Inlet such as the Kasilof and Susitna could have similar problems under this legislation. Don't take a bad situation and make it worse!

"The river can't support all the use it is currently receiving."

— Mr. Phil Cutler, Pres. Alaska Sportfishing Association, 2/17/93 Letter to Gov. Hickel



IT'S NOT MANAGEABLE

Currently, all the in-river fisheries on the Kenai have not been able to prevent the damaging overescapement (too many fish) of sockeye into the river. ADFG has testified that overescapement is a major factor contributing to the decline of sockeye salmon.



UNDERMINES PUBLIC TRUST

The Board of Fisheries is an open and fair process established under law whose decisions are based on science and biology and held accountable by the courts. The concept of HB 366/ SB 241 has been before the Board and failed on the merits. While people may not always agree with the Board's decisions, most agree the process is fair and has worked well over the past thirty years. By allowing the Legislature to intercede, HB366/SB241 guts the public trust vested in the Board process.

PLEASE OPPOSE HB 366/SB 241!

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

January 21, 1994

The Honorable Mike Miller
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 423
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Miller:

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to legislation introduced in both the House and Senate relating to the management of Cook Inlet stocks of salmon. These bills, Senate Bill No. 241 and House Bill No. 366, have been referred to the House and Senate Resources committees.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has technical, programmatic and budgetary concerns about the proposed legislation, and my department is developing a formal position paper which details our negative review of this proposed legislation. Because of the importance of this issue, however, I am writing to you directly regarding my major policy concern.

Alaska's legislature, in establishing the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries, wisely chose to insulate itself from the process of making fish and wildlife allocation decisions. The legislature looked at Alaska's territorial experience, as well as the experience of 48 states that preceded us and learned from the many examples of resource and social problems that accompany political management of renewable resources. Successive legislatures have for 35 years affirmed the wisdom of this approach. As pointed out in the position paper signed by the entire Kenai delegation, allocation of fish and wildlife resources is an extremely complicated and technical matter, involving public policy as well as specific scientific and biological considerations.

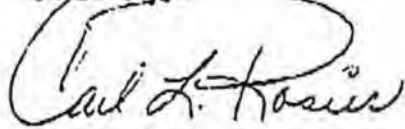
The issue currently before the legislature is the allocation of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. When the Board of Fisheries last considered this issue, many days of local advisory committee meetings led up to thirteen very long deliberative days by the Board on Cook Inlet salmon issues. Over 72 hours were spent specifically on this issue. This past year, the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries collectively met for more than one hundred days and considered over one thousand proposals.

Each regulatory proposal has people who support or oppose it and those not winning their issue would eagerly pursue additional opportunities to press their case in the legislature. Should the legislature decide to intervene in the allocation of Cook Inlet sockeye, and I sincerely hope they do not, I believe you can depend on a continuing stream of public demands to intervene in other allocation battles. If the legislature once starts down this road of management by statute, the resource will truly be at much higher level of risk.

We all recognize that the board process is not perfect and it is impossible to keep political considerations totally out of the board process. However, I believe that any careful study of the board and its history will demonstrate that politics is indeed a minor consideration in the decisions of the boards. During the 1980s two studies, one conducted by the legislative branch and one by the executive branch, concluded as much.

With its system of local advisory committees and the Boards of Fish and Game, Alaska has the most democratic system of fish and game allocation in the United States. I know that both the board members and the Department of Fish and Game are committed to working with the public to be responsive to their needs. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this issue in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carl L. Rosier".

Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

January 21, 1994

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Chair, House Resources Committee
House of Representative
State Capitol, Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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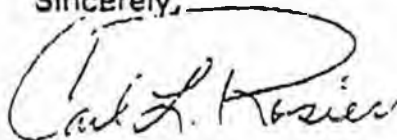
January 21, 1994

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl L. Rosier". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

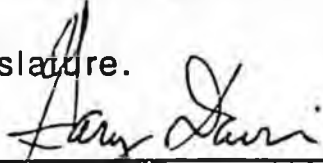
P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

POSITION PAPER ON HB366 AND SB 241

The Peninsula Legislative delegation believes that allocation of any fish or wildlife resources anywhere in the State of Alaska is an extremely technical matter, involving specific scientific and biological considerations.

The Board of Fish and the Board of Game were established to specifically determine the process for fair allocation of the State's fish and game resources. Members of the Boards and the staff assigned them have the legal authority and expertise to address the allocation issues brought before them.

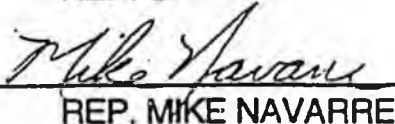
Because the legislature does not have the expertise and background on issues of allocation, the Legislators believe that any allocation request must properly go to the Boards of Fish or Game, and not directly to the legislature.



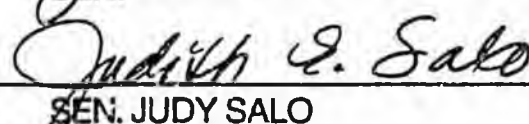
REP. GARY DAVIS



SEN. SUZANNE LITTLE



REP. MIKE NAVARRE



SEN. JUDY SALO



REP. GAIL PHILLIPS



Alaska Center for the Environment

519 West 8th Avenue, Suite 201 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 274-3621

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

January 17, 1994

Dear Alaska Legislator:

We are writing to express our concerns about SB 241 -- which would amend AS 16.05, Management of Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon, to allocate Kenai River sockeye by a percentage mandated by the legislature.

We have a concern with any legislation which would micro-manage fisheries decisions through mandated allocations. While we realize that there may be a need to reassess allocations between different fisheries, we believe serious problems may result by taking such decisions away from the Board of Fisheries. Such legislation may also prove to be a Pandora's box for the future, because many other interest groups will attempt end-runs to the legislature for both fish and game allocation decisions.

As you are undoubtedly aware, parts of the Kenai River are already experiencing serious bank-erosion problems as well as other environmental stresses. The economy of the Kenai Peninsula -- including tourism and both sports and commercial fishing -- is integrally linked with maintaining the biological integrity of its rivers. A comprehensive assessment of the impacts of this allocation measure on the Kenai River's habitat has not yet taken place.

Finally, it is our understanding that SB 241 is rapidly moving through the legislature with few committee assignments and little public scrutiny. We urge you to take the time to fully involve the general public as well as involved interest groups before proceeding.

Why the rush?

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Harun". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Harun
Executive Director
Alaska Center for the Environment

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, IRA
P.O. BOX 988 KENAI, ALASKA 99611
TELEPHONE (907)283-3633 FAX (907)283-3052

RESOLUTION 94-01

A RESOLUTION IN PROTEST OF SENATE BILL 241

WHEREAS, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA is a federally recognized Tribal Government reorganized under the statutes of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, as amended for Alaska in 1936, and in accordance with the preamble to the Tribal Constitution, "is responsible for the social welfare of its Tribal members and 1,741 Alaska Native residents of the Central and Upper Southern Kenai Peninsula of Southcentral Alaska", and,

WHEREAS, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA has established long range goals which relate to the collective and individual, social and economic concerns of its service population base, and,

WHEREAS, the very life of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA -- socially, traditionally, culturally and economically will be devastated if "allocation by legislation" becomes a reality, thus mandating that all fish and game issues be brought before future Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, SB 241 clearly demonstrates NO concern for the future habitat/resource, and ignores the fact that the Board of Fisheries process is designed to take all biological information into consideration, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA at its regular meeting of January 17, 1994, by a vote of Unanimous Consent, categorically opposes SB 241 and strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to support the Board of Fisheries policy which continues to manage the Kenai River system on a biological, sustained yield basis.

CERTIFICATION

VOTING FOR:	7
VOTING AGAINST:	0
ABSTAINING:	0
ABSENT:	0

Clare Swan
CLARE SWAN, CHAIRPERSON
KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, IRA

Eli Darien
ELI DARIEN, SECRETARY
KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, IRA

January 17, 1994
DATE



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 112
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907/586-2820
Fax: 907/463-2545

January 18, 1994

This letter has been sent to
all members of the House of Representatives.

The Honorable Ramona L. Barnes
Alaska State House of Representatives
The Capitol Building, Room 208
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Speaker Barnes:

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) opposes HB366 in regards to the management of Cook Inlet stocks of salmon. UFA is aware that there are some legislators in favor of this bill and that it is on a "fast track." It is our hope that all legislators will consider all sides of the issue prior to making a decision and casting their vote.

United Fishermen of Alaska normally does not intercede in allocative issues. However, we do not believe that this is just a regional allocative issue. UFA feels if this bill passes, it will just be the beginning of political intervention on a statewide basis into fisheries regulatory matters and would set a precedent to manage fisheries politically rather than scientifically.

The Board of Fish was created by the Legislature for the purposes of conserving and developing fisheries resources in the state of Alaska. Again, it is a major concern of UFA that if the Legislature passes HB366, it will set a precedence for future allocative issues on a statewide basis and could include many other areas including, but not limited to, fisheries. It is appalling to us that the Legislature would even think to enter into Board matters and put fisheries resources into the political arena. Fisheries resources needs to be in a scientific, not a political, decision-making process and include public participation. UFA feels that political intervention could have a devastating affect on Alaska's fisheries regulated by law. We have an agency (ADF&G) to handle fish and game resource matters. The Board of Fish covers one-third of the state on fishery matters and regulations in 60 days. You have 120 days and could be opening a legislative nightmare with a flood of fishing issues from all over the state.

We are also very concerned about the long-term affects of the health of the fisheries resources for all user groups on a statewide basis.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Longline Fisherman's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Area K Selners Association
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association • Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Peninsula Marketing Association
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Seafood Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Selners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association

The Honorable Ramona L. Barnes
January 18, 1994
Page Two

UFA urges you to look at this matter very closely. Do you feel enough research has been done or that you have enough information on the possible depletion of the state's fisheries resources and habitat? Can you even imagine what it would be like if Alaska didn't have this resource? Don't take things for granted. Look at fisheries in the Lower 48, look at the mess they are in. Give this issue your full consideration for better fisheries in the entire state of Alaska.

We urge you to defeat this bill, a bill that could devastate fisheries resources in the state of Alaska, and stick with the public process set up under the Alaska Constitution.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 112
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907/586-2820
Fax: 907/463-2545

January 18, 1994

RECEIVED JAN 19 1994

The Honorable Mike Miller
Alaska State Senate
The Capitol Building, Room 423
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Miller:

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) opposes SB 241 in regards to the management of Cook Inlet stocks of salmon. UFA is aware that there are some legislators in favor of this bill and that it is on a "fast track." It is our hope that all legislators will consider all sides of the issue prior to making a decision and casting their vote.

United Fishermen of Alaska normally does not intercede in allocative issues. However, we do not believe that this is just a regional allocative issue. UFA feels if this bill passes, it will just be the beginning of political intervention on a statewide basis into fisheries regulatory matters and would set a precedent to manage fisheries politically rather than scientifically.

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The Honorable Mike Miller
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We urge you to defeat SB 241, a bill that could devastate fisheries resources in the state of Alaska, and stick with the public process set up under the Alaska Constitution.

Sincerely,


Jerry McCune
Resident

JUNEAU EMPIRE

JEFFREY A. WILSON
Publisher

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Production Manager

FRED HOWARD
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Advertising Manager

PAT SMITH
Office Manager

JUNEAU EMPIRE, THURSDAY JANUARY 20, 1994

Let the pros do their jobs

Wildlife issues not for Legislature

When it comes to managing Alaska's vast fish and wildlife resources, we'll leave it to the trained biologists, scientists and other professionals on the state payroll.

Legislators should butt out, at least when it comes to allocation and management issues. Few of them are experts on fish and game matters, except to know that the right political position at the right time can reap lots of votes.

Which is probably why there's so much interest by legislators in wildlife issues – and exactly why such important matters should be handled instead by the experts.

It's also why we have a Board of Fisheries, a Board of Game and a state Department of Fish and Game. It's why the state hires biologists, researchers, scientists, fish and wildlife enforcement officers and other well-trained experts.

Yet lawmakers recently have meddled in several complex and controversial wildlife and fisheries matters:

- Attempts by the Game Board last year to allow the first-ever elk hunting season in Southeast Alaska were met by rancor and threats from a lawmaker promoting elk transplant bills. The proposed hunting season – suggested because of fears that already transplanted elk were hurting native deer populations – was stopped. But the elk transplant legislation is still pending – even though the Game Board and the Department of Fish and Game oppose it.

- This year, legislators say they want to tinker with the allocation of red salmon in Cook Inlet. They hope to take away some salmon from commercial fishers and give them instead to sport anglers. It's considered unusual that the Legislature wants to tackle a fisheries allocation issue, but legislation to rearrange the Cook Inlet catch has been promised. It goes against quotas already set by the Board of Fisheries.

- A measure to allow moose ranching in Alaska is also still alive in the Legislature, even though state biologists oppose the idea. They say the risk of disease spreading to native moose populations outweighs the financial aspirations of would-be moose ranchers. Nevertheless, action by the Legislature is still very possible. The bill passed the Senate last year and is now under review in the House.

Look, it's understandable that some legislators want to get involved in fish and wildlife issues. After all, this is Alaska – land of big fish and bigger game.

But the role of lawmakers should be limited to confirming appointees to the boards of fisheries and game and the commissioner of Fish and Game, and major policy issues such as subsistence and salmon farming. Those are the times to address concerns about fisheries allocations or wildlife management.

Instead, there's an alarming willingness by some lawmakers to meddle in very specific fish and game issues. Often, they are working on behalf of special-interest groups that don't like the way the experts have divvied up catch quotas. At other times, they are pushing proposals that already have been turned down by state wildlife managers.

It's dangerous territory. Science, not politics, should steer management of Alaska's fish and game resources.

In addition, once lawmakers embroil themselves in such complex and often controversial matters, they'll have much less time to address the many other important issues facing Alaska.

C P E N I N S U L A CLARION

Vol. 24, Issue 71

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994 Soldotna/Kenai, Alaska

Fish allocation not Legislature's job

The fight over fish allocation that darkens just about every fishing season in Cook Inlet has now moved to the halls of the Capitol.

The proposal being pushed by some key Anchorage-area legislators would set the sport-fishing catch of sockeye salmon at 15 percent of the commercial red catch. Under the current policy, sport fishers catch about 5 percent.

The issue we're most concerned with — and the one that should concern other Alaskans — is not whether sport or commercial fishers should get more fish but whether it's the Legislature's job to get in the fish allocation business.

We've said it before and we don't mind repeating it: Fish management is no job for legislators. It's tough enough for the Board of Fish, which has been appointed to make those difficult decisions based on sound biological information.

It's interesting that in an election year a bunch of legislators want to make a lot of their sport-fishing constituents feel good by promising to get them more fish to catch on the Kenai River. (It should be noted that the allocation bill also applies to the Susitna and all other river systems draining into Cook Inlet.)

We can't help wonder if these legislators are just casting for votes, hoping to snag them with a popular issue. Consider the tactic, if someone were to ask almost anyone who sport fishes in the Cook Inlet area if they'd like to catch more reds, the answer, it's a safe bet, would be "yes."

But, ask the same people if they want the Legislature to be making fish allocation decisions, and we're sure "no" would be the overwhelming response.

The Legislature has enough important jobs to do — getting the budget under control should be No. 1 — without meddling in fish allocation.

In the event, however, the Legislature chooses to do what should be left to the Board of Fish, then it must also address what it's going to do about the added people pressure to the Kenai River and other Cook Inlet drainages.

How much more people pressure can the Kenai River take? Certainly, those legislators pushing for more reds for sport fishers know that such a change will mean more people coming to fish on a river where, on most fishing days, it's hard to imagine squeezing in even one more person with a rod and reel.

Most people realize people pressure is damaging the precious fish habitat which ultimately will mean disaster to the Cook Inlet fish runs if something isn't done to check it. Inviting more people to come and fish — as the proposal giving sport fishers a greater portion of the red catch will do — is not exactly taking care of the habitat.

Is the Legislature prepared to come up with some system to reduce the pressure on the Kenai while increasing the number of fish for sport fishers? Maybe it could consider a proposal where half the sport fishers can fish only on odd-numbered days and the other half on even-numbered days? Maybe only out-of-state people could fish on even-numbered days and Alaskans could fish on odd-numbered days? Maybe the Legislature wants to put what days people can fish on individual fishing permits? Maybe it could place more limitations on sport-fishing guides? Or restrict access to popular areas?

We can understand that promising sport fishers a bigger share of the red catch would be a popular thing for legislators to do, but fish allocation is best left to the Board of Fish. Forgive the pun, but the Legislature has other fish to fry.



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389

(907) 283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306

**KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE ALLOCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEMO #1**

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Legislator,

I'm writing to inform you of our strong opposition to Cook Inlet allocation legislation to amend AS 16.05, Management of Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon, being proposed by Representative Mulder which has been requested by Mr. Bob Penny and some heretofore unknown "organization" calling itself Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus (CISC).

Sockeye salmon harvests represent 90-95% of the income for the commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet. Therefore, when dealing with sockeye salmon allocation issues, United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) represents the 3,500 harvesters, 3,000 processing workers and all those who work in the many other industries that support ours. Our industry represents 40% of the work force in the Kenai Peninsula Borough during the fishing season. Furthermore, 79% of the commercial salmon permit holders in Cook Inlet are Alaskan residents - this is one of the highest residency rates for any of Alaska's major commercial fisheries.

Rep. Mulder and CISC propose to have the legislature enter into the realm of fish and game allocation which is properly reserved to the Boards of Fisheries and Game. Alaska's fish and game resources and local communities dependent on resources desired by others with more political clout or votes on any given day will not survive "management and allocation" by politics.

Consideration of this legislation will set a precedent for all controversial fish and game issues to come before the legislature. No one should be under the illusion that this is just

an isolated Cook Inlet allocation issue. Once the legislature enters into the realm of fisheries allocation between sport and commercial users in Cook Inlet the next step will be to take up sport/commercial disputes in all other areas of the state. Following that, the legislature will undoubtedly be asked to take up issues within commercial and sport user groups - e.g. bait vs. fly sportsfishermen, guided vs. non-guided sportsfishermen, and the obvious allocation issues within the commercial fishing community. It must also be noted that Game issues (wolves, caribou, etc.) will not be immune from this precedent.

Rep. Mulder's proposal presents all of the negative aspects of political allocation just noted:

- 1) The habitat destruction already acknowledged as being caused by the sockeye fishery from the river banks will be increased dramatically and on a permanent annual basis. It should be noted also that, ironically, the habitat and the fishery resources most at risk are the king and coho salmon which have made the Kenai River a truly renowned "sport fishery".
- 2) The current proposal requests an "allocation" far beyond the capacity of the "sport" fishery to harvest in the Kenai River during large returns. The dipnet solution to this little flaw in logic being proposed by Rep. Mulder would only dramatically increase boat traffic on a river that is universally acknowledged as being currently over utilized. Furthermore, crowding problems in the Kasilof and Susitna systems will likewise be compounded.
- 3) Further, the "sport" harvests mandated in the Susitna and Kasilof systems, in and of themselves, would assure major reductions or elimination of harvest opportunities for commercial fishermen in order to assure enough sockeye enter those systems. The commercial fishery in Cook Inlet would simply not remain a viable industry.

UCIDA is preparing an information packet to address the multitude of misrepresentations being presented by Mr. Penny and CISC. We will have representatives in Juneau soon to discuss this issue with you. In the meantime, we hope you will resist Representative Mulder's request for the

Legislative Memo #1

Page 3 of 3

legislature to open up the pandora's box of fish and game "allocation by legislation". Once opened, all fish and game issues statewide - even those within the sportfishing community - will be fair game and before future legislatures.

Please feel free to contact the UCIDA office for further information.

Sincerely,



Theo Matthews
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure: Homer News article, Some like spokane bill, others don't



HOMER NEWS

LUCIDA
P.O. BOX
KENAI

Homer, Alaska, Vol 21, No. 1

Thursday, January 6, 1984

Some like sockeye bill, others don't

by Doug Loshbaugh
Staff Writer

An Anchorage legislator says he expects 21 representatives and 11 senators to sign onto his bill to allocate 15 percent of the Cook Inlet red salmon catch to sport fishermen.

But Homer-area sport fishermen contacted by the Homer News expressed little support for the bill, which Rep. Eldon Mulder, R-Anch., said he'll file next week.

"I wouldn't even be in favor of it," said Meryl Wolford, an Anchor Point sport-fishing guide. "In my mind, reds aren't real sport fish."

He said sportsmen should focus efforts on kings and silvers.

"I'd give commercial fishermen every red salmon in the state of Alaska if they'd be a little more sympathetic on our kings and silvers," Wolford said.

Homer sport-fishing guide Frank Libal, vice president of the South Peninsula Sportsman's Association, doubted hook-and-line fishermen could even take 15 percent of a big Cook Inlet run.

"You can't do it in salt water," he said. "In fresh water, only a small percentage of fishermen are legitimately taking those fish. The rest are snagging. That's not sport fishing to me."

Homer commercial drift fisherman Bill Choate said allocating 15 percent to sport fishermen could ruin the commercial fleet.

"They're talking a price of 60 cents a pound next year. That's pushing an average season to \$10,000 or \$15,000. Fifteen percent would be a lot of people's insurance payments. How much blood can you squeeze

from a turnip?"

He said the more Anchorage grows, the more sacrifices its residents demand from commercial fishermen. Theo Matthews, administrative assistant for the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, said commercial fishermen have already given up the early reds and kings and face increasing restrictions to protect Kenai River silvers.

Choate said he could imagine being driven out of commercial fishing. But he's fished so long, he can't imagine leaving.

"My lifestyle — the essence of who I am — is being gnawed away," he said. "It's real scary when you're middle-aged. Say I owned a gas station and they re-routed the highway."

Matthews said new allocations to sport fishermen would increase damage to the banks of the Kenai River.

Libal and Homer charter operator Jack Montgomery said they feared sport fishermen couldn't keep up if managers let too many reds past commercial fishermen. There might be too many spawners in the Kenai River. Biologists already predict a series of poor runs because excess spawners overloaded the river in the late 1980s.

Biologist Steve Hammarstrom of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Soldotna said that if 1.5 million reds entered the Kenai, as happened in 1987, rod-and-reel fishermen probably couldn't reduce them to the maximum of 700,000 spawners sought by biologists. Dipnetters might do it, he said. But Libal said he doesn't believe dipnetting is sport fishing.

"That's personal use or subsistence to me," Libal said. "If you're going to allocate to sport fishing, that's hook-and-line."



UCIDA

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KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE ALLOCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEMO #2
January 12, 1994

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Legislator,

United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) strongly opposes SB 241 introduced by Senator Halford. As we noted in our first legislative memo on January 14, 1994, any attempt to politically allocate our fish or game resources would set a terrible precedent and start us down the road to putting our resources at risk. SB 241 does just that!

This bill strikes a fatal blow to our fishery habitats which are already at risk with current levels of use. Our resources and all users of our resources will suffer. SB 241 is not a simple reallocation of sockeye salmon to sport fishermen that can be easily accomplished as its supporters represent.

SB 241 will turn what is currently, at times, a three ring circus of activity on the Kenai, Kaallaf and Susitna Rivers into a Habitat House of Horrors.

Please consider the following:

- "The river can't support all of the use it is currently receiving." (Mr. Phil Cutler, President, Alaska Sportfishing Association, Letter to Gov. Hickel, 2/17/93, Please see enclosure)
- "The most obvious problem is the annual trampling of the banks, when anglers flock to the Kenai by the thousands to fish for red (sockeye) salmon - All up and down the river, they walk on the fragile banks, caving them into the water and killing the streamside vegetation." "Rearing king and coho salmon prefer areas where natural cover - long grasses, willows and the like - hang over the water. Take away the cover, and you take away the fish." (Emphasis ours) "(Les Palmer, The One Thing More Important Than Fishing, Alaska Sportfishing Newsletter, Volume IX, Letter 4, April 1993, Please see enclosure)

- "There are times and places on the Kenai River when users report some of the highest perceived crowding levels of any resource studied." (Kenai River Carrying Capacity Study, ADNR report, Oct. 1993, pg. 13)
- "There are no examples of major streams, producing streams, in the United States or anywhere else in the world, that have ever had extensive development along their banks, that still continue to produce salmon" (Lance Trasky, ADF&G, Oral Report to Board of Fisheries, Nov. 1992, Tape #14A)
- "I am addressing proposal #49, which asks for 320,000 allocations of sockeyes for the sport fishery . . . But we don't want you to do any of this, give us any more fish, unless you can help us stop degradation of the habitat." (Mr. Bob Penny, Chairman of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association, Oral Testimony, to Alaska Board of Fisheries, Nov. 1992, Tape #19B @ 424)

We urge all legislators to consider the comments above and read the enclosures attached while considering the merits of SB 241. The primary responsibility of the State and all user groups is to ensure the conservation of our fishery resources. SB 241 and its eventual companion bill in the House put not only our sockeye at risk, but also our king and coho resources.

As an industry whose harvest opportunities for other species of salmon has been restricted or completely eliminated by the Board of Fisheries to provide increased sport fishing opportunities, we are, of course, concerned with allocation issues dealing with sockeye salmon - whatever the forum. This will be the subject of another memo in the near future.

Please feel free to contact the UCIDA office for further information.

Sincerely,



Theo Matthews
Administrative Assistant

Enclosures:

- Cover Sheet, Loving A River To Death, ADF&G May/June 1993
- Letter to Governor Hickel, ASA, Feb. 17, 1993
- The One Thing More Important Than Fishing, ASA Newsletter, Volume IX, letter 4, April 1993
- Habitat Damage No.1 Threat to Salmon Run, Jeff Barnard, Peninsula Clarion, April 23, 1993



Alaska Sportfishing Association

3605 Arctic Blvd., Suite 800 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

February 17, 1993

Governor Walter Hickel
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Hickel:

When you were running for Governor, sport fishermen were among your strongest supporters. Now we need your support on an issue of great importance to our members and the general public. A permit for a boat harbor/wetland fill has been reviewed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (known as Moose River 8). In their review, ADF&G strongly rejected permitting this project and we wholeheartedly support their action. The Office of Governmental Coordination rejected ADF&G's rejection of the permit application. Now the permit review has been elevated.

As the largest sportfishing association in Alaska, we support facilities that provide access to fishermen and boaters. However, this interest has to take a back seat to concern for the Kenai River. The river can't support all of the use it is currently receiving. Development of new projects, such as the one being reviewed, will only add to the existing problems of crowding. More importantly, the proposed project will have a significantly damaging impact on the river. This type of project is exactly why the Kenai River Special Management Area Plan was developed. Without protection, the productivity of the river will be lost to us all. The type of facility being proposed is the most damaging there is to the critical habitat the fisheries resource depends upon. There are less damaging modes the applicant could pursue, but he is apparently unwilling to change his project.

We have all seen damage along the Kenai from recreational use. This summer, the City of Kenai will be starting a project to rehabilitate a short length damaged river bank, at a cost of over \$500,000. It is clear that we cannot afford to fix all the damage that has occurred or will occur on the Kenai. If we want it to provide recreational opportunity and be the cornerstone for the recreational/tourist industry in the area, we need to focus on prevention of damage. Rejecting this permit is a good start on prevention. Sport fishermen and the public don't need another dock and boat harbor. What we need is a viable and healthy Kenai River now and in the future.

Please support the action of ADF&G in their rejection of this project and instruct the Office of Governmental Coordination to withdraw their objection.

Thank you for your action on this issue.

Regards,


The Alaska Sportfishing Association
Phil Cutler, President

cc. Senator Ted Stevens
cc. Senator Frank Murkowski
cc. Congressman Don Young

Alaska Sportfishing Association

3605 Arctic Blvd., Suite 800
Anchorage, Alaska
(907) 561-1461



PISCATORIAL PATTERN

April 1993

Volume IX Letter 4

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The One Thing More Important Than Fishing

by Les Palmer

If fishing is the main reason many of us live in Alaska—and it is—then it follows that we should take very seriously any threat to fishing—but we don't.

The most insidious threat to fishing is the degradation and loss of habitat, the food, water and cover that fish need in order to

survive and thrive. You might think we'd put more importance on such a threat than we would on, say, Watching sports on television, but I often wonder.

In an essay, "Population Growth Versus Fisheries Resources" (*Fisheries*, Sept.-Oct. 1992), C. Dale Becker wrote in brutal terms what habitat loss means:

"The ultimate effect of human activity is extinction. During the past 100 years, 40 known taxa (species) of North American fish have become extinct from activities related to occupation and development by humans, and their extinction rates are expected to increase."

Scary stuff, that. But what does it mean to you and me? That happened Outside. This is Alaska, where we do things right. Right? Right. Just look what's happening to our favorite fishing hole, the Kenai River.

The situation on the Kenai—or more correctly, *beside* the Kenai— isn't good. The most obvious problem is the annual Trampling of the Banks, when anglers flock to the Kenai by the thousands to fish for red (sockeye) salmon. All up and down the river, they walk on the fragile banks, caving them into the water and killing the streamside vegetation. In the more popular fishing areas, the results are obvious: barren, rapidly eroding banks.

Rearing king and coho salmon prefer areas where natural cover—long grasses, willows and the like—hang over the water. Take away the cover, and you take away the fish.

Anglers aren't the only culprits. Some property owners clear-cut everything growing near the river for a "view." Others like neatly mown lawns, right to the river's edge. Still others fill in wetlands for a dry spot to build, anything to fulfill their Alaskan dream.

Ironically, both anglers and property owners are slowly but surely destroying their reason for being on the Kenai, the good fishing.

Terry Bendock, a fisheries biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is one of several scientists concerned about the health of Kenai River habitat.

"Something like one out of every five or six fish caught by anglers in Alaskan waters comes from the Kenai River," Bendock says, "but we still don't have adequate protection for its fish habitat."

He cites the disastrous salmon runs of recent years in the Pacific Northwest as what we'll see here, if we aren't careful. Dams, urbanization, exploitation and forestry practices, to name but a few, have taken a heartbreaking toll on salmon, their fisheries, once thought to be a solution, have turned out to be just another problem. Entire stocks have been lost from streams that were, less than a century ago,

DATES TO REMEMBER
General Membership Meeting
April 13, 1993 - 7:30 Tuesday
(Remember: Always the 2nd Tuesday)

Program details below:
Board of Directors Meeting
April 21, 1993 - Wednesday
Begins at 6:30 P.M.
(Agenda Items - 561-1461)

General Membership Meeting

Scheduled Program:

- ☆ Free Fish Fry
- ☆ How, where and when to catch Halibut with Pete 'Halibut Guru' Hardy
- ☆ Selecting the winners for the membership contest
- ☆ Contest and Kid's Fish Bowl drawings from the Great Alaskan Sportsman's Show
- ☆ Election of Officers
- ☆ Raffle

See Ya' At The West Coast International Inn!!!

(Continued - page 4)

Calendar of Events

April 2nd - Trout Unlimited, Anchorage Chapter's Annual Banquet and Auction
Captain Cook Hotel

April 8th - 11th - The 10th Annual Great Alaskan Sportsman Show
Sullivan Arena

April 13th - General Membership Meeting:
"Halibate" with Pete Hardy. General elections to be held for the Board of Directors. (see page 6 for details and mail in ballot)

April 21st - Board of Directors Meeting

May 13th - General Membership Meeting:
Kelley Hepler from ADF&G will talk about Prince William Sound Fishing, Doug Ogden will show his video on his fishing trip in San Diego, Dick Freisinger will have a presentation on Cold Water Near Drowning

The One Thing More Important Than Fishing (continued from page 1)

with fish.
is anything being done to save the banks of the Kenai?
"I'm encouraged by the grass-roots, shotgun-type approach that's being taken by several agencies and organizations now," he says.

For the first time that he remembers, habitat problems were discussed by the Board of Fisheries at its meeting last fall.

The Habitat Division is conducting a formal inventory of structures and physical changes in the river.

The Kenai River King Salmon Fund (a non-profit organization funded mainly by the sale of kings caught in east-side commercial setnets) is installing educational displays at visitor centers in Kenai and Soldotna.

State Parks is revegetating portions of heavily damaged riverbank and steering anglers away from severely impacted parts of Blig's Landing and Morgan's Landing.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has some habitat studies in the works.

The Soil Conservation Service just released a manual that should help property owners.

The City of Soldotna is revegetating the banks near Soldotna Creek.

Kenai River Sportfishing, through its Habitat Protection Program, is actively helping property owners to both use and protect their riverbanks.

But are we gaining against the loss of fish habitat?
Not according to Bendock. He says we're not really stemming loss, and that there's no end in sight. Riverfront wetlands are still being filled. More structures are being put in the river each year. More vegetation is being destroyed.

"The Kenai Peninsula Borough hasn't done anything since the comprehensive management plan for the river was finished," he

says. "That's where land-use controls should come from. Nothing is likely to happen until people start pounding on the borough door."

"The quality of fishing for future generations depends on what we do now," he says.

Anglers and property owners obviously don't know they're damaging streamside vegetation needed by rearing king and coho salmon. They don't know that their one, small action, when multiplied 10,000 times, seriously damages fish habitat. They don't know that a donkey can only stand so many bricks being loaded on its back before it falls down.

At least I hope they don't know. I'd hate to think they didn't care.

LES PALMER is an outdoor writer who lives in Sterling, Alaska.

CONCERNED ABOUT HABITAT?

Property owners can help save the Kenai River by following the Soil Conservation Service's Habitat Management Plan.

Call Ben Ellis at Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. for information on the Kenai River Habitat Protection Program.

SEATTLE 206-835-5555

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA

CALL FOR THE PLAN

SALE OF THE PLAN

Habitat damage No. 1 threat to salmon runs

By JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press Writer

MAPLETON, Ore. — Charlie Dewberry used to hate to come to Knowles Creek.

A century of Paul Bunyan-style logging had practically wiped out the salmon and steelhead that had survived for 10,000 years in the Northwest.

Now he is all smiles as he shows off the way he has tossed huge logs and root wads in the water to create pools, capture floating leaves and twigs and restore the web of life in this Coast Range tributary of the Siuslaw River.

"You want it to get messy like this," said Dewberry, stream ecologist for the Pacific Rivers Council, an environmental group dedicated to restoring the dwindling salmon runs of the Northwest. "You want it complex with stuff sticking out all over the place."

In recent years, fishing authorities have steadily cut back ocean fishing in a vain attempt to stem the decline of salmon runs.

But the future of coho, chinook and steelhead runs depends on what is happening in little creeks like this.

Salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout are known as anadromous fish. That means they are born and start growing up in freshwater, migrate to the ocean to mature, then return to their native streams to spawn.

In recent years, natural cycles have made life tough on salmon in the ocean. Meanwhile, freshwater habitat has been severely damaged by dams, heavy logging, agriculture, drought, urban development and pollution.

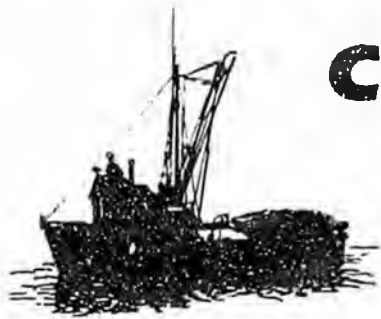
Since no one can do anything to change the cycles of the ocean, the people fighting for the survival of salmon in the Northwest are focusing on getting back to nature in the forests where salmon cycle begins.

"Any of the stuff we do is just a Band-Aid until that is a 200-year-old tree," Dewberry said, pointing to a cedar seedling. "That is what it is going to take to restore the streams. All we are doing is we're just buying time."

The Siuslaw River once produced enough salmon to keep three canneries busy in Florence. In the 1890s, scientists estimate, the annual run was 218,000 fish. That's nearly as much as the entire commercial catch from the Columbia River to Mexico last year. Knowles Creek contributes about 120 adult fish.

The American Fisheries Society has identified 214 runs of salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout in the West that are in danger of extinction.

"The most pervasive factor causing these declines is habitat damage caused by human activities," said Willa Nehlsen, lead author of the report.



Cook Inlet Seiners Association

P.O. Box 4311
Homer, Alaska 99603
235-2656

January 19, 1994

Senator Suzanne Little
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1182


Re: HB 241

Dear Senator Little:

The Cook Inlet Seiners Association is writing to thank you for your opposition to HB 241. Because the Legislature established the Board of Fish to deal with and settle fish related issues including allocation of the resource, it would be contrary to the Legislative intent for it to become involved. Also, such involvement would set a precedent whereby every fish related concern could be brought to the Legislature for resolution. Not only does the Legislature not have the time to take on additional tasks let along the time and expertise involved in reviewing biological data to make an informed and intelligent decision, it is not a responsible and reasonable use of their time considering the many issues they are mandated to resolve.

Again, thank you Representative Phillips for your opposition to HB 241. We look forward to working with you and your staff this session.

Sincerely,


AlRay Carroll, President

Cook Inlet Seiners Association

cc: United Cook Inlet DriftO Association
Kenai Peninsula Fishmen's Association



Cordova District Fishermen United

P.O. Box 939
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-3447 FAX (907) 424-3430

1/14/94

FROM; Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)
Box 939
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-3447

TO: Senate Rules Committee

RE: Senate Bill 241

Dear Senator Little,

Recently a bill was introduced by Rep. Eldon Mulder, R-Anchorage, to the State Legislature in Juneau. This bill if passed into law would allocate 15% of the Cook Inlet Sockeye salmon run to sport fishermen. Traditionally all fishery and allocation issues have been decided by the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Board of Fisheries and the regional Fish and Game Advisory Boards were set up as part of the original Limited Entry legislation over twenty ago. The process for public input and comment is already in place. The system works and it should be left alone. If the state legislature takes on fish-allocation issues it would set a dangerous precedent. The state legislature would be entangled in endless appeals of Board of Fisheries decisions.

The members of the Board of Fisheries are appointed by the governor to represent all the different resource users in the state and have the knowledge and expertise to handle these issues. The state legislators have neither the time nor the background to address complicated resource allocation issues. Along with the dangerous precedent this piece of legislation would set, there is also the very real concern of the implications to management of an allocation of this type.

The commercial fishing industry employs 40% of the seasonal work force on the Kenai Peninsula. Shutting down the commercial fishing industry in years of weak runs could be especially harmful. Managing for a 15% sport fish catch during a large run could lead to harmful overescapement and greatly stress already weakened spawning habitats. The suggestion by the sport fish interest to alleviate this problem by creating a new upriver dipnet fishery would not

Cook Inlet Sockeye Allocation

Would you like to deal with the controversy of SE Chinook allocation? False Pass? Bristol Bay - Egegik? Well, if this Cook Inlet bill gets serious consideration and action, you will be up to your eyebrows in a swamp of Fish and Game controversies. I do not exaggerate.

This is a precedent setting bill that would undermine the foundation of the Board of Fisheries. While the Board of Fish may not be popular, it still works to regulate allocation in an open and democratic process. . .a process that emphasizes science and stability over politics. This bill would do just the reverse.

Even though the bill deals with Cook Inlet and not Southeast, SEAS recognizes the greater statewide implications and actively opposes this legislation. I respectfully request you to do likewise.

If you have questions on the enclosed information or desire more information please feel free to call me.

Sincerley,



Kathryn Troll
Executive Director

Distribution List:
Southeast Legis...ors
Representative Carl Moses, Chair of House Fisheries



Cordova District Fishermen United

P.O. Box 939
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-3447 FAX (907) 424-3430

1/14/94

FROM: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)
Box 939
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-3447

TO: Senate Rules Committee

RE: Senate Bill 241

Dear Senator Little,

Recently a bill was introduced by Rep. Eldon Mulder, R-Anchorage, to the State Legislature in Juneau. This bill if passed into law would allocate 15% of the Cook Inlet Sockeye salmon run to sport fishermen. Traditionally all fishery and allocation issues have been decided by the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Board of Fisheries and the regional Fish and Game Advisory Boards were set up as part of the original Limited Entry legislation over twenty ago. The process for public input and comment is already in place. The system works and it should be left alone. If the state legislature takes on fish-allocation issues it would set a dangerous precedent. The state legislature would be entangled in endless appeals of Board of Fisheries decisions.

The members of the Board of Fisheries are appointed by the governor to represent all the different resource users in the state and have the knowledge and expertise to handle these issues. The state legislators have neither the time nor the background to address complicated resource allocation issues. Along with the dangerous precedent this piece of legislation would set, there is also the very real concern of the implications to management of an allocation of this type.

The commercial fishing industry employs 40% of the seasonal work force on the Kenai Peninsula. Shutting down the commercial fishing industry in years of weak runs could be especially harmful. Managing for a 15% sport fish catch during a large run could lead to harmful overescapement and greatly stress already weakened spawning habitats. The suggestion by the sport fish interest to alleviate this problem by creating a new upriver dipnet fishery would not

only remove these fish from the processing industry but could be very damaging to fragile riverbanks.

The commercial fishing industry is the largest employer in the state of Alaska and the second largest generator of income. CDFU urges the representatives of both urban and rural areas to realize this and not take an active roll in allocation of natural resources, but support the Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game.

CDFU believes this legislation is very inappropriate and presents a real threat to the traditonal means of allocating all the natural resources in the state.

Sincerely,
Cordova District Fishermen United
Board of Directors

Cook Inlet Sockeye Allocation

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Sincerley,



Kathryn Troll
Executive Director

Distribution List:
Southeast Legislators
Representative Carl Moses, Chair of House Fisheries

Ketchikan Office
P.O. Box 9579
Ketchikan, AK. 99901
phone: (907) 225-5156
fax: (907) 225-5258



Juneau Office
9226 Long Run Dr.
Juneau, AK. 99801
phone: (907) 789-5117
fax: (907) 789-5117

Representative Bill Williams
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Bill,

I see the second session of the Eighteenth Legislature is getting off to a rousing start. I am writing in regards to two controversies: 1) Royalty Fish Tax and 2) Cook Inlet Sockeye Allocation.

Royalty Fish Tax

At the risk of sounding like a conservative Republican, I don't understand the Hickel administration's proposal to tax and spend. Instead of taxing the commercial fishing industry *again* (last year 2 additional taxes were placed on the seafood industry) the Hickel administration should be investing in the state's largest private sector employer. Depressed salmon prices are hurting the state as well as fishermen and processors. If the total value of salmon remained the same at 1989 levels, the state would have collected over \$19 million ^{more} in fish revenues for the 1990-1993 period. To recapture this lost revenue, Governor Hickel should follow the advice of his own task force and invest in domestic marketing of salmon. But instead of investing, instead of developing Alaska's most ubiquitous resource - salmon, Governor Hickel wants to tax again.

Given the price structures within the industry and the global competition for salmon, a tax can not be passed onto the consumers; it'll be a direct and hard hit on the industry. With bankruptcies circling around the processors, with fishermen seeking all forms of financial relief, *another* tax will have devastating impacts throughout Alaska.

Why does Governor Hickel propose such economic foolishness? Is it because Shelby Stastny, Director of Management and Budget, say the commercial fishing industry does not pay it's way? Well, he is dead wrong. We do pay our way as documented by the enclosed analysis. Please read the enclosure.

Why is this highly discriminatory tax even being considered? Certainly, the \$15 million that was to be raised could be saved through a cost conscious review of last year's \$1 billion capital budget. In any event, you can't squeeze blood out of turnip and that is what another fish tax would be attempting to do. . .the salmon industry is hurting and there is no more to give. For all these reasons, I implore you to do whatever you can to kill this tax proposal.

3. Borough Funding. The Borough Assembly should continue to appropriate a sufficient budget for the implementation of marketing plans to promote the Kenai Peninsula Borough as a visitor destination in joint venture with the Borough Economic Development District and its Tourism Marketing Council, local chambers of commerce and municipalities.

4. Cruise Ship Marketing. The Caucus encourages the Borough and State to encourage cross gulf cruise ship solicitations.

5. Alaska Sea Life Center. The Caucus supports funding of the Alaska Sea Life Center at Seward from funds received from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

C. TIMBER

1. Land Use Plans. A strong commitment must be made to timber management as a prime use in state and national forests and on property owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Viable State and Borough timber sale programs should be developed with firm five year sale schedules to encourage and facilitate commercial timber harvest.

2. Spruce Bark Beetle. The Spruce Bark Beetle disease is threatening timber and creating serious fire hazards throughout the Kenai Peninsula. Federal, State and Borough natural resource agencies are encouraged to schedule timber sale and management programs specifically designed to eradicate this disease.

D. FISH & GAME

1. Onshore Processors. The State of Alaska is encouraged to develop allocations, tax structures and regulations that would make onshore processors more profitable than those that operate at sea in order to create and retain employment opportunities for resident Alaskans.

2. Fish Traps. The Caucus opposes use of fish traps as a device for resolving conflicts between Kenai commercial and sport fishing interests.

3. Subsistence. The State Legislature is urged to resolve subsistence issues where they are conflicting with Federal law and the State constitution.

4. Export Limits. The Caucus will oppose proposals to establish limits on fish and game which a sport angler may export out of Alaska.

5. Board of Fisheries. The Caucus recognizes and respects the authority of the Alaska Board of Fisheries to manage the fishery resources of the State of Alaska. Allocation decisions by the Board should continue to be based upon scientific and biological evidence which results in the sustained yield of the resource. The Caucus opposes any municipal or legislative action which would interfere with the Board of Fisheries' allocation process.

E. COAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Tax Increment Financing. The State Legislature should amend tax increment financing statutes to enable Second Class Boroughs to sell revenue bonds for financing of public owned infrastructure necessary to coal development.

2. Strategic Plan. The State is encouraged to adopt a strategic plan which would make Alaska coal competitive with coal from other world markets.

KENAI PENINSULA CAUCUS
AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
 177 North Birch Street, Soldotna, AK 99669
 Phone: 262-9107

Board of Directors

Municipal Governments

Don Gilman, Kenai Peninsula Borough
 Betty Glick, Kenai Peninsula Borough
 Ken Lancaster, City of Soldotna
 Michael O'Link, Kachemak City
 Ivan Widom, City of Seldovia
 Dave Crane, City of Seward
 John Williams, City of Kenai

Chambers of Commerce

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 Gloria Wisecarver, Funny River
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 Vicki Steik, Ninilchik
 Jack Brown, North Peninsula
 Darlene Crawford, Seldovia
 Elaine Nelson, Seward
 John Torgerson, Soldotna

1994
STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

The Kenai Peninsula Caucus is a nonprofit corporation organized under laws of the State of Alaska. The Caucus was organized in 1987 for the general purpose of promoting the physical, social and economic well being of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Its specific purposes may include, but shall not be limited to: charitable; benevolent; educational; civic; patriotic; political; social; and cultural activities.

Voting members of the organization are representatives of Municipal Governments and Chambers of Commerce of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

An objective of the Caucus is to secure legislation at the local, state and federal levels which will be beneficial to inhabitants of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and to oppose legislation injurious thereto; but to remain non-partisan in the conduct of its affairs. The Caucus does not endorse candidates for elected or appointed positions at any level of government.

Two weeks written notice must be given to each voting member of the Caucus before it may consider a legislative position or resolution. An act of the Board of Directors must be approved by at least 75% of the Directors present at a meeting. The intent of this bylaw requirement is to assure that any action taken by the Caucus will represent a substantial consensus of opinion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

This brochure provides a synopsis of the legislative positions developed by the Caucus through input from municipal officials and directors of the local Chamber of Commerce organizations. Each position represents legislative recommendations of the Caucus. These positions will be actively lobbied for by the Board of Directors on behalf of its membership to the Alaska Municipal League, the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, the Local, State and Federal governments.



Photo # 1

Bank damage due to sport fishing access -- Kenai River, Soldotna Creek Park Area



Photo # 2

Bank erosion and vegetation trampling -- Confluence of Kenai and Moose River

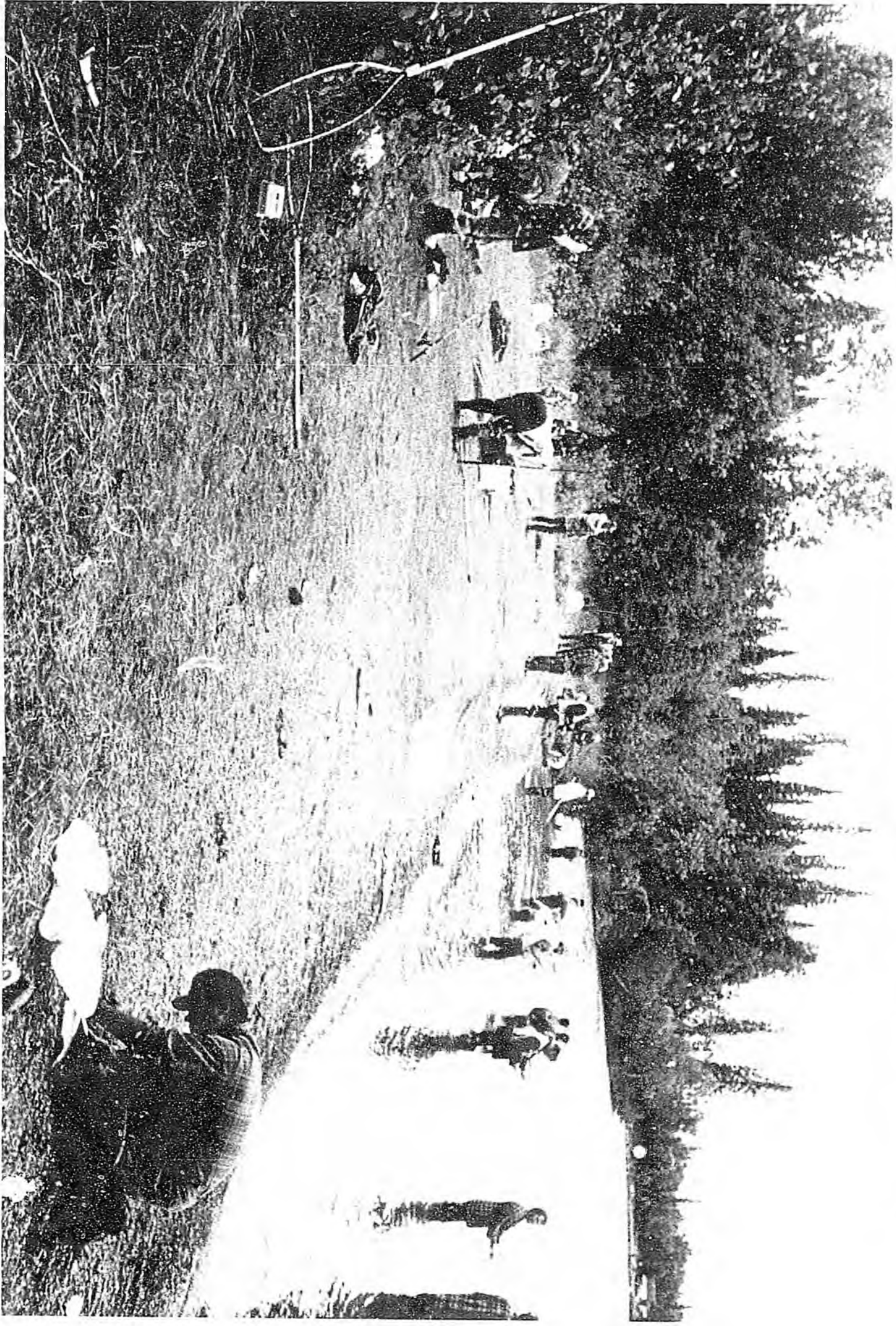


Photo # 3 Vegetation trampling from sport fishing access -- Kenai River



Photo # 4 Bank damage -- Kenai River Sportsman's Lodge/Russian River Ferry Crossing



Photo # 5 Kenai River bank damage from sport fishing access

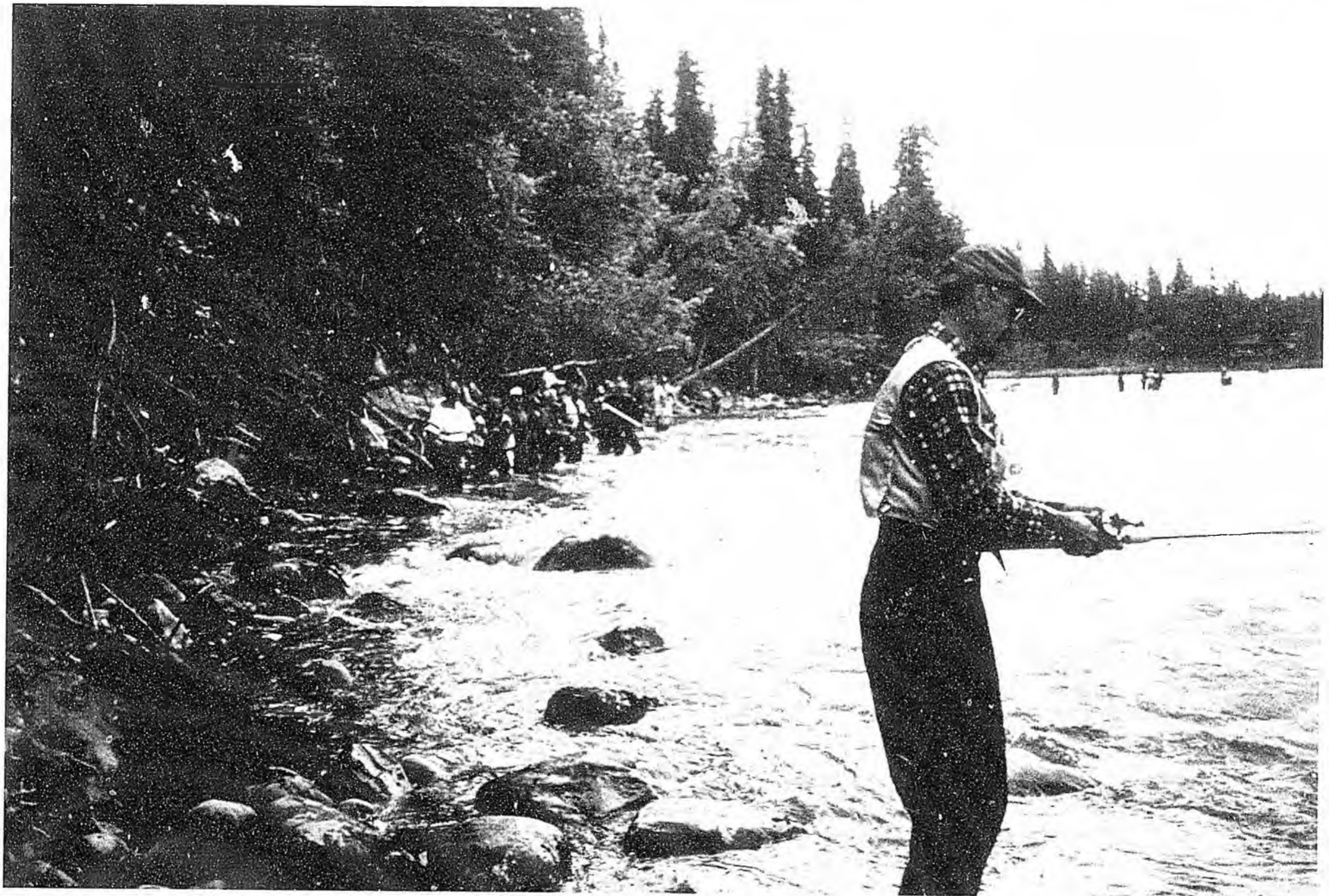


Photo # 6 Bank erosion and vegetation trampling -- Kenai River



Photo # 7 Sport fishing access and erosion of undercut banks -- Kenai River



Photo # 8 Erosion of undercut banks -- Kenai River

Loving A River To Death

Human Changes On The Kenai River

by Terry Bendock and Jon Lyman



©Russ Dixon/ADF&G



The survival of the Kenai River's world famous king salmon depends upon water flows of less than one foot per second. Although the adult fish have little trouble swimming against swift flows, the young require the reduced velocity and cover provided by naturally vegetated banks to survive. Each spring, young chinook and coho salmon migrate from upriver areas where they were hatched to the rich feeding grounds along the mainstem. Each fall they return to

Users Impact on Fish Habitat

Private and commercial developments eliminate riparian vegetation. This weakens the streambank and reduces cover and food for juvenile salmon.

Land clearing increases subsurface drainage rates and streambank erosion.

Structures along the shoreline alter water velocity and decrease useable habitat for juvenile salmon.

Draining wetlands reduces subsurface flow and nutrients for juvenile salmon.

Boat wakes increase erosion along banks where the vegetation has been damaged.

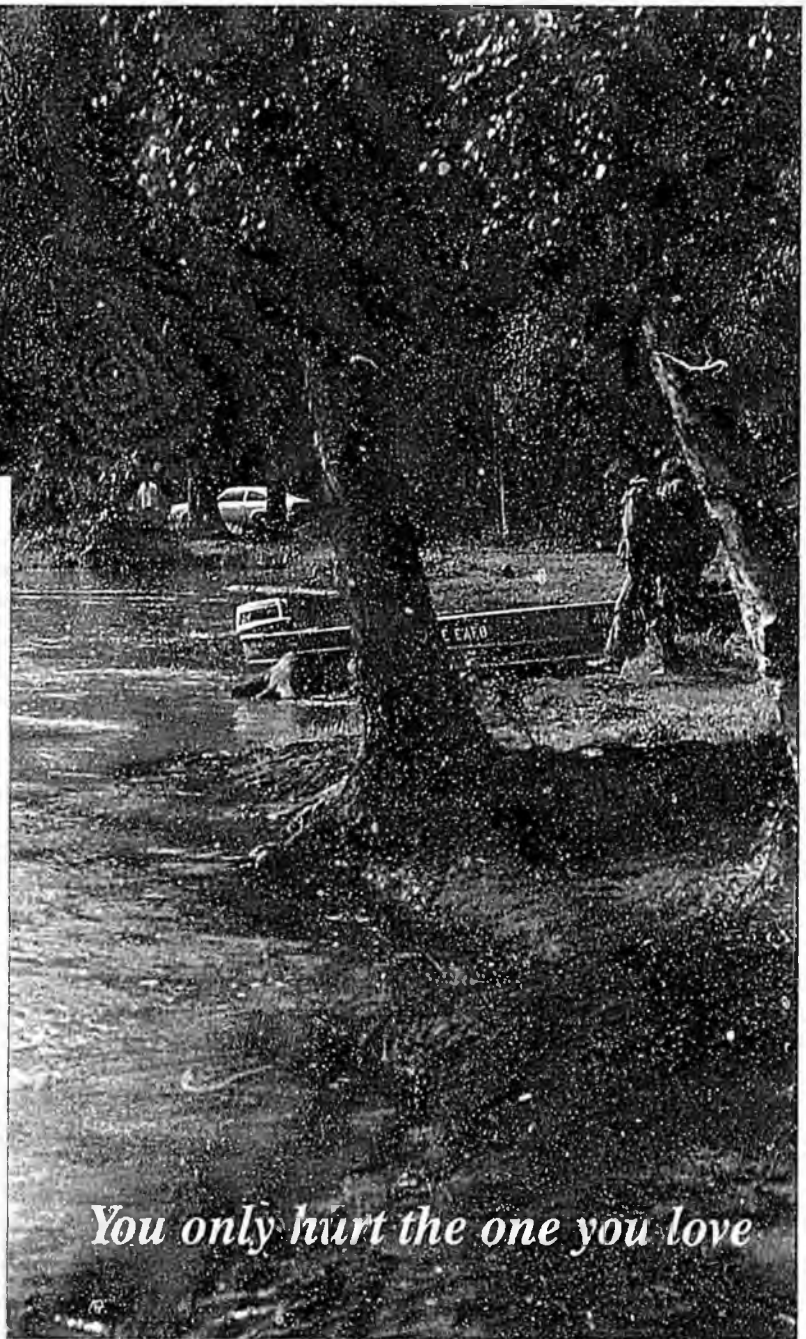
Foot trails damage vegetation and root systems increasing the risk of erosion.

Removing log jams and woody debris eliminates important rearing habitat for young salmon.

Parking riverboats along the shoreline often results in damaged vegetation and increased erosion.

Steep banks and water-saturated soils are subject to erosion and are easily damaged by **foot traffic**.

Unfiltered runoff from city and state highways and parking lots is discharged directly into the Kenai River-- lowering water quality.

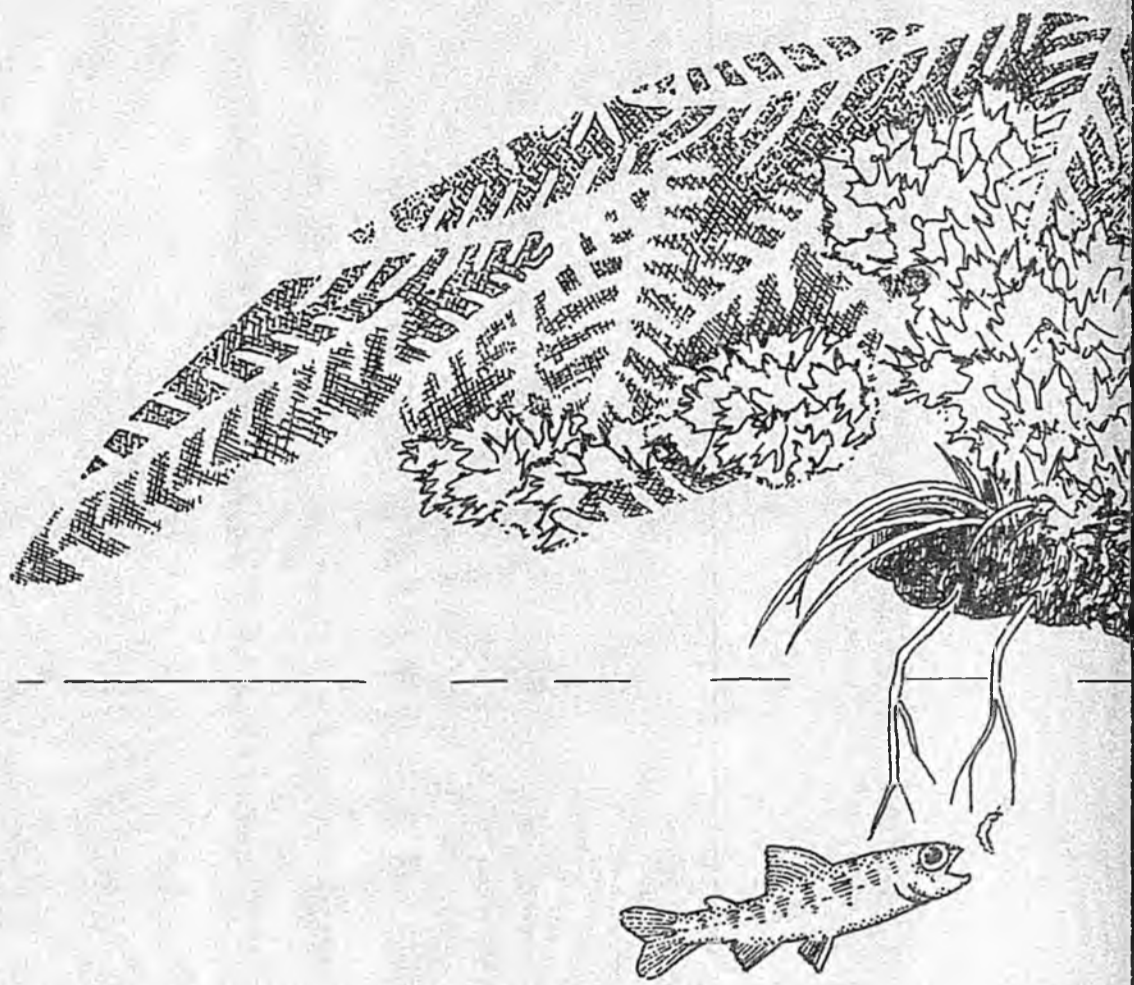


You only hurt the one you love

Flooding on Kenai, Bing's Landing, August 1984.

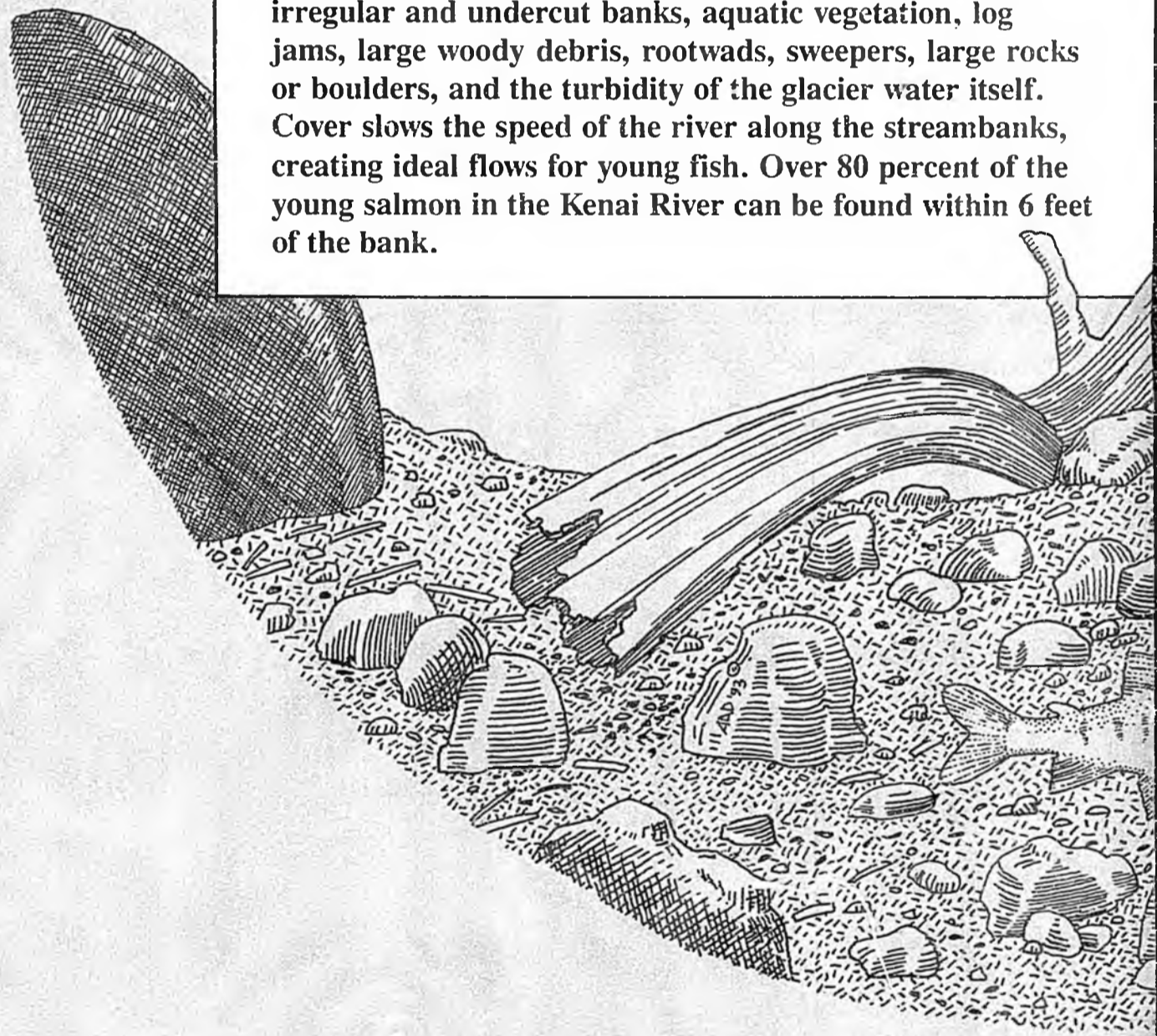
overwinter in Skilak, Kenai, and other lakes. The role of streambank vegetation in modulating flow speed and providing cover is essential to the successful upriver journey of the young fish.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has long focused on managing the Kenai River's returning populations of adult salmon to ensure adequate numbers of spawners to reproduce the runs. Given good returns from the Pacific Ocean, management plans and modern technology assure us that sufficient salmon will survive to spawn. This, however, is only part of the picture. We must also be concerned with the young fish rearing in the river and the continuing degradation of their habitat.



Natural vegetation that overhangs the banks or trails in the water provides food for aquatic organisms which juvenile salmon eat. Natural vegetation also stabilizes banks and helps prevent erosion.

Cover is the woody vegetation along the shoreline, irregular and undercut banks, aquatic vegetation, log jams, large woody debris, rootwads, sweepers, large rocks or boulders, and the turbidity of the glacier water itself. Cover slows the speed of the river along the streambanks, creating ideal flows for young fish. Over 80 percent of the young salmon in the Kenai River can be found within 6 feet of the bank.



Paid for by Division of Sport Fish
Produced by Public Communications Section





The one you shouldn't hurt at all

Riverbank erosion at Bing's landing, July 1992.

Anglers cannot influence most of the forces that affect the return of salmon to the Kenai River. High seas interception, harvests in mixed stock commercial fisheries, the use or misuse of private and public property along the river, natural mortality due to forces we do not understand—all have a great impact on the numbers of returning salmon. The one place where anglers can have the greatest long term impact on these fish is on the banks of the river.

Anglers and landowners need to participate in local land use planning efforts to develop public solutions to the continued degradation of river habitat. The key to maintaining the long term health of the Kenai River is the development of land use

regulations to control incompatible uses along the river. While the Division of Parks and the city of Soldotna are attempting to regulate bank use on their lands, other landowners, public and private, have yet to take action to protect the habitat necessary for fish. By working with the following organizations, individuals can begin to shape the future of the river and its salmon resources. (See list of on the next page.)



Anglers Can Reduce Impacts

Use developed trails, ladders, and boardwalks, when available, to access the river.

Always launch and retrieve boats at a developed launch site.

Select either an exposed or protected site when beaching your boat to avoid crushing bank vegetation.

Minimize damage from boat wakes whenever possible by lowering speed and traveling in mid-channel.

Fuel your boat at a site that does not discharge into the river should an accident occur.

Avoid trampling and damaging vegetation along the waters edge.

Move away from the waters edge when walking up and downstream.

Use hip boots or chest waders to avoid standing on the bank while fishing.

Avoid steep banks and water-saturated soils when bank fishing.

Remember that fish habitat and bank stability are often determined by the amount and quality of streamside vegetation.

Participate in local discussions on land use regulations and the need to protect fish habitat.

Tell friends and visitors of the importance of maintaining riverbanks.

Be a role model!

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board
c/o Chris Titus, Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 1247
Soldotna, AK 99669

In 1984 the Legislature recognized the importance of the Kenai River to all Alaskans and created the Kenai River Special Management Area. An advisory board was formed to help the Division of Parks and Recreation implement a management plan for the river. The board members represent user groups, property owners, municipalities, state and federal agencies, and other interested groups. The board continues to serve in its advisory capacity and holds monthly meetings except during the summer months.

City of Soldotna
177 North Birch
Soldotna, AK 99669

The city of Soldotna has zoned the banks of the Kenai within the city limits and has the authority to regulate land use to protect the river. The city has begun work on a Kenai River erosion control and habitat restoration demonstration project. Funded with grants from the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation and the Coastal America Program, the city is attempting to apply bioremediation technology to damaged river habitat at two city parks along the Kenai River. These sites have seen intense bank fishing which has degraded vegetation and accelerated bank erosion. The project is intended to demonstrate ways to control riverbank erosion and enhance fish habitat while continuing to allow anglers access to the river.

Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc.
c/o Ben Ellis, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1228
Soldotna, AK 99669

Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. (KRSI) is a non-profit association dedicated to protecting the greatest salmon sport fishing in the world. The organization represents the thousands of sport anglers who fish the Kenai each year. KRSI members have long been involved with conservation measures on the river. This group launched the Kenai River Habitat Protection Program during the past year. The program awards certificates to private property owners who protect or restore fish habitat. It also works to educate the public and encourage other property owners to protect and restore river habitat.

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
P.O. Box 1247
Soldotna, AK 99669

The Kenai River became a unit of the state parks system in 1984. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has the

responsibility for providing for the public's recreation as well as for protecting and preserving the river's fish and wildlife habitats. Serious riverbank degradation has occurred as a result of intensive bank fishing at most of the public access areas along the river. Many areas are devoid of vegetation, their banks trampled into mud. The challenge is to protect the fragile riparian habitat and rehabilitate the existing sites, yet continue to provide public access.

Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 400
Homer, AK 99603

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil and Conservation Service has published the Kenai River Landowner's Guide. This reference guide is written to help Kenai River landowners understand and manage plants, soils, and riverbanks and to protect the Kenai River's resources. The SCS collects resource information and provides technical assistance to help both public and private land managers conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources.

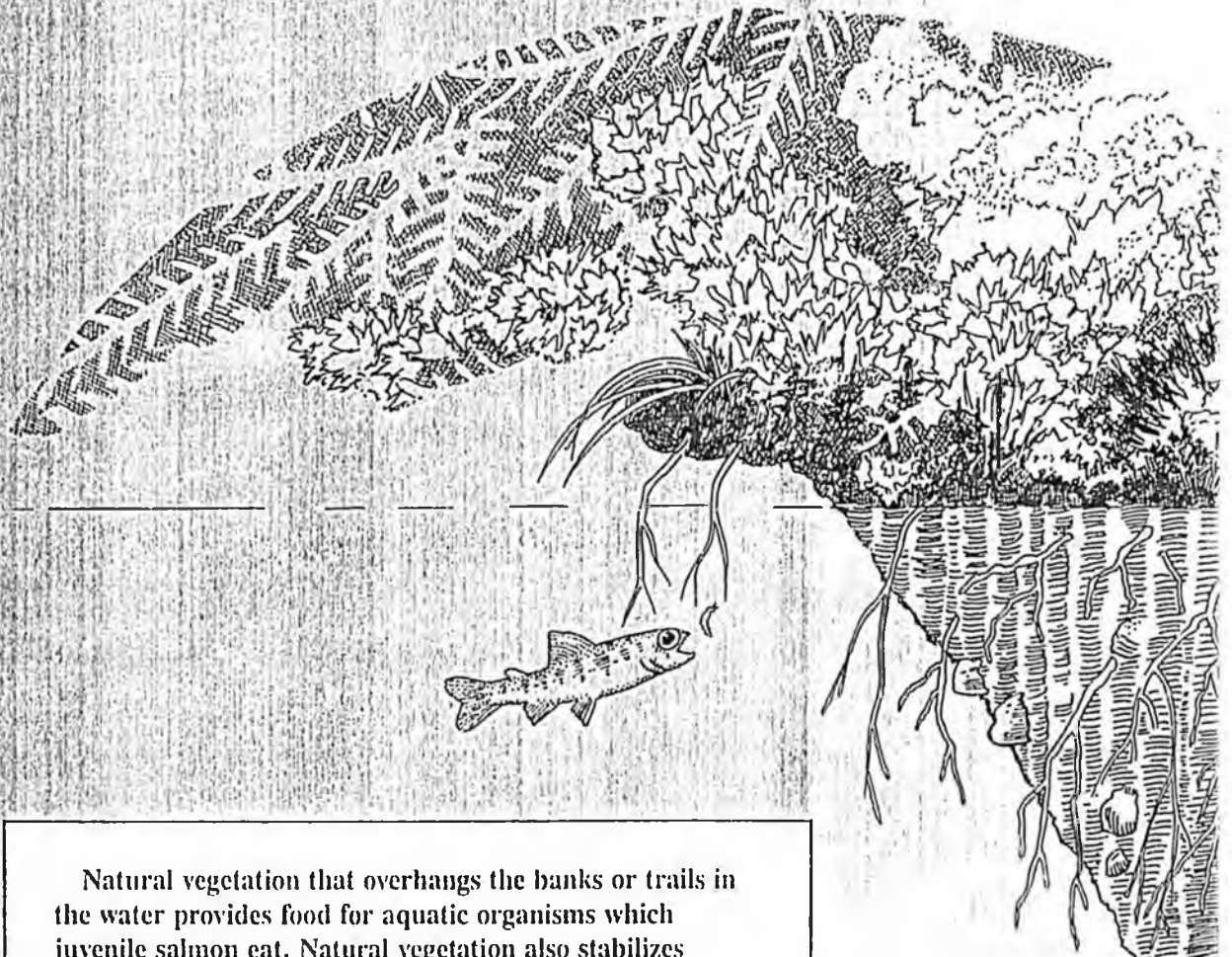
Kenai River King Salmon Fund
34824 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite E
Soldotna, AK 99669

The Kenai River King Salmon Fund (KRKSF) has a number of projects underway. KRKSF members are involved in the Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School's Adopt-A-Stream program for Slikok Creek, bank restoration efforts, education through local organizations and events, and the development of a display for the Kenai River Visitor Center on the river's importance and how habitat protection is crucial to its long term health.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries
34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite B
Soldotna, AK 99669 or
Habitat Division
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has a statutory mandate to protect fisheries habitat in the Kenai River. Any persons or agency wishing to construct a project below ordinary high water must submit plans and specifications to the department and obtain a permit before proceeding.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducts all programs and activities free from discrimination on the basis of sex, color, race, religion, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. For information on alternative formats available for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-4120, (TDD) 1-800-478-3648 or (fax) 907-586-6595. Any person who believes s/he has been discriminated against should write to: ADF&G, PO Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



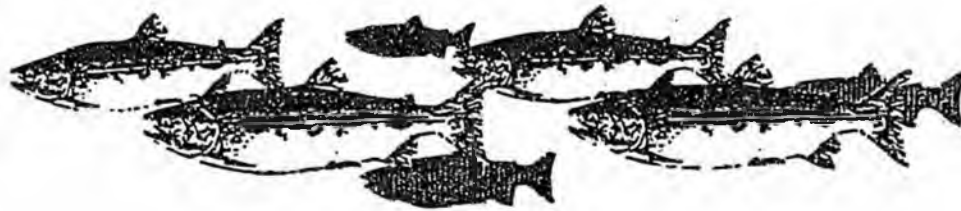
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**Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
& United Cook Inlet Drift Association**

Present

**A Plan For Upper Cook Inlet
Sockeye Allocation**



**In Lieu Of
HB 366/SB 241**

**In the Legislature of the State of Alaska
Eighteenth Legislature - Second Session**

KPFA & UCIDA recognize there is a perception by some legislators that the opportunity for sport fishermen in the Upper Cook Inlet area to harvest salmon is unfairly limited.

**We believe that to fully address the issue of fairness
with respect to salmon allocation in Upper Cook Inlet,
the use of *all* Cook Inlet stocks must be examined.**

KPFA & UICDA, therefore, present the following plan for your review. Please review the plan carefully and see if *you* think it presents a reasonable and *fair* opportunity for sport fishermen to harvest salmon in Upper Cook Inlet.

January 1994



KPFA & UCIDA

A. UPPER COOK INLET SPORT FISHERY

1. All early run salmon (May - June) including Susitna king, early Kenai king, and early Russian River sockeye will be managed *for a recreational priority*. Bag limits as recommended by ADF&G. Open 7 days per week, seasons and areas as recommended by ADF&G.
2. Mid-run sockeye salmon (July 1 - August 15) will be managed according to the following regulations:
 - a. Cook Inlet Saltwater - 6 sockeye per day, no size limit, open entire year, open 7 days per week, no season limit, no closed waters.
 - b. Susitna River & West Cook Inlet Area - 3 sockeye salmon per day, no season limit, open 7 days per week, season and areas as recommended by ADF&G.
 - c. Kenai Peninsula Fresh Water - 3 sockeye per day, no season limit, open 7 days per week, season and areas as recommended by ADF&G.
 - d. Kenai River - ADF&G sets bag limit of 1 - 6 sockeye per day dependent on escapement. Below sonar counter at mile 19, no guideline harvest level applies to fishery. Above sonar site, sport harvest level is 10% of projected escapement to assure spawning goal is met. No season limit, open 7 days per week, bag limit increased to 6 sockeye after 700,000 fish escapement.
 - e. Russian River - Sockeye bag limit 3 per day, no season limit. Sockeye harvested in Russian River are in addition to Kenai River guideline harvest level.
3. Late run salmon (after August 15) - All salmon stocks moving to Kenai Peninsula drainages will be managed *for a recreational priority*. Seasons, areas, and bag limits as recommended by ADF&G.

B. UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE FISHERY (Residents Only)

1. Kasilof River Gill Net - Opens June 21 for sockeye to set gill nets, 12 hours per day, with bag limit of 25 salmon for head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent. Close by E.O.
2. Kasilof River Dip Net - Opens by E.O. for sockeye when ADF&G is assured 150,000 sockeye salmon (minimum escapement goal) will enter the river. Daily bag limit is 6 salmon, no season limit.
3. Kenai River Dip Net - Opens by E.O. for sockeye when ADF&G projects that 400,000 sockeye salmon (minimum escapement goal) will enter the river. Open in lower 5 miles of river where conflict with intense upper river sport fishery can be avoided. Daily bag limit is 6 salmon, no season limit.
4. Central and Northern District Fall Setnet - Opens the last three weekends of September for silver salmon. 2500 fish quota. 60 feet of set net gear allowed. Bag limit is 25 salmon per head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent.



's Plan Outlined

C. UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHERY

1. Early run stocks (May and June) of sockeye and king salmon on the eastside of Cook Inlet are no longer fished by commercial fishermen. These stocks are for exclusive use of the sport fishery.

2. Mid-run sockeye (July 1 - August 15) - Regular fishing time in the commercial fishery will be *restricted* to two twelve hour periods per week, Mondays and Fridays. Fishing periods may be modified by E.O. at the discretion of ADF&G. Commercial fishermen observe closed waters areas around all salmon rivers and streams.

3. Late run salmon (after August 15) - Commercial fishermen will no longer fish these stocks along the eastside of Cook Inlet. These stocks will be for the exclusive use of the sport fishery.

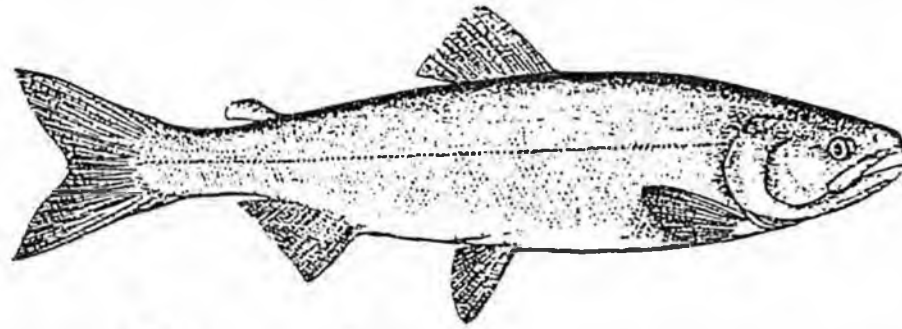
Cook Inlet Salmon Management Priorities

May	June	July	August	September
Recreational Priority	Recreational Priority	Commercial Priority *	Commercial Priority	Recreational Priority

* Commercial priority July 1 - August 15, however, commercial fishing is restricted until minimum escapement goals for sockeye and king salmon in the Kenai River are assured. For Example: Under the Late Run Kenai River King Salmon Management Plan, the commercial fishery along the eastside of Cook Inlet is closed if the projected spawning escapement level is less than 15,500 king salmon.

The preceding regulation summary for the Cook Inlet sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries have already been adopted by the Board of Fisheries. KPFA and UCIDA bring this plan to you to illustrate that the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan provides a reasonable and fair opportunity for sport fishermen to harvest an abundance of salmon, including sockeye.





No plan will ensure harvest.

Management plans can only ensure opportunity.

*The Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan
ensures fair opportunities for multiple users to
harvest salmon in Cook Inlet.*



Some sportsmen have led many legislators to believe that the legislature is their court of last resort. Legislators have been asked to believe that sportsmen are allocated only 5% of Cook Inlet sockeye. Not so! *There is no limit to the number of salmon that may be harvested in Cook Inlet by sport fishermen.* Sport fishermen have liberal access to salmon in Cook Inlet as demonstrated by this overview of current regulations.

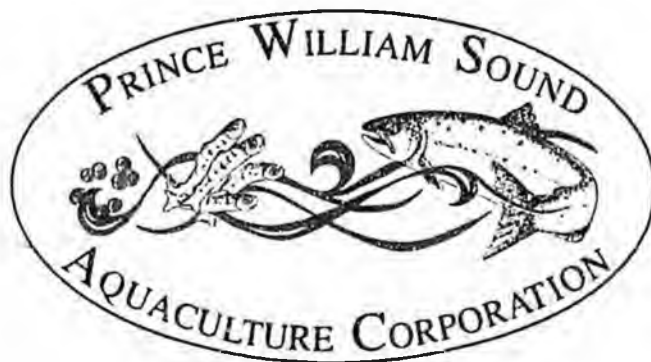
If you signed on to this bill prior to having a good understanding of the true picture in Cook Inlet, then we hope you would reconsider your support for this legislation.

The Board of Fisheries reviews the *whole* story before decisions are made. The public participates vigorously in this forum. Biological data and socioeconomic factors are examined with respect to the allocation criteria mandated by the Alaska State Legislature. We hope that you agree that allocation issues should be addressed in the Board of Fisheries forum.

Thank you for taking the time to hear the *rest* of the story!



February 8, 1994



Representative Bill Williams
House Resources Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Rep. Williams:

House Bill No. 366, if passed, would direct the Alaska Board of Fisheries to allocate 15% of all upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon to the sport fisheries on an annual basis. This bill is undoubtedly generating a lot of response from individuals and groups who believe strongly that these resources should be allocated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, based on the best biological and management information available from the scientific staff of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Yesterday, the Executive Committee of the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation's Board of Directors voted to request that the legislature not pass House Bill No. 366 and/or its companion Senate Bill. We at PWSAC are not opposed to the sharing of fisheries resources among user groups. In fact, we are expending funds on the development of sport fisheries at Whittier, Chenega Bay, Valdez, Cordova, and our hatchery sites. The PWSAC Board has solidly stood behind these projects even though we have experienced funding problems in recent years.

The sport fishermen of upper Cook Inlet should be allowed to share the sockeye resources of the region, and perhaps would be able to do that more easily if the upper Cook Inlet salmon program was placed under the direction of one program leader rather than under the direction of two fisheries divisions with opposing constituencies. There must be positive solutions to the question of resource allocation. So please, do not set a precedent with House Bill No. 366 that will haunt us forever.

I wish you success in your deliberations. Yours is a difficult job.

Best regards,

John McMullen
President

copies:

Governor Walter J. Hickel
Senator Mike Miller, Chair, Senate Resources
Rep. Carl Moses, Chair, Special Committee on Fisheries
Commissioner Carl Rosier, ADF&G

Corporate Office • Post Office Box 1110 • Cordova, Alaska 99574-1110
phone: 907/424-7511 * fax: 907/424-7514

George Eliason

102 Kuhnle Dr.
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-6817

February 6, 1994

The Honorable Mike Miller
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Senator
State Capitol, Room 423
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear Senator Miller,

I am writing to inform you that I oppose Senate Bill 241 and House Bill 366 relating to the management of Cook Inlet salmon.

I understand that there is not a conservation problem with the sockeye resource in Cook Inlet but that the Board of Fish has made an allocation decision to the disappointment of sport fishermen and they now wish to coerce satisfaction through the legislature.

The problem I and many others have with HB 366 and SB 241 is that they were in fact introduced to the legislature. Why in the world would the legislature want to start dealing with fishery proposals? Would any legislator desire to remove the buffer (a.k.a. Boards of Fish and Game) between their constituents and themselves? Many of us have used the Board of Fish process to address fishery issues in the past and have not always been satisfied with their decisions. This does not denote a complete breakdown of the Board of Fish process so why eliminate it? As I have written to Chairman Tom Elias about this very same subject, "I would never change the process". This would be the outcome of SB 241 and HB 366, a change of the process.

The Board of Fish during the 1993-94 meeting cycle has over 500 proposals to deal with. The Board of Game has 142 proposals to address during the March 26-April 8 meeting alone. Each proposal has people who support or oppose it. Will the legislature have time to deal with all the public who were not satisfied with the Boards decisions? I trust this legislature, or any other, will not set this precedence. I urge you not to open this pandora box.

To bring politics into fishery management is bad enough, but to bring fishery management into the political arena would be disastrous.

Sincerely,

George Eliason

cc: Representative William K. "Bill" Williams
Chair, House Resources Committee



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

Putting Resources to Work For People

3300 Arctic Blvd., Suite 203 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 562-7380 • FAX (907) 562-0438

RESOLUTION 94-12

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISH FISHERY ALLOCATION PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature created the Alaska Board of Fish under Section 16.05.221 for the purposes of conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature granted the Alaska Board of Fish under Section 16.05.241 the powers to adopt regulation-making decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish is bound under the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) when adopting regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish has the power to make decisions affecting the utilization of fishery resources; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish has the power to establish the priorities of use and users; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish has established criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among subsistence, personal use, sport, and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish decision-making process includes equal access and opportunity to all user groups through the State of Alaska advisory committee process or on an individual basis; and

WHEREAS, fisheries management throughout the state is best left to the Alaska Board of Fish whose body is made up of seven members of diverse fish resource backgrounds, who can review the technical data provided by the Department of Fish and Game and can review different proposals submitted by various user groups of that resource.

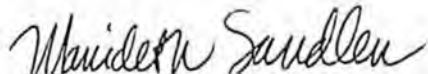
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) encourages the Governor and Legislature to support the Alaska Board of Fish fishery allocation process.

Representing the Bristol Bay, Pribilof, Kodiak Island and Aleutian Island areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
THIS 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1994.



Jack McFarland, President



Marideth Sandler, Executive Director

Representative Bill Williams,

I am opposed to Representative Mulder's bill reallocating Cook Inlet sockeye by amending AS 16.05. These issues should be addressed by the Board of Fish who look into the different areas of Alaska and spend 120 days each year doing so. They find this job so complex that they had to divide the areas up and deal with the areas every three years. The Legislature who also meet for 120 days cannot possibly determine the biological impacts resulting from such legislation in the short amount of time they have to address this issue. Soon the Legislature will find itself debating statewide fishing and gaming issues. We already have the Board of Fish and The Board of Game in place. Lets let them do their job and you do yours. Vote NO on house bill #366.

Judy A. Johnson
ROR 2 Box 508
Clam Gulch, AK 99568
907-262-4763

David Horne
H.C. 2 Box 543
Kasilof, AK 99610

January 25, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams,

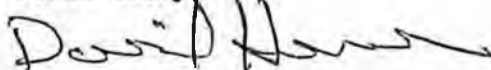
I was in Juneau last week with my fellow commercial fishing representative, Drew Sparlin. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you personally thanking you for your receptive attitude. We were trying very diligently to stay away from the allocation issue and emphasize our perception of the habitat destruction which would occur if the pending legislation were to pass. As a long time Alaskan who obviously wants to preserve some semblance of the Alaska we love for future generations, I think you are particularly aware of the issues we were trying to address.

Commercial users and recreational users have long been at odds over the allocation of all the Cook Inlet salmon stocks. We have been joined in recent years by personal use, subsistence, and dipnet interests. Drew and I are both sports fishermen who love to enjoy the river with our friends and family. We both have a vested interest in preservation of the habitat as it has been a contributing part of our livelihood for several decades. The Board of Fisheries has been a satisfactory forum.

I hope and trust that the legislature does not want to become the echoing chamber for the state's fish and game allocation disputes. The fate of the Kenai River is another matter. Please consider our position as it will be possible to shift the emphasis and preserve the habitat only by convincing reasonable persons, like yourself, that At some point in time it will become necessary to protect the interests of the state by further managing people numbers rather than fish numbers. I think that time is now. I know you will consider the alternatives and draw your own conclusions. All I ask is that you do so with the resource and the habitat as the basic concern underlying all decisions.

Thank you again for your consideration concerning these important issues.

Yours truly



David Horne

HCR-2 Box 508
Clam Gulch AK 99568
January 28, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 128
Juneau AK 99801-1182

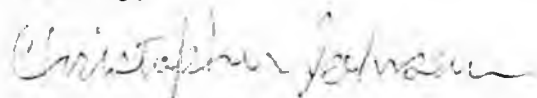
Representative Bill Williams:

I have found fault with and strongly oppose House Bill 366. The legislature can not afford their precious time to deal with many of the petty problems usually dealt with by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, nor can they deal with many of the complex biological considerations. The Board of Fisheries is the proper place to determine allocations of the State's fishery resources. Members of the Board and their staff have the legal authority and technical expertise to properly address allocation issues.

My beliefs are based on facts of history. This bill would give the legislature much more economical control. That is not what the legislature of this country is to do. They are the law making body, and they should make any laws they feel necessary to establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, however, House Bill 366 is stepping beyond guide lines for the legislature. A plumber doesn't repair damaged blood vessels, and the legislator shouldn't repair fish management institution--Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As my Representative I hope you consider my beliefs and vote **NO** on House Bill 366. The collapse of sockeye runs due to over escapement is now being documented. This is the appropriate step in the procedure that the Alaska Board of Fisheries has set up. The problem will soon be corrected as will all future problems that the fishing industry faces. Alaska Board of Fisheries is a just, intelligent institution whose expertise is fishing management; therefore, they are the best people for the job.

Sincerely,



Christopher Johnson
Student of Skyview High School

H. Daniel Hull
6541 Bridget Circle
Anchorage, AK. 99502

The Honorable Bill Williams
Chair, House Resources Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 128
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

February 6, 1994

Dear Representative Williams,

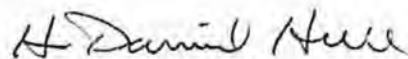
I am writing to state my opposition to Senate Bill 241 and House Bill 366, both of which relate to management of Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

I oppose these bills because they undermine the Board of Fisheries process which has successfully guided management and allocation of fisheries resources in the state of Alaska. If the Alaska legislature usurps the authority of, and public participation in the Board of Fisheries' process, there will be no end to the requests for legislative intervention in the Board of Fish, the Board of Game, and perhaps other boards with responsibility over allocation and management of the State's resources.

The Board of Fisheries process, despite its imperfections, is still the best way to make decisions about fisheries management and allocation. The legislature in general does not understand or have the time to learn about the complexity of these issues. Please support the decision making process in its current form, and defer to the Board of Fisheries in all allocation and management issues.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



H. Daniel Hull

cc: Senator Drue Pearce
Representative Jim Nordlund

Editor, Ketchikan Daily News,

Feb. 3, 1994

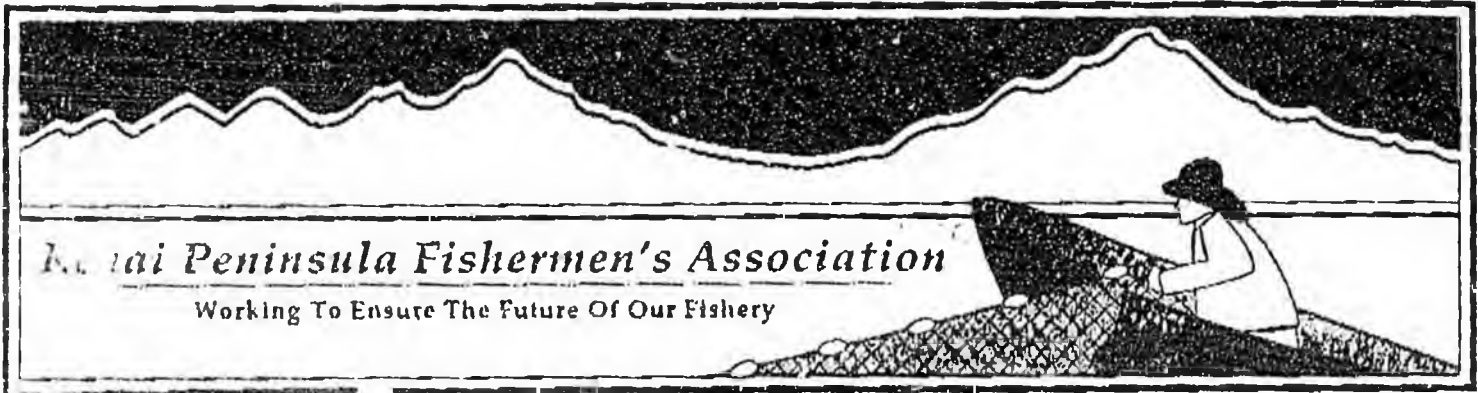
Senator Fred Zharoff, D. Kodiak wrote to the Point of View editorial on January 28th in regard to keeping Management where it belongs. This article is in reference to SB241 and HB366, the allocation of Red Salmon in Cook Inlet.

It is our organizations stand to Support Senator Zharoffs view towards Fish Management within Alaska. The Board of Fish must remain in control of this issue due to the nature of management of Alaskas resources. If these Bills are allowed to be settled in the Political arena of our Legislature, the flood gates would be wide open to the Lobbying efforts of special interest groups. With the current system, we, as residents of Alaska, have a say in the way our Fisheries are Managed. Therefore we encourage that Management of Fish remain in control of the appointed Members of the Board of Fish.

Sincerely,

Bob DeWitt mp

Bob DeWitt
President
Ketchikan Sports and
Wildlife Club



34824 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite E • Soldotna • Alaska • 99669 • (907) 262-2492

January 7, 1994

Representative Bill Williams, Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

**Sent By FAX Transmission
Hard Copy Follows By Mail**

Dear Representative Williams:

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA), a group of over 400 commercial fishermen operating in the Cook Inlet area, would like to go on record early as being opposed to Representative Mulder's proposed legislation to allocate additional sockeye away from the Cook Inlet commercial fishery to the the Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery. At the time of writing this letter, the bill had not been prefiled and so I cannot reference a specific bill number, but I am enclosing a copy of the draft bill.

The specific issues addressed in Rep. Mulder's bill have been addressed many times before the Alaska Board of Fisheries - a forum where the public participates vigorously and where biological and other scientific data are presented and examined. A significant record has been built as to why the Board of Fisheries has not already reallocated this fishery further. The actions taken were not based on social debate alone but on substantial biological data coupled with socio-economic information. All of the information was examined with respect to the allocation criteria mandated by the legislature.

The Board of Fisheries is the forum where these issues should be debated and decided. The Board is functioning in the manner for which it was designed. By making or Cook Inlet allocation issues, the legislature will soon find itself in the position of doing nothing except debating statewide fisheries' allocation issues.

Representative Bill Williams
January 7, 1994
Page 2

I would also like to point out that all of the Kenai Peninsula legislators, Senator Suzanne Little, Senator Judy Salo, Rep. Gary Davis, Rep. Mike Navarre, and Rep. Gail Phillips, are opposed to this legislation. This legislation would create fisheries management based on politics without biological consideration.

KPFA is preparing a detailed analysis and critique of this proposal which we will be forwarding to you soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments please contact our office. We will be happy to provide any information you require as this debate unfolds.

Sincerely,



Ken Coleman
President

cc: Rep. Carl Moses, House Fisheries Committee
Senator Suzanne Little
Senator Judy Salo
Representative Gary Davis
Representative Mike Navarre
Representative Gail Phillips

January 11, 1994

Bill Williams
House of Representatives-Resource Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(Interdepartmental Mail Stop: 3100)

Dear Mr. Williams:

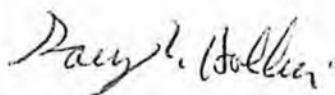
I oppose the Alaska legislature becoming involved with fisheries allocation in the state of Alaska. Once the legislature passes one bill regarding fish allocation it will be setting a precedent to having to address allocation issues across the entire state. I do not believe that the legislature has the time or the expertise to address fish allocation issues.

I would like to see allocation issues continue to be addressed by the Alaska Board of Fish.

I support Tom Elias and Irv Carlisle for renomination to the Alaska Board of Fish. I have attended Board of Fish meetings since 1986. I believe these two men have the knowledge and expertise to give the Board of Fish much needed credibility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Hoilier
Box 2965
Soldotna, AK 99669



Cordova District Fishermen United

P.O. Box 939

Cordova, Alaska 99574

(907) 424-3447 FAX (907) 424-3430

1/14/94

FROM; Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)
Box 939
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-3447

TO: House Resource Committee

RE: House Bill 366

Dear Representative Williams,

Recently a bill was introduced by Rep. Eldon Mulder, R-Anchorage, to the State Legislature in Juneau. This bill if passed into law would allocate 15% of the Cook Inlet Sockeye salmon run to sport fishermen. Traditionally all fishery and allocation issues have been decided by the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Board of Fisheries and the regional Fish and Game Advisory Boards were set up as part of the original Limited Entry legislation over twenty ago. The process for public input and comment is already in place. The system works and it should be left alone. If the state legislature takes on fish-allocation issues it would set a dangerous precedent. The state legislature would be entangled in endless appeals of Board of Fisheries decisions.

The members of the Board of Fisheries are appointed by the governor to represent all the different resource users in the state and have the knowledge and expertise to handle these issues. The state legislators have neither the time nor the background to address complicated resource allocation issues. Along with the dangerous precedent this piece of legislation would set, there is also the very real concern of the implications to management of an allocation of this type.

The commercial fishing industry employs 40% of the seasonal work force on the Kenai Peninsula. Shutting down the commercial fishing industry in years of weak runs could be especially harmful. Managing for a 15% sport fish catch during a large run could lead to harmful overescapement and greatly stress already weakened spawning habitats. The suggestion by the sport fish interest to alleviate this problem by creating a new upriver dipnet fishery would not

only remove these fish from the processing industry but could be very damaging to fragile riverbanks.

The commercial fishing industry is the largest employer in the state of Alaska and the second largest generator of income. CDFU urges the representatives of both urban and rural areas to realize this and not take an active roll in allocation of natural resources, but support the Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game.

CDFU believes this legislation is very inappropriate and presents a real threat to the traditonal means of allocatíng all the natural resources in the state.

Sincerely,
Cordova District Fishermen United
Board of Directors

Representative Bill Williams
House Resource Committee
Room 128
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska

Jan. 14, 1994

Robert J. Kopchak
P.O. Box 1126
Cordova, Alaska
99574

Dear Representative Williams;

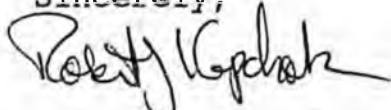
I am distressed at the implications of Senate Bill No. 241 on the traditional process for the allocation of fish and game resources in the state. The creation of the boards of fish and game was one of the most important steps taken in the history of the legislative process in the state. By removing the allocation issues from the political arena and placing them in the hands of independent, appointed boardmembers the legislature set up a process that assured that all users would have an equal opportunity to participate in the decision making. The local public forums, the local advisory process, and the independent decision making process have contributed to fair and impartial allocation of these resources.

To say that a population center with the most votes in the state legislature has the most control over who has access to these resources is an unheard of aberration of the intent of the legislation that created the process. It will make possible the displacement of traditional resource users at the pleasure of the elected majority from the urban areas.

If the members of the legislature are unhappy with the decisions that are being made by the boards of fish and game then they should use the confirmation process to change the make up of the boards.

Please consider this fair and administratively consistent option when you vote for this bill. A no vote is the only fair vote for this bill.

Sincerely;



Robert J. Kopchak

Jody Rullman
117 Wooded Glenn
Kenai, Alaska 99611
(907) 283-4075

January 11, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol, Rm. #128
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Bill Williams:

I am writing to express my opposition to the bill Representative Mulder intends to introduce concerning the allocation of sockeye salmon in Cook Inlet.

The Legislature has already addressed this particular allocation issue as well as all allocation issues by mandating specific allocation criteria for the Alaska Board of Fisheries to use in all allocation decisions. It would be redundant for the legislature to reevaluate the allocation decisions previously made by the Board of Fisheries, for they would surely use the same allocation criteria they mandated. This seems like a lot of extra work for an already too busy Legislature.

Although I don't always agree with the decisions of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, I feel that they are doing the job of managing the fisheries resource as they were set up to do. The Board of Fisheries is the agency that should deal with allocation issues, not the Legislature.

Please vote against this bill. The repercussions would be endless.

Sincerely,

Jody C. Rullman

Jody Rullman

January 11, 1994

Dear Representative Williams,

It has come to my attention that an act relating to the management of Cook Inlet salmon AS 16.05 Section 16.05.740 is about to be introduced for legislative consideration.

As a concerned citizen, Sport Fisherman on the Kenai Peninsula for over 20 years and the elected Sport fishing representative of the Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory committee it is my opinion that fisheries allocation issues should not be addressed or voted on by the legislature.


The State of Alaska already has a procedure in place to address all fisheries issues and act on them. This procedure is through local advisory committees for local public input and local biologists input and then sent to the State Boards of Fish and Game for making into regulations as necessary.

As well as local involvement the State has a highly paid an expert staff of biologists to manage its fisheries.

These biologists and Fisheries Board personnel are far better equipped and more knowledgeable to handle the complex issues of fisheries management than any group of elected officials.

The legislature should NOT become involved in fisheries management at this time or any time in the future.

Sincerely



Edward N. Krohn
P.O. Box 587
Soldotna Alaska 99669



"Looking for a few GOOD fishermen"

LAWRENCE D. RORRISON JR.

P.O. Box 250

KENAI, ALASKA 99611

(907) 283-3873

(907)283-6220 FAX

**Cook Inlet Set Net
Commercial Fisherman**

1/17/94

Dear Rep. Bill Williams,

I am a commercial setnet fishermen, fishing only salmon in Cook Inlet. You are in the process of putting me out of business.

Representative Williams, please give careful consideration when you address SB 241 and HB 366. Without addressing the technicalities of the bill, the over riding idea that the legislature will be involved in the allocation of a fisheries resource will lead to the death of my fishery and then many others within the state. It takes many long hours for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to present their annual fisheries reports. Their documents reach many hundreds of pages. They make detailed studies of many aspects of biological issues and some political questions. Many members of the public have suggestions (proposals) about how they would like to see a fishery operate and there are others that have sincere comments on these and other issues (public testimony).

The Alaska Board of Fisheries was designed as the mechanism to handle all this information. The Board has come a long ways from the days past, it insists that a *proper* public record be built. Most if not all members expend a huge amount of energy and time digesting all the information presented by the ADF&G staff and hundreds from the general public and the fishing industry.

With this intervention of the legislature, the Board of Fisheries process will stop! Every issue that is not settled as one group see fit will be brought before each body of the state legislature for resolution. This will quickly go way past the "allocation" question as almost all conflicts could become expressed as an "allocation" problem if given enough time with an attorney.

I feel that I have and can in the future personally contribute to the Board of Fisheries as they have resolved some of their sticky issues. The Board addresses discrete state regions on a three year revolving basis, using a set meeting schedule that can be somewhat depended upon and planned around and for. This allows the public to provide meaningful input on specific issues, without getting lost in another region's problems. I also only have to find a week or two to attend these hearings and they are usually in a centrally located city or town.

I personally do not feel that as a citizen of the state of Alaska, I have much influence with you or your colleagues with the possible exception of my representatives. I can't travel to Juneau and stay three months to provide the quality, in-depth and in person input that is required for each question.

Representative Williams, for these reasons and many more I would urge you to please vote against SB 241 and/or HB 366 in the best interests of the economic, social and biological health of the State of Alaska's best natural resources, its fisheries.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence D. Rorrison Jr.", written in dark ink.

Lawrence D. Rorrison Jr.

Owner

January 19, 1994
Kasilof, AK 99610

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

I, as a sports fisherman, subsistence fisherman and a commercial crew person oppose the Cook Inlet Fish Allocation Issues being taken from the Board of Fisheries and made a political issue by Representative Mulder's Bill.

Sports fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula have all the early Kings and Reds, priority over the Silvers and late Kings, 5% of the late Reds and all of the Silvers after August 15th.

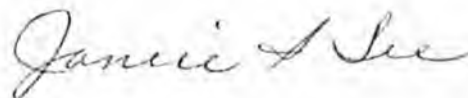
Subsistence fishermen have special openings and an early Kasilof River Opening.

Cook Inlet commercial fishermen have July and two weeks in August to make their actual annual catch.

Biologically, these seasons are controlled so that the runs are not overfished or underfished with special openings or closings for all users.

This is the most sensible use of the resource and should not become a political football.

Sincerely yours,



Janice I. See

John Bocci
Box 1312
Cordova, Ak.
99574

18 January, 1994

House Resource Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital (ms 3100)
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182

re: House Bill # 366


Rep. Williams.

In regard to H.B. 366, I think a dangerous precedent is being set here and perhaps with much further reaching ramifications than you may have envisioned. Just the idea of legislation such as this indicates to me that the sponsors don't have a firm grasp of exactly what they may be getting into. The legislature should stick to the areas of its expertise and allow the Board of Fisheries to do likewise, it is, after all, designed to do exactly what you're toying with, make educated decisions concerning fish and game resources.

If the railbelt is allowed to make all the decisions for the entire state, then those of us who choose not to live there may as well go somewhere else. Turning resource management into a political weapon is a tremendous injustice to all Alaskans. Once you start such a process, where does it end? If you think you can make one decision and then revert back to the original system, I think you're mistaken. To allocate resource's away from rural Alaska to satisfy urban voters is bad politics. I realize you have a debt to pay to your constituents, but I like to think of the legislature as working in the best interest of the State as a whole.

There are enough fish for everyone, contrary to what some may have you believe. Please leave the decision making process in the proper hands.

Sincerely,


John Bocci

jwb



: House Members
um: Rep. Lyman
Hoffman

FYI

**RESOLUTION 94-03
COUNCIL OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF TYONEK
AN INDIAN CHARTERED TRIBE**

WHEREAS; This Tribe is an Indian Chartered Tribe, as defined by the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of June 14, 1934, and the Act of May 1, 1936 extending certain provisions of the former Act of Alaska, and under its Charter, Constitution and By-Laws, has full authority to act in the following, and,

WHEREAS; the Native Village of Tyonek has established long range goals which relate to the collective and individual, social and economical concerns of its population base and,

WHEREAS; the very life of the Native Village of Tyonek Tribe will be culturally and economically will be devastated if "Allocation by Legislation" becomes a reality, if all Fish and Game issue are to be brought before future legislatures; and,

WHEREAS; SB 241 demonstrates no concern for the future resources and ignores fact that the Board of Fisheries process is designed to take all biological information into consideration and,

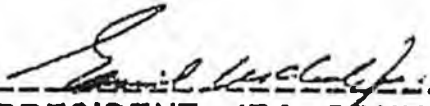
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Native Village of Tyonek's IRA Council opposes SB 241 and urges the Legislature to support the Board of Fisheries Policy, which continues to manage all Alaskan Rivers on a biological sustained yield

basis.

CERTIFICATION

DATED THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY, 1994

NATIVE VILLAGE OF TYONEK



PRESIDENT, IRA COUNCIL



SECRETARY, IRA COUNCIL

VOTED FOR:	<u>7</u>
VOTED AGAINST:	<u>6</u>
ABSTAINED:	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	<u>1</u>
PRESENT:	<u>7</u>

Editor, Ketchikan Daily News,

Feb. 3, 1994

Senator Fred Zharoff, D. Kodiak wrote to the Point of View editorial on January 28th in regard to keeping Management where it belongs. This article is in reference to SB241 and HB366, the allocation of Red Salmon in Cook Inlet.

It is our organizations stand to Support Senator Zharoffs view towards Fish Management within Alaska. The Board of Fish must remain in control of this issue due to the nature of management of Alaskas resources. If these Bills are allowed to be settled in the Political arena of our Legislature, the flood gates would be wide open to the Lobbying efforts of special interest groups. With the current system, we, as residents of Alaska, have a say in the way our Fisheries are Managed. Therefore we encourage that Management of Fish remain in control of the appointed Members of the Board of Fish.

Sincerely,

Bob DeWitt
Bob DeWitt
President
Ketchikan Sports and
Wildlife Club

January 14, 1994

Let's Keep Fish and Game Management Where It Belongs

By State Senator Fred Zharoff

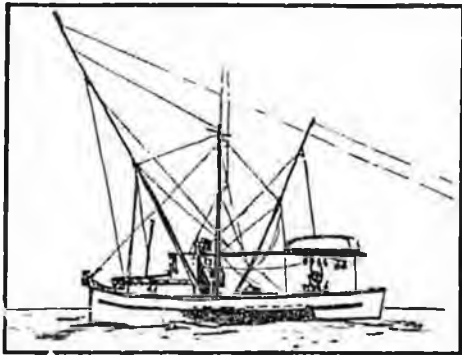
Legislation has recently been introduced in both houses of the Alaska State Legislature regarding fisheries allocation in the Cook Inlet area. These measures, SB 241 in the Senate and its companion bill, HB 366, in the House, would preempt management through the normal regulatory process by mandating management of sockeye salmon in Cook Inlet by statute. This effort is a blatant attempt by special interests to circumvent Alaska's established, effective, and proven system of management through our board process.

Managing our valuable fish or game resources by statute is simply bad public policy. The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game provide the proper forum for determining the management and allocation of our resources. The Board forum allows for a very high level of both public and management agency input that gives the Board members access to crucial historical and biological information. The legislature is not set up to function in this manner.

In my tenure in the legislature, this type of an issue has come up on several occasions. In almost every instance, the legislature has recognized that this is not the arena for making these complex decisions. We simply cannot have a situation where every person or group who feels that they did not get all that they want through our

Board process comes to the legislature and asks us to make special laws on their behalf. Fish and Game regulations are just that - regulations - and it is the job of the Boards and the Department of Fish and Game to make and implement these regulations and review them on a regular basis. If we start managing through the legislature, we will end up with a real mess on our hands. Managing by statute just doesn't leave the flexibility that is needed for our resources. Both the public and the resource will ultimately be the loser if this happens.

I know that allocation of fish in Cook Inlet has been contentious for quite some time. However, the Board of Fisheries, which is made up of persons representing commercial, subsistence, sport, and personal uses, after hearing extensive public testimony and reviewing all the pertinent data, recently voted 7-0 to implement the current management regime. This unanimous vote by the Board after a long hearing on all the issues shows how complex this matter is. What is being presented to the legislature now would lead one to believe that this is a simple, black and white issue, and that is not the case at all. I will be working hard in opposition to this legislation in order to protect the public process and keep fish and game management where it belongs.



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward Sr., No. 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

February 2, 1994

Alaska State Legislator
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Legislator,

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) strongly opposes SB 241 and HB 366, which pertain to the management of sockeye salmon in Cook Inlet. ATA believes that decisions governing the management of Alaska's fisheries should remain the purview of the Board of Fisheries. The role of legislators in regard to Alaska fisheries is best limited to confirming qualified, unbiased Board members and developing broad state fisheries policy.

Alaska's fisheries are vast and complex. Allocative decisions between user groups are best addressed in the Board of Fisheries forum, not in the Legislature chambers. This will ensure not only public input, but the consideration of important biological and management information provided by ADF&G's fisheries scientists.

The members of the Board of Fisheries bring years of fishing experience and regional knowledge to the Board process. They are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislative body.

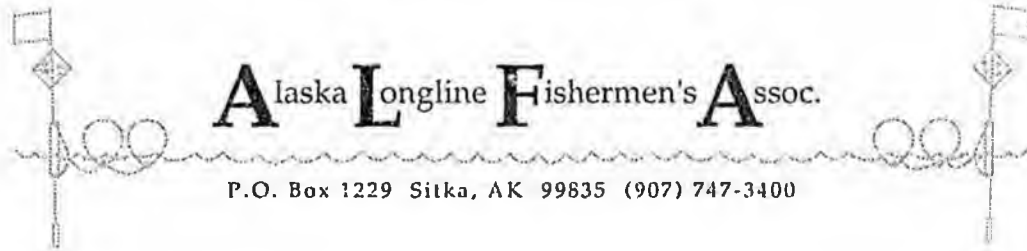
Should the Legislature choose to implement the terms of SB 241 and HB 366, it will question the Board of Fisheries' process and anyone unhappy with an allocation decision will bring their issue to the Legislature. This will set a grim precedent for the management of Alaska's fish and game, as political muscle will become the deciding factor in allocative disputes.

ATA encourages you to oppose SB 241 and HB 366.

Sincerely,

Michelle Buehler for OK

Dale A. Kelley
Executive Director



Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SB 241
HB 366

January 18, 1994

Dear Legislator,

On behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association's (ALFA) membership, I would like to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 241. ALFA opposes S.B. 241, and any legislation introduced to amend Board of Fisheries and Game legislation, for the following reasons:

1. Alaska has maintained healthy, productive natural resources by basing management decisions on science rather than politics. Fish and Game management is the responsibility of the Board of Fisheries and Game, a body that works closely with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to ensure that best available science is used in the decision making process. Any legislation that preempts this process jeopardizes the health of Alaska's fish and game resources by politicizing decisions, subverting science to the persuasiveness of lobbyist. The same subversion destroyed the fisheries off the East coast.
2. In making decisions on the Cook Inlet sockeye salmon allocation, the Board had available biological information as well as socioeconomic information. S.B. 241 threatens streamside habitat by increasing the sport fishery; S.B. 241 also threatens the socioeconomic health of the Cook Inlet area, where sockeye harvests represent 90-95% of the income for 3,500 commercial fishermen and 3,000 processing sector workers. The economy of the Kenai Peninsula depends on a healthy, productive commercial Cook Inlet Sockeye fishery. Legislative action to reverse the Board's decision would undermine both the biological and socioeconomic health of the Kenai/Cook Inlet region.

In sum, S.B. 241 presents an immediate threat to the Cook Inlet area, as well as a long-term threat to Alaska's fish and game resources by subverting science to politics. In the future, Alaska's economic health will become increasingly dependent on its renewable resources; maintaining abundant, sustainable fish stocks is critical to that future. Interjecting politics through legislative action into the management of fish and game will set a disastrous precedent. On behalf of ALFA's membership, I urge you to protect Alaska's resources, uphold the Board process, and oppose S.B. 241.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Linda Behnken (Exec. Director, ALFA)

January 19, 1994

Alaska Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

SUBJECT: Future of Commercial Fishing in Cook Inlet

Dear Legislator,

The Legislature has been asked to intervene in the management of Cook Inlet salmon resources in areas formerly handled by the Board of Fisheries. This intervention is demanded by special interest groups. How the Legislature handles these demands will forever affect the future of Cook Inlet. Is commercial fishing in that future?

The commercial fishing industry cannot continue to remain healthy and viable within this increasingly complicated political atmosphere. We are able to compete with our votes and lobbyist but, we cannot challenge the notion that from powers on high, birthright, constitutional right, etc., that all Alaskans, tourists, relatives, or any one else who happens to be here when the salmon run comes in, has the God given right that they be guaranteed, by the State, enough fish to consume, send to their relatives, feed the dogs, and take to the dump when Spring arrives, then it is time to do it again.

The numbers of people here who exercise these "rights" is uncontrolled and will increase, as will the pressure to take more salmon from the commercial fishing industry, eventually starving it to death. This is what was done in Washington, Oregon, and California, and as we know, resulted in the annihilation of their salmon resources. These states failed to realize, that in order to maintain their commercial salmon fisheries, they had to take into account all other user groups and control them too.

It is important to note: If there are sufficient numbers of salmon to have a controlled commercial harvest, it follows that the area has a healthy run. If not, decades of salmon management experience has documented that the run is stressed or, worse, endangered. I am saying that all Pacific salmon runs were commercially viable at one time.

Please remember this when you vote on the future of Alaska's salmon- A healthy commercial harvest means an equally healthy sport and subsistence harvest.

You, in the Legislature have always had a method whereby all user groups will remain economically viable. Reduce the amount of commercial fishing gear by buying permits back. The current bills before you seek to reduce the entire fishery collectively whereby, eventually, as ever more demands are made, no commercial fisherman will make enough to continue and the State will lose yet another industry.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R E Merchant".

I am a 21 year resident and a 19 year Cook Inlet commercial fisherman.

Robert E. Merchant
P.O. Box 705
Soldotna, AK 99689
(907) 283-9447

January 19, 1994

Alaska Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative,

I want to express my opposition to HB 366.

Alaskan's are supposed to manage its resource on a biologically, not a political manner.

Have you also considered that your bill, HB 366 may cause more harm to the resource and as an end result, you will create a monster that you can not repair?

The Board of Fish process considers all aspects of the resource, not one special group over another.

Let the Board of Fish handle fish allocation and you handle legislative problems and our government will work. HB 366 is not a good bill.

*Thank you for your time
Emmet Heidemann
PO Box 770661
Eagle River, Alaska, 99577
Telephone 694-4497*

1-19-94

Dear Representative:

I strongly oppose HB 366
Resources should be managed
biologically not politically.

The Fish Board does an excellent
job in all aspects of the resource, does
not show favoritism over any special
group. Let them continue to handle
fish allocation and the House take care
of legislation like it is supposed to.

HB 366 is a bill that will cause
harm to the resource.

Thank you for your attention

Cavine Heidemann

PO Box 770061

Eagle River, Ak 99577

Telephone# 694-4497

Teague Vanek
931 W. 71st Ave.
Anchorage, Ak 99518
(907)349-7523

JAN. 20, 1994

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, Ak

Dear Legislators,

Please be aware that I vehemently oppose House Bill No. 366 and Senate Bill No. 241. This bill should never have been introduced in the first place because it undermines the highly democratic processes already in place with the Board of Fisheries. It is nothing more than a left-handed attempt by Rep. Mulder and his friends to circumvent the Board of Fisheries with their own political agenda.

It is imperative that this bill not pass, because using the legislature as a tool for allocation and re-allocation of the fisheries resource is not useful or practical. The Board of Fisheries process is one that accepts and uses input from the fishing industry, sport fishing interests, expert biologists, law enforcement officials, and many others. Local advisory groups also participate. Pre-emption of this process would only serve to degrade its viability. It would also shift a great burden upon the legislature, because there will always be someone dissatisfied with what "they" got out of the Board of Fisheries.

Other reasons for failing this bill include the increased habitat destruction it would cause, increased challenges for fisheries managers, and the simple fact that it is unfair. There is already controversy over what to do about the habitat destruction committed by the current level of sport sockeye fishermen's hip boots. Adding more can only increase the salmon habitat loss. Don't let that happen!

Failure of this bill will send a strong message to those who would like to belittle the public process already in place in the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Teague Vanek

Teague Vanek

Dear Legislator Williams

I vehemently oppose Mulders bill reallocating Cook Inlet sockeye by amending AS16.05. The Board of Fisheries works! They need to be left alone so they CAN do their job, besides; pertaining to this issue there are plenty of sportsman on the Board. Politicians don't belong in fish management; do you consider yourself a fair judge of biological issues? The Legislature can't possibly due justice to the runs, you can't debate fish management politically. The Board of Fish is the tool by which all parties have their say; Legislators are not on par with the professionals at ADF & G.

To top it off; it's stealing! That's what God calls it, all the way from the Exodus. You can't take part of one user groups share and simply give it to another user group, who happens to be a squeakier part (and is every year). It would be a criminal act in my book, and personally I believe the privilege to provide a livelihood for my family comes before the privilege to recreate- anyday! Please leave fisheries to the professionals.

Furthermore; this idea of a 40 mile long dip net fishery demonstrates quite clearly my whole point here. That's twice as assinine as Pennys Project US was; purly ludicrous! I'm convinced that some of you politicians really don't have a clue about fisheries; and this idea just enforces that thinking. Consider the destruction of the habitat.

Also, this minimum percentage to be reallocated; exactly what part of the run is that? Please tell me?

This is Pandoras Box you're playing with, think of the far reaching effects- on the fish, and yes even politically. You're literally going to have absolutely EVERY fishery organization in the entire state out on this one. The precedent of this could make the Boldt decision look like peanuts.

STOP this terrible piece of legislation is my hope. Please respond to me with how you feel on the situation, thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

Rick Jewell

Rick Jewell

Distributed by Rep. Phillips

January 21, 1994

RE: Senate Bill to Allocate Commercial Fish to Sport Fish # 241
HB 366

Dear Legislator:

We are six Southcentral Alaska commercial fishermen who adamantly oppose the legislature's weakening the Board of Fisheries regulatory process by passing laws allocating fishery resources. If that were to occur, every rule made by the Board would be subjected to pleas for legislative change.

The Board listens to hours of public testimony and scientific data on which to base their decision. The legislature makes primarily political decisions. Please, maintain the integrity of the Board of Fisheries process by defeating this Senate Bill. and House Bill.

Sincerely,

- Beaver Nelson *Beaver Nelson*
- Joccie Nelson *Joccie Nelson* 235-0115
- Rob Nelson *Rob Nelson*
- Kerry Nelson *Kerry Nelson*
- Tom Nelson *Tom Nelson*
- Sonja Nelson *Sonja Nelson*

*Kenia - Please distribute to all legislators.
Thanks.
Joccie*

For your files

1/24/94

From: Christine Holmes
Box 2676
Cordova, AK 99574

To. Representative William K. Williams
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Room 128-C

Re. House Bill 366

Dear Representative Williams,

I am a commercial fisherman in Alaska and I am opposed to House bill 366 because I feel it is wrong to manage a fishery resource politically rather than biologically. Just say NO! Please vote no on H3 366.

Sincerely,

Christine Holmes



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

2932 C Street, Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 563-4AOC
FAX: (907) 561-0800

February 1, 1994

The Honorable Rick Halford
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

The Honorable Ramona Barnes
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear President Halford and Speaker Barnes:

The Alaska Outdoor Council cannot support SB 241 at this time, because it would set a precedent regarding the involvement of the Legislature in resource allocation, and by implication, in other elements of fish and game management.

However, we are very concerned with the apparent impasse regarding sockeye salmon allocation under the Kenai River sockeye management plan. It appears to us that an additional allocation is technically feasible, provided that adequate provisions are made to assure that incremental habitat damage associated with increased fishing does not occur.

In our view, habitat protection is the critical issue, although allocation is the more controversial right now.

We urge Commissioner Rosier to persuade the Board of Fisheries to make a special effort to address this issue prior to the 1994 fishing season. It seems to us that the situation warrants closer and timely attention by the Board.

Criteria listed in AS 16.05.251.14 (d) and (e) set strong guidelines regarding fish allocation, including "fair and reasonable opportunity", economics, personal and family consumption, past practices and recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.

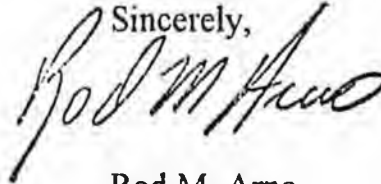
The controversy seems to center on how flexible the management plan is regarding allocation, particularly in response to large runs. Surely under such circumstances an additional sportfishing red salmon allocation is possible without threatening either the spawning escapement or the commercial fishing enterprise.

The Honorable Rick Halford
The Honorable Ramona Barnes
February 1, 1994
Page Two

Increased sportfishing opportunity/allocation could be triggered by a high run projection rather than a specific sonar count, for example. Or provision might be made for emergency opening of sportfishing for reds on all or parts of the Kenai River based on some combination of early indicators of a large run.

However, we re-emphasize that the concern for habitat impacts expressed by all those involved in the debate must be adequately addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod M. Arno". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Rod M. Arno
President

RMA:RB:ltl

cc: Governor Hickel
Alaska State Legislature
Commissioner Rosier
Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc.
Alaska Sportfishing Association

✓

P.O. Box 220530
Anchorage, Alaska
January 25, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
Room 128
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

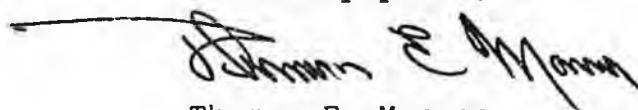
Dear Representative Bill Williams:

We are shocked and disappointed that you are even considering House Bill No. 366, allotting 15 percent of the sockeye salmon from Cook Inlet stock to be utilized exclusively for sport fishing purposes in the Kenai, Susitna and other river systems draining into Cook Inlet !

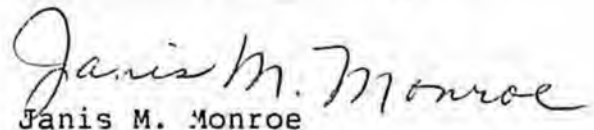
The Cook Inlet fisheries are expecting very poor returns for the next several years as it is. This bill will be disastrous to all Cook Inlet commercial fishermen! You are effectively destroying our chances to earn a living through commercial fishing. We finance the raising of the stocks through our Aquaculture tax, and we are bound by stringent regulations already regarding the areas and times we are allowed to fish.

This changing of the allotment will have a strongly adverse effect on the economy of the entire Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage, itself, just so that sports fishermen can bring home more fish. They fish for the sport, we fish to feed our families.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas E. Monroe



Janis M. Monroe

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages	2
To	Rep. Bill Williams	From	H.E.R. Enterprises
Co.		Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

H.E.R Enterprises
 Box 382
 Kasilot, AK- 99610
 (907) 262-7515

1-21-94

Dear Representative

I Harold E. Ryden have been
 a resident on the Kenai Penin- for
 33 yrs and I have a small Ex-
 cavating Business

This Bill Rep number AS 16.05
 should be taken care of by the
 Board of Fisheries as they should know
 more about the biological escapement
 of Cook Inlet sockeye than the Legislature

The Commercial Fisherman have sponsored
 Hatcheries reproduced fish for the inlet. all
 the sports fisherman have done is mired
 the highways & the rivers.

The Bottom line is when the Commercial
 Fisherman do good I also have a good year
 the sports fisherman have done nothing but
 clutter the highways with motorhomes & sports
 boats. If you take away Commercial fishing
 rights to Harvest sockeye you are also taking
 away my rights to making a living.

on The Kenai Penin There are many

other businesses that it would
 effect. the same as it does mine
 thank you for your time & hop
 you will consider my point

Harold E. Elyden

H.E.R Enterprises
 Box 382
 Kasilo, AK 99810
 (907) 262-7515

For your Information -
Distributed by Rep. Gary Davis

January 18, 1994

Alaska Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Legislator,

As a twenty year resident of the Kenai Peninsula, a fifteen year Cook Inlet permit holder, a United Cook Inlet Drift Association member of the Board of Directors, and an Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Advisory Committee member, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 241 and HB 366 recently introduced into the Legislature by Senator Halford and Eldon Mulder.

It is my opinion, and that of most of my associates, from teachers to farmers and fishermen, both sport and commercial, that this bill and its concept poses a great threat to the biological management of both fish and game resources statewide.

A system of management has been established that, first and foremost, manages biologically for the longevity of our resources, the Alaska Board of Fisheries. This system provides opportunity for public input and review where social differences or impact can be heard from local areas statewide. This information is gathered into a general consensus before a Board of devoted people with the support of law and biological order on both sides. The Board of Fisheries, made up of an equal proportion of interest groups, is able to decipher and digest biological, social and economic impacts statewide. It provides a direction for managing our resources in their best interest and those of Alaska's society.

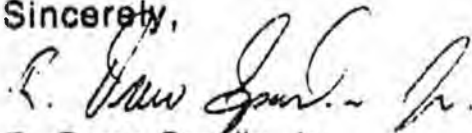
With the introduction of SB 241 and HB 366, we now have a drastic change in the management scheme. Will the pull of special interest groups or just plain popularity have the ability to over-ride the management system already established?

Taking into consideration the scope of our legislative agenda in dealing with the multitude of other issues in dire need of attention and the budget constraints that exist, I question how any legislative action can formulate a better process for management decisions than what is already in place.

By-passing the Board of Fisheries, as the proposed by Representative Mulder, drafted by Mr. Bob Penny and his commercial guide sport constituents, will upset the management scheme. Destruction of habitat and ultimately the resource is already in affect as a result of over use of the most easily accessible regions. I ask you, how can increased use be any benefit to the resource's future?

In order to avoid going the way of the other coastal states where resources have been endangered to the point of extinction (making recovery impossible), through destruction of habitat, you, as a responsible user and an elected official must take a stand against the demands and greed of special interest groups and take a position in favor of preserving the habitat and, ultimately, the resource. Your vote opposing Senate Bill 241 or House Bill 366 will ensure the health of Alaska's resources.

Sincerely,



R. Drew Sparlin Jr.
P.O. Box 283
Kenai, AK. 99611

(907) 283-1912

(907) 224-2625

Ted J. Crookston
HC1 Box 15A
Kenai, AK 99611

January 18, 1994

Dear Senator or Representative:

For many years, I have been a commercial fisherman in the Cook Inlet sockeye salmon fishery. I own property, pay taxes and contribute substantially to the local economy. As a responsible and conscientious fisherman, I am truly appreciative of and encouraged by efforts of the State of Alaska through its Department of Commerce to take a leadership role in developing the seafood industry and in bolstering the image of Alaska seafood products in the world food supply markets.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Board of Fisheries and management based on biological facts and appropriate criteria under the direction of experienced Alaska Department of Fish and Game personnel have helped build this resource up to its present state. However, it is very contradictory to have the legislature consider the actions that are proposed in bill AS 16.05. This bill represents those who are listening to so called sports fishing advocates who are pursuing their own exploitative agenda. The results of this legislation would be unconscionable.

* The legislature would be entering the realm of fisheries management and political issues would take priority over biological concerns.

* This legislation would change the priority on Cook Inlet sockeye salmon stocks during the period of July 1 through August 15 from the commercial fishery to the recreational fishery.

* The legislation would provide a dip net fishery in the first 40 miles of the Kenai River.

* The 15% minimum is expressed to be only a "minimum" and that additional sport harvest will be provided if the need for more fish is evident on a yearly basis.

* The legislation will increase the destruction of habitat already occurring in the Kenai River system.

* The legislation would increase the occurrence of over escapement and jeopardize the health of stocks.

The stability and continued viability of both the river system fishing resource itself and Cook Inlet commercial fishing industry are being compromised and placed at risk. I urge you to vote against AS 16.05. Please support the management plan and policy as established by the Board of Fisheries and vote in favor of the continued legacy of the Kenai River which has benefited the lives of so many - commercial and sports fishermen alike. This letter represents the views of other family members, friends and associates as listed as well as many others who are not listed.

Sincerely,



TED J. CROOKSTON

TJC/cg

Laurie Crookston
Molly Crookston
Pat Crookston
Lee Crookston
Stephen Crookston
Kendall Carlson
Paul Carlson
Mont Frandsen
Farris Crookston
Connie Forsgren
Dave Lucas
Dixie Lucas
Peter Buckelew
Rila Johnson
Jerry Johnson

Paul Crookston
Michael Crookston
Katie Crookston
Neal Crookston
Samuel Henley
Thad Carlson
Dave Riplinger
Karen Frandsen
Nick A. Crookston
Clair Crookston
Linda Lucas
Frank Canady
Sherrie Buckelew
Robert Johnson
Jonie Johnson

Alan Crookston
Kent Crookston
Bryan Crookston
Megan Crookston
Shirley Henley
Carol Carlson
Tim Isatt
Doug Crookston
John Forsgren
LaDell Crookston
Don Lucas
Randy Canady
Keith Johnson
Alison Johnson
Dottie Corson



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the H & S
RESOURCES
 committee name
 HB 366 &
 committee on SB 241, dated Jan 18, 1994
 bill/subject

I WANT TO REGISTER OPPOSITION TO SB 241. THE POLICY STATEMENT CLAIMS TO BENEFIT ALL SOOK INLET DRAINAGES WHEN IN FACT IT WAS DRAFTED FOR THE EXPRESS BENEFIT OF SPORT FISH INTERESTS ON THE KENAI RIVER ALONE. THE LANGUAGE IS VAGUE, UNMANAGEABLE AND UNENFORCEABLE. HOW CAN COMMERCIAL "HARVEST" BE USED FOR SPORT PURPOSES?

THE CENTRAL DISTRICT HAS SURRENDERED ALL RUNS EXCEPT A PORTION OF THE SECOND SORKEYE RUN TO SPORT FISH INTERESTS.

THIS KIND OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BY POLICY WILL DEVASTATE THE HABITAT AND DESTROY THE FISHERY - OR ANY THAT IT ATTACHES TO.

WE MUST DEMAND MANAGEMENT & ALLOCATIONS FOR THE HEALTH OF ALL RUNS TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL USERS. MICRO-MANAGEMENT OF THIS SORT IS DEPLORABLE! THE CENTRAL DISTRICT -- and SOOK all districts -- IS BEING REGULATED INTO OBLIVION.

Signed:

Testifier

NANCY T. PALE

Representing (Optional)

HC 31 BOX 5099 P WASILLA

Address

376-2286

Phone No.

NO! TO SB 241.



34824 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite E • Soldotna • Alaska • 99669 • (907) 262-2492

January 7, 1994

Representative Bill Williams, Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

**Sent By FAX Transmission
Hard Copy Follows By Mail**

Dear Representative Williams:

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA), a group of over 400 commercial fishermen operating in the Cook Inlet area, would like to go on record early as being opposed to Representative Mulder's proposed legislation to allocate additional sockeye away from the Cook Inlet commercial fishery to the Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery. At the time of writing this letter, the bill had not been prefiled and so I cannot reference a specific bill number, but I am enclosing a copy of the draft bill.

The specific issues addressed in Rep. Mulder's bill have been addressed many times before the Alaska Board of Fisheries - a forum where the public participates vigorously and where biological and other scientific data are presented and examined. A significant record has been built as to why the Board of Fisheries has not already reallocated this fishery further. The actions taken were not based on social debate alone but on substantial biological data coupled with socio-economic information. All of the information was examined with respect to the allocation criteria mandated by the legislature.

The Board of Fisheries is the forum where these issues should be debated and decided. The Board is functioning in the manner for which it was designed. By taking on Cook Inlet allocation issues, the legislature will soon find itself in the position of doing nothing except debating statewide fisheries' allocation issues.

Representative Bill Williams
January 7, 1994
Page 2

I would also like to point out that all of the Kenai Peninsula legislators, Senator Suzanne Little, Senator Judy Salo, Rep. Gary Davis, Rep. Mike Navarre, and Rep. Gail Phillips, are opposed to this legislation. This legislation would create fisheries management based on politics without biological consideration.

KPFA is preparing a detailed analysis and critique of this proposal which we will be forwarding to you soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments please contact our office. We will be happy to provide any information you require as this debate unfolds.

Sincerely,



Ken Coleman
President

cc: Rep. Carl Moses, House Fisheries Committee
Senator Suzanne Little
Senator Judy Salo
Representative Gary Davis
Representative Mike Navarre
Representative Gail Phillips



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389
(907) 283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306

**KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE ALLOCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEMO #1**

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Legislator,

I'm writing to inform you of our strong opposition to Cook Inlet allocation legislation to amend AS 16.05, Management of Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon, being proposed by Representative Mulder which has been requested by Mr. Bob Penny and some heretofore unknown "organization" calling itself Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus (CISC).

Sockeye salmon harvests represent 90-95% of the income for the commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet. Therefore, when dealing with sockeye salmon allocation issues, United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) represents the 3,500 harvesters, 3,000 processing workers and all those who work in the many other industries that support ours. Our industry represents 40% of the work force in the Kenai Peninsula Borough during the fishing season. Furthermore, 79% of the commercial salmon permit holders in Cook Inlet are Alaskan residents - this is one of the highest residency rates for any of Alaska's major commercial fisheries.

Rep. Mulder and CISC propose to have the legislature enter into the realm of fish and game allocation which is properly reserved to the Boards of Fisheries and Game. Alaska's fish and game resources and local communities dependent on resources desired by others with more political clout or votes on any given day will not survive "management and allocation" by politics.

Consideration of this legislation will set a precedent for all controversial fish and game issues to come before the legislature. No one should be under the illusion that this is just

an isolated Cook Inlet allocation issue. Once the legislature enters into the realm of fisheries allocation between sport and commercial users in Cook Inlet the next step will be to take up sport/commercial disputes in all other areas of the state. Following that, the legislature will undoubtedly be asked to take up issues within commercial and sport user groups - e.g. bait vs. fly sportsfishermen, guided vs. non-guided sportsfishermen, and the obvious allocation issues within the commercial fishing community. It must also be noted that Game issues (wolves, caribou, etc.) will not be immune from this precedent.

Rep. Mulder's proposal presents all of the negative aspects of political allocation just noted:

- 1) The habitat destruction already acknowledged as being caused by the sockeye fishery from the river banks will be increased dramatically and on a permanent annual basis. It should be noted also that, ironically, the habitat and the fishery resources most at risk are the king and coho salmon which have made the Kenai River a truly renowned "sport fishery".
- 2) The current proposal requests an "allocation" far beyond the capacity of the "sport" fishery to harvest in the Kenai River during large returns. The dipnet solution to this little flaw in logic being proposed by Rep. Mulder would only dramatically increase boat traffic on a river that is universally acknowledged as being currently over utilized. Furthermore, crowding problems in the Kasilof and Susitna systems will likewise be compounded.
- 3) Further, the "sport" harvests mandated in the Susitna and Kasilof systems, in and of themselves, would assure major reductions or elimination of harvest opportunities for commercial fishermen in order to assure enough sockeye enter those systems. The commercial fishery in Cook Inlet would simply not remain a viable industry.

UCIDA is preparing an information packet to address the multitude of misrepresentations being presented by Mr. Penny and CISC. We will have representatives in Juneau soon to discuss this issue with you. In the meantime, we hope you will resist Representative Mulder's request for the

Legislative Memo #1

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legislature to open up the pandora's box of fish and game "allocation by legislation". Once opened, all fish and game issues statewide - even those within the sportfishing community - will be fair game and before future legislatures.

Please feel free to contact the UCIDA office for further information.

Sincerely,



Theo Matthews
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure: Homer News article, Some like sockeye bill, others don't

John Efta
P.O. Box 353
Kenai, Alaska

January 11, 1994

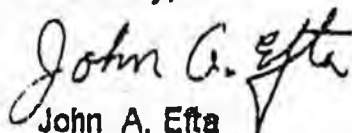
Dear Legislator,

I am writing concerning a proposed bill that Representative Eldon Mulder and House Speaker Ramona Barnes are backing. The bill's intent is to give a fifteen percent allocation of the total run of reds in Cook Inlet to the sports fishermen. I am not going to elaborate on all of the consequences of what will happen if you support such an idea. I believe you should have the foresight to understand all the issues involved if you are going to take over the job of being a fish manager. I find it strange that any legislator could support a bill that deals with allocation, but at the same time is a biological, economic and environmental issue.

If such legislation is supported and passed, there is no need for the Alaska Board of Fish or the other supporting agencies that carry out the tasks of enforcing regulations. You would have become the Board of Fish! If you now set on the Board of Fish, you must be prepared to take on all issues concerning sport fishing, sport guides, subsistence, and commercial fishing. If you support this legislation, you have opened "Pandora's Box". You now must be prepared to deal with all fisheries issues in Cook Inlet and — Yes — all fisheries issues in all of the regions in the state!

I don't believe the board process should be thrown out. The process was created in order that decisions be made to ensure the health of the resource. I don't think politics can address all of the issues that are necessary to put the health of the resource first. I respectfully ask that you please not support this type of legislation. Thank You.

Sincerely,


John A. Efta

HOMER NEWS

 UCIDA
 P.O. 507
 KENAI, AK

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Thursday, January 6, 1984

Some like sockeye bill, others don't

by Doug Loshbaugh
 Staff Writer

An Anchorage legislator says he expects 21 representatives and 11 senators to sign onto his bill to allocate 15 percent of the Cook Inlet red salmon catch to sport fishermen.

But Homer-area sport fishermen contacted by the Homer News expressed little support for the bill, which Rep. Eldon Mulder, R-Anch., said he'll file next week.

"I wouldn't even be in favor of it," said Meryl Wolford, an Anchor Point sport-fishing guide. "In my mind, reds aren't real sport fish."

He said sportsmen should focus efforts on kings and silvers.

"I'd give commercial fishermen every red salmon in the state of Alaska if they'd be a little more sympathetic on our kings and silvers," Wolford said.

Homer sport-fishing guide Frank Libal, vice president of the South Peninsula Sportsman's Association, doubted hook-and-line fishermen could even take 15 percent of a big Cook Inlet run.

"You can't do it in salt water," he said. "In fresh water, only a small percentage of fishermen are legitimately taking those fish. The rest are snagging. That's not sport fishing to me."

Homer commercial drift fisherman Bill Choate said allocating 15 percent to sport fishermen could ruin the commercial fleet.

"They're talking a price of 60 cents a pound next year. That's pushing an average season to \$10,000 or \$15,000. Fifteen percent would be a lot of people's insurance payments. How much blood can you squeeze

from a turnip?"

He said the more Anchorage grows, the more sacrifices its residents demand from commercial fishermen. Theo Matthews, administrative assistant for the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, said commercial fishermen have already given up the early reds and kings and face increasing restrictions to protect Kenai River silvers.

Choate said he could imagine being driven out of commercial fishing. But he's fished so long, he can't imagine leaving.

"My lifestyle — the essence of who I am — is being gnawed away," he said. "It's real scary when you're middle-aged. Say I owned a gas station and they re-routed the highway."

Matthews said new allocations to sport fishermen would increase damage to the banks of the Kenai River.

Libal and Homer charter operator Jack Montgomery said they feared sport fishermen couldn't keep up if managers let too many reds past commercial fishermen. There might be too many spawners in the Kenai River. Biologists already predict a series of poor runs because excess spawners overloaded the river in the late 1980s.

Biologist Steve Hammarstrom of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Soldotna said that if 1.5 million reds entered the Kenai, as happened in 1987, rod-and-reel fishermen probably couldn't reduce them to the maximum of 700,000 spawners sought by biologists. Dipnetters might do it, he said. But Libal said he doesn't believe dipnetting is sport fishing.

"That's personal use or subsistence to me," Libal said. "If you're going to allocate to sport fishing, that's hook-and-line."