SCOMM

126:23

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)
Date Referred to Committee: January 14, 2002 **FURTHER REFERRALS: Resources**

Date of Committee Action: 2/25/02

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES Committee considered: **HB 283**

HOUSE BILL NO. 283 **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF FISHERIES**

"An Act relating to appointments to the Board of Fisheries and to the ex officio secretary of the Board of Fisheries."

Recommends it be replaced with ____ **CS** HB 283 (FSH) [X] **Same Title** [ ] **New Title**
*For Senate Bills with new title: [ ] Technical Title [ ] New Title: HCR*____

[ ] attach amendments
[ ] add new referral to _____Committee
[ ] Letter of Intent _____Committee

List of Abbrev. for Depts.:
ADM
~~CED~~
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
HSS
LAA
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

NEW **FISCAL NOTES** *For Chief Clerk's Office Use Only				
List by Dept(s):	***FN#**	**Fiscal**	**Indet.**	**Zero**
GOV				✓

PREVIOUS **FISCAL NOTES**				
List by Dept(s):	**FN#**	**Fiscal**	**Indet.**	**Zero**

Signing with recommendations	**Printed Last Name**	**DP**	**DNP**	**NR**	**AM**
	Dyson				✓
	Coghill		✓		
	Seaton	✓			
	Kerttula	WM			✓
Chair:	Wilson	X			
Chair:	Stevens	X			

22-LS1083\J
Utermohle
2/25/02

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 283( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SCALZI, Stevens, Fate, Wilson

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to appointments to the Board of Fisheries and to the ex officio secretary of the Board of Fisheries."

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

*** Section 1.** AS 16.05.221(a) is amended to read:

(a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, 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. The appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of residence. **The governor shall appoint**

(1) two members to the board who have at least five years of active

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

participation in commercial fishing in the state, are actively engaged in the profession of commercial fishing in the state, and hold a commercial fishing entry permit or interim-use permit issued by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission;

(2) two members to the board who

(A) have at least five years of

(i) experience as a sport fisherman, personal use fisherman, or commercial sport operator in the state; or

(ii) combined experience as a sport fisherman, personal use fisherman, or commercial sport operator in the state; and

(B) hold a sport or personal use fishing license or permit; and

(3) two members to the board who are recognized as representative of subsistence users and have at least five years of active participation in subsistence fishing in the state; and

(4) one public member [THE COMMISSIONER IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF FISHERIES, BUT SHALL BE EX OFFICIO SECRETARY].

* **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.221(d) is amended to read:

(d) Members of the Board of Fisheries serve staggered terms of three years. The terms of members of the board begin on July 1. Notwithstanding AS 39.05.080(1), by April 1 of the calendar year in which the term expires, the governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy that will arise on the board due to expiration of the term of a member of the board and submit the name of the person to the legislature for confirmation. If a vacancy arises on the board, the governor shall, within 30 days after the vacancy arises, appoint a person to serve the balance of the unexpired term and submit the name of the person to the legislature for confirmation. A person appointed to fill the balance of an unexpired term **shall be selected and appointed in the same manner as the member whose unexpired term is being filled and** shall serve on the board from the date of appointment until the earlier of the

expiration of the term or the failure of the legislature to confirm the person under AS 39.05.080. **A person may not be appointed to serve more than two consecutive full terms on the board.**

*** Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.221 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(e) The commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be ex officio secretary.

*** Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. (a) AS 16.05.221(a), as amended by sec. 1 of this Act, and AS 16.05.221(d), as amended by sec. 2 of this Act, regarding the qualifications of members of the Board of Fisheries, apply to members of the Board of Fisheries who are appointed to the board on or after the effective date of this Act. Members serving on the Board of Fisheries on the day before the effective date of this Act shall continue to serve on the board for the remainder of the term to which they were appointed. A person who is appointed to fill the unexpired term of a member of the board who is serving on the board on the day before the effective date of this Act shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of AS 16.05.221(d) as that subsection read on the day before the effective date of this Act.

(b) AS 16.05.221(d), as amended by sec. 2 of this Act, regarding the maximum number of consecutive full terms that a person may serve on the Board of Fisheries, applies to all persons appointed to the Board of Fisheries on or after the effective date of this Act and to all persons who are serving on the Board of Fisheries on the effective date of this Act.

*** Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

INITIAL APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF FISHERIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT. The first and fifth terms of members of the Board of Fisheries that expire on or after the effective date of this Act shall be filled by persons appointed in accordance with AS 16.05.221(a)(1), as added by sec. 1 of this Act. The second and sixth terms of members of the Board of Fisheries that expire on or after the effective date of this Act shall be filled by persons appointed in accordance with AS 16.05.221(a)(2), as added by sec. 1 of this Act. The third and seventh terms of members of the Board of Fisheries that expire on or after the effective date of this Act shall be filled by persons appointed under

AS 16.05.221(a)(3), as added by sec. 1 of this Act. The fourth term of a member of the Board of Fisheries that expires on or after the effective date of this Act shall be filled by a person appointed under AS 16.05.221(a)(4), as added by sec. 1 of this Act.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HB283
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Office of the Governor
Title "An Act relating to appointments to the Board of Fisheries..."
BRU Executive Operations
Component Executive Office
Sponsor Representative Scalzi
Requester Special Committee of Fisheries
Component No. 6

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Michael A. Nizich, Administrative Director
Phone 465-3876
Division Administrative Services
Date/Time 2/7/02 9:21 AM
Approved by: David Ramseur, Chief of Staff
Date 02/07/2002
Agency Office of the Governor

(Revised 9/2001 OMB)

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE DREW SCALZI
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

(907) 465-2689; (800) 665-2689
FAX: (907) 465-3472
Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us

Official Business

Sponsor Statement

HB283: "An Act relating to appointments to the Board of Fisheries and to the ex officio secretary of the Board of Fisheries."

Despite record catches in recent years, the present salmon industry is reeling from the impact of foreign farmed-fisheries driving Alaska's prices to historic lows. As early as 1892, the Alaska salmon industry has been plagued by glutted world salmon markets and falling prices – *but has always recovered and it can recover again.* However, to compete in the world market today, it is imperative that we utilize leading edge expertise in the management of our salmon industry.

To bring this expertise to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, (ABOF) this bill effectively does two things: it designates three seats to the commercial fishing sector, three seats to the sport/personal-use sector, and one seat to the subsistence users throughout the state; and, it limits the terms of the board members while allowing reappointment after sitting out one term.

Section 1 - Seat Designation: Under the first item, it is important to note that the designation of board seats is not a unique proposal in regard to appointing membership to boards. As an example, the International Pacific Halibut Commission has designated seats, with one member from each country representing harvesters, one representing processors, and one representing the government. The designation mentioned above would assure representation from all segments of industry pertinent to the biological management of the fishery.

Commercial representation is lacking with the present appointment procedure: The 2001 APOC report shows that only one member earned commercial fishing income of over $1,000. This amount hardly constitutes adequate representation of a billion-dollar/year industry, the state's leading employer, the second largest contributor of revenue to the general fund, and most importantly, an industry in desperate need of revitalization. With the entry of high quality, lower-priced foreign-farmed fish on the world-market, Alaska needs innovative, knowledgeable, and progressive individuals from the commercial fishing sector to ensure that our fisheries can hold their own against such challengers.

Knowledgeable sport and personal-use representation is necessary to address several critical issues:
Riverbank degradation, international salmon treaties reflecting migration patterns and harvest levels, and local area stock depletion of federally managed fisheries all are concerns related to Alaska sport and personal use fisheries.

Additionally, sport and personal-use fisheries throughout the state are burgeoning. To effectively manage the river systems for sustained yield and imminent growth, knowledgeable representation needs to be a part of the process.

A dedicated subsistence seat needs to be added to the ABOF:

The lack of settlement between the state of Alaska and the federal government on the subsistence issues has led to co-management of our resources between the two entities. The ABOF in its management would bode well to have representation from the subsistence users of this state. Alaskans need to adequately address commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence all within the context of each other.

Section 2 - Term Limits:
While good argument exists against term limits regarding elected officials, appointed officials fall into a somewhat different category. The people of the state have a voice through the governor, who appoints the board members, and the legislature, which confirms them. However, there is no direct vote as in a general election to remove members. This bill compromises the concept of limiting members' terms by allowing reappointment after sitting out one term.

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
PO Box 22427
Juneau, Alaska 99802
(907) 586-5860 Fax (907) 586-0167
E-mail: usag@gci.net

February 6, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative Gary Stevens
Co-Chairs
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chairs,

Re: HB 283 Appointments to Board of Fisheries

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) supports passage of this bill to provide for designated seats on the Board of Fisheries and term limits for Board members.

Designated seats for sport, subsistence, and commercial are needed to ensure that the board members has recent, substantive, experience and expertise in the various fisheries they represent. The ex-vessel value of commercially caught seafood has exceeded $1B in some years; it is critical that some board members have the expertise necessary to manage this renewable permanent fund. This expertise requirement exists for other boards, such as the Marine Pilot Board.

Term limits are needed to achieve two goals. The first is to avoid burnout by board members; six years is long enough in the demanding environment of the Board of Fisheries. Second, limits are needed to ensure that fresh faces are at the table to address changing circumstances while maintaining some basic continuity.

The 100-plus members of USAG urge your support in passing this bill.

If you have any questions about our position or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jerry Madden

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 65 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska
P.O. Box.939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / phone (907) 424-3447 / fax (907) 424-3430 /
e-mail cdfu@ptialaska.net

February 4, 2002

House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1192

RE: HB 283 - Appointments to the Board of Fisheries

Dear Members,

CDFU, representing the fishing fleets of Area E - the Copper River and Prince William Sound - supports the intent of HB 283. The Alaska Board of Fisheries plays an extremely important role in the viability of our fisheries resources and the commercial fishing industry, as well as in the sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries of our state. As the lion's share of the Board's decisions deal with the intricate "nuts and bolts" of regulating Alaska's commercial fishing industry, CDFU believes that knowledge and understanding of commercial fishing is a resource critically important to the Board. All fisheries issues are complex, but commercial fisheries are particularly so, and the Board of Fisheries needs the benefit of those knowledgeable of the subtleties and nuances that will make or break the industry.

The current language of the bill that details the criteria for representation of the commercial fishing seats likely restricts the number of capable and effective fishing industry representatives to too small a pool. We look forward to a broader discussion of that definition.

We fully support the provision in this legislation for terms limits. The Board of Fisheries is likely the most grueling and demanding Board or Commission in the State of Alaska. Six years is more than enough for any individual to serve. Over time, it is only natural that positions and biases tend to develop and firm on the divisive issues facing this Board. It is only fair to the stakeholders being regulated that folks with fresh vision and energy be allowed to serve on this very important board.

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Sue Aspelund

Sue Aspelund

UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

February 4, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative Gary Stevens
Co-Chairs
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chairs,

Re: HB 283 Appointments to Board of Fisheries

United Fishermen of Alaska supports passage of this bill to provide for designated seats on the Board of Fisheries and term limits for Board members.

Designated seats for sport, subsistence, and commercial are needed to ensure that the board members has recent, substantive, experience and expertise in the various fisheries they represent. The ex-vessel value of commercially caught seafood has exceeded $1B in some years; it is critical that some board members have the expertise necessary to manage this renewable permanent fund. This expertise requirement exists for other boards, such as the Marine Pilot Board.

Term limits are needed to achieve two goals. The first is to avoid burnout by board members; six years is long enough in the demanding environment of the Board of Fisheries. Second, limits are needed to ensure that fresh faces are at the table to address changing circumstances while maintaining some basic continuity.

The twenty-nine members groups of UFA would appreciate your support in pasting this bill.

If you have any questions about our position or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

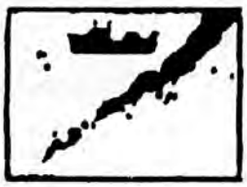
Sincerely,

Thomas M. Gemmell

Thomas M. Gemmell
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Reserve
Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Copper River Salmon Producers Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Old Harbor Fisherman's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters



C.A.M.F.

Concerned Area M Fishermen

5126 Foster Avenue S.E., Auburn, WA 98092
Phone: (253) 833-5776 • Fax: (253) 833-5776

January 28, 2002

Representative Gary Stevens
Representative Peggy Wilson,
Co-Chairs
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 98801-1182

Dear Representatives Stevens and Wilson,

I am writing to give Concerned Area M Fishermen's support for HB 283 & HB 284. Both of these bills will bring a balance back to the Board of Fisheries that is badly needed. The Board needs more geographical representation as well as better balance between commercial, sport and subsistence. The present Board is weighted heavily towards sport and central Alaska. The bias towards certain user groups and regions could be eliminated with the passage of HB 283. The issue of Conflict of Interest has been an ongoing concern for many participating in the board process and HB 284 would bring relief on this issue to commercial fishermen and many coastal communities of Alaska.

Concerned Area M Fishermen represents 110 drift gillnet salmon permit holders from the Alaska Peninsula/ Aleutian Islands and is a member group of the UFA. We appreciate both of you taking the time to read our comments on what we feel are two very important issues. Hopefully the Alaska House of Representatives will consider these bills during this session to help improve the Board of Fisheries process.

Sincerely,

Brad Barr

Brad L. Barr
President

Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Kathy Hansen, Chair
Alaska Dept of Fish and Game – Board Support
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

RE: HB 283 – Support designated Board of Fish seats.

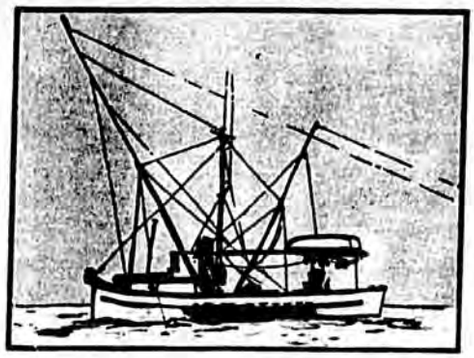
On Feb. 12th the Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (JDAC) met and at the end of their meeting they discussed HB 283. The JDAC favors the concept of designated seats on the Board of Fish. Having had difficulties in the past with fairness on the JDAC, they were one of the first advisory committees to move towards designated seats and the committee has functioned much better ever since.

While the committee agreed that the concept of designated seats was good they did not have any suggestions on how best to designate the seats. We discussed the version in the legislation, we discussed the suggestion provided at the Fish Committee hearing which would be 2 commercial, 2 sport, 2 subsistence and 1 public at large. We also discussed a third option briefly which would divide the state up in seven regions and the board would have one member from each region allowing for at least 1 Board of Fish member to be familiar with most parts of the State. This would allow the individual regions to come up with a valid candidate whether they be commercial, sport, subsistence or interested public at large.

We look forward to following this legislation and providing comments as it moves forward through this process.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen, Chair



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

February 11, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson, Co-Chair
Representative Gary Stevens, Co-Chair
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representatives Wilson & Stevens:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) supports HB 283, relating to appointments to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

ATA believes that the fisheries and fishing communities of this state are best served by a lay board of individuals who are directly involved in fishing, be it for commercial, sport or subsistence purposes. Who best to make decisions than those who know the fisheries best and will be affected by the outcome of decisions they make? While it is nearly impossible to represent each gear type and region at all times, assigning seats to broad categories will help ensure a consistent balance in the makeup of fisheries represented on the Board of Fisheries.

In recent years it has been difficult to find commercial fishermen willing to serve on the board, because quite often people have been appointed with limited or no commercial fishing experience over well-qualified fishermen. It is difficult to subject yourself to the appointment process when it seems there is little hope you will be selected. We think providing for several commercial seats will provide greater motivation to apply for those fishermen willing to serve on the Board.

ATA also supports the provision limiting Board members to no more than two consecutive terms, as we think it's important to bring in new perspectives from time to time. That said, ATA does not support limiting Board members to just two terms, as we would hate to preclude an exceptional Board member being re-appointed at another point in time.

Thank you for considering ATA's point of view. Please don't hesitate to call if I can provide additional information.

Best Regards,

Dale Kelley
Executive Director

Sitka Legislative Information Office
Marie Murray, LIO Officer

210 Lake Street
Sitka, AK 99835-7561

907-747-6276
Fax: 907-747-5807
email: Sitka_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

Date: 2-11-01

To: House Special Committee on Fisheries

Fax: 465-3517

From: Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Message:

written testimony for HB 285

follow-up to testimony at teleconference on 2/11/02

Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska

February 11, 2002

Representative Scalzi
State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 283

Dear Mr. Scalzi:

I am writing to provide comment regarding House Bill 283.

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska hosted a combined meeting of its Herring and Halibut Committees on February 7, 2002. At this meeting, one of the topics addressed by the Committee Members and members of the public was your proposed changes for the structure of the State of Alaska, Board of Fish.

The bill as currently written proposes that the structure of the State of Alaska, Board of Fish be changed to 3 commercial, 3 sport and one subsistence seat. The Sitka Tribe's Committee appreciates your efforts to address subsistence but feels that the proposed structural change in house bill 283 does not fully incorporate subsistence.

By unanimous motion the participants in this public meeting voted to propose that the change in the Board's structure be to 2 commercial, 2 sport, 2 subsistence and 1 at large seat.

Respectfully, the changes proposed by the Committee to a 2, 2, 2, 1 structure are more consistent with the State's efforts to reflect equal representation of subsistence.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Widmark, Jr.
Chairman, Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Fisheries Committee
committee name

Committee on 2B3
bill # / subject
, dated 2-25-2002

KPFA representatives have come before you many times in the last few years to express their discontent with the BOF process. And to be fair to BOF members in the past, it is the convoluted process that we now are faced with that has destroyed the faith of Alaskan residents. The commercial fishing industry has no advocates, no understanding and no justice on this BOF ies. I recently attended a 2 wk ordeal with the BOF and Cook Inlet issues. I would like to read a portion of my testimony; I am here before you now to tell you that fishermen in Cook Inlet would like to be able to discuss solutions instead of being here debating who gets what and when. That is the reason we cannot move forward. We have no regulatory stability. How can we as a business community plan and develop for the future if we are constantly re-regulated every year? What kind of game plan can we design when the rules are changed constantly. So let us just be honest, straightforward men and women. Why doesn't your

Signed: Paul A Shadura II
Testifier

Paul A. Shadura II Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.
Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1632 Kenai, AK 99611-1632
Address

907-262-2492
Phone number

Alaska State Legislature

-2-

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
committee name

Committee on _____, dated _____
bill # / subject

body, the legislative hand of the state, and as the administrative director, because you are all appointed by the governor just say to us:

"The State of Alaska does not want a commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet, Alaska."

OR

"The State of Alaska does not want to allow the commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet a viable opportunity to harvest salmon"

The board answered with actions that destabilized and collapsed any hope for the future. They disregarded all habitat concerns and relegated the local resident user to the back seat.

Signed: _____
Testifier

_____
Representing (optional)

_____
Address

_____
Phone number

Alaska State Legislature

-3-

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
committee name

Committee on _____, dated _____
bill # / subject

Again, we ask you to support the fisheries communities, support residents and support the heritage and lifestyles that make Alaska and Alaskans unique. We Support HB 283 in it's original form and not the committee substitute. Please bring back a fair and just Board Of Fisheries.

Signed: _____
Testifier

_____
Representing (optional)

_____
Address

_____
Phone number

Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative Gary Stevens
Co-Chairs
House Spec. Comm. on Fisheries

Dear Co-Chairs

My name is Roy Smith. I'm a full time commercial fisherman and participate in salmon and herring fisheries. I'm on the board of UFA and represent about 100 permit holders from Bristol Bay.

First of all I would like to thank you for your work in the Spec. Comm. on Fisheries.

My first skipper told me the first time he got tired of seeing me standing around on deck not sure what to do. "Do something, even if its wrong." It wasn't that he particularly wanted me to do any job wrong but he did want me to become more confident and efficient on deck. That means taking on a new project, maybe messing up a little at first but eventually becoming a key part of a well oiled, smooth running machine.

These Bills, HB 283, 284, 286 + 288
are all going to contribute to a better
smoother running machine and hopefully soon.
We in the fishing business need these
and more innovations to navigate the very
uncertain terrain ahead. We can't continue
status-quo. We have to promote some changes
and these bills represent a start in the
right direction.

Sincerely,

Roy Smith