

SR

5

<TARGET><BILL>SR 5</BILL><SUBJECT>SR
5</SUBJECT><COMM>SRES28</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral

DATE: 3/18/13

FURTHER: Rules

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
 IN TO OFFICE: 4/1/13

Resources Committee considered SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

SR 5-CHINOOK BYCATCH LIMITS

Requesting that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council take action to reduce the quantity of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl fisheries by setting new limits in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries and lowering the existing limits in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to at least half of the current limits.

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS SR 5 (RES) [] Same Title New Title
- [] adopt previous CS _____ (_____) [] Same Title [] New Title
- [] attached amendment(s)
- [] adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- [] further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
S.RES			✓	1

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

[] APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	MICUETE	✓			
	DYSAN	✓			
Anna Fairclough	FAIRCLOUGH	✓			
CHAIR:	GIESSEL	✓			

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 125
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2828
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SENATOR PETER A. MICCICHE

MEMORANDUM

DISTRICT

Anchor Point

Clam Gulch

Cohoe

Diamond Ridge

Fox River

Fritz Creek

Funny River

Halibut Cove

Happy Valley

Homer

Kachemak City

Kachemak Selo

Kalifornsky

Kasilóf

Kenai

Nikolaevsk

Ninilchik

Razdolna

Ridgeway

Seldovia

Soldotna

Voznesenka

TO: Senator Cathy Giessel

Senate Resources Committee Chair

FR: Senator Peter Micciche

PAM

DA: March 20, 2013

RE: Scheduling SR 5 in Senate Resources Committee

I respectfully request the scheduling of SR 5, Chinook Bycatch Limits, in the Senate Resources Committee.

This resolution asks the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to take action to reduce the level of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lynne Smith at 465-3792.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR PETER A. MICCICHE

SR 5 CHINOOK BYCATCH LIMITS

DISTRICT 0

Sponsor Statement

Anchor Point

Clam Gulch

Cohoe

Diamond Ridge

Fox River

Fritz Creek

Funny River

Halibut Cove

Happy Valley

Homer

Kachemak City

Kachemak Selo

Kalifornsky

Kasilof

Kenai

Nikolaevsk

Ninilchik

Razdolna

Ridgeway

Seldovia

Soldotna

Voznesenka

Alaska's recreational, subsistence, and commercial fisheries have faced dramatic shortfalls of Chinook salmon in recent years leading to fisheries closures and hardship for Alaska residents. In the summer of 2012 Governor Parnell issued a disaster declaration for the Yukon-Kuskokwim and Cook Inlet regions due to low Chinook returns.

In the fall of 2012, the Department of Fish and Game convened a Chinook Symposium in Anchorage to identify king salmon knowledge gaps in order to maintain sustainable stocks. This is one of many efforts to learn more about this important fish and why there has been low abundance in certain areas. While long-term research is underway, it is essential to begin dealing with the problems facing Chinook salmon that we do know about.

One of these problems is salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries. According to a 2013 report by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the 5-year average for Chinook salmon bycatch in these fisheries was 40,621 fish. If not intercepted, many of these king salmon would have returned to Alaska waters and provided harvest opportunities as well as much needed escapement.

This resolution asks the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to take action to reduce the level of Chinook salmon bycatch in Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries to at least half of the current limits. In this time of low king salmon abundance, it is critical that unintended mortality be reduced. This resolution is an attempt to address a known cause of substantial mortality and help restore strong king salmon runs to our rivers.

Changes from SR 5 version N to version C

Page 2, line 19 new

WHEREAS nets containing salmon-excluding devices are available, and new concepts and designs to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch are becoming available; and

Page 2, line 23 new

WHEREAS the Senate acknowledges and appreciates the work done by the trawl industry and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to reduce bycatch and recognizes that the trawl industry and the council are working to further reduce bycatch; and

Page 2, line 26 new

WHEREAS SeaShare is a nonprofit organization that partners with the nation's food bank network to use edible bycatch as a course of nutrition and means of alleviating hunger; and

Page 3, line 19 new

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council require that participants in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl fisheries take part in the SeaShare program and require that edible bycatch from these fisheries be provided to Alaska residents.

28-LS0568C
Bullard
3/22/13

CS FOR SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR MICCICHE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council take action to reduce**
2 **the quantity of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl**
3 **fisheries by setting new limits in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries and lowering the**
4 **existing limits in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to at least half of**
5 **the current limits; and requesting that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council**
6 **require that participants in those trawl fisheries take part in the SeaShare program and**
7 **that edible bycatch from the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea fisheries be provided to**
8 **Alaska residents.**

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

10 **WHEREAS** the Chinook salmon, the official state fish, is of critical importance to the
11 state, providing significant income to the state and its residents through commercial and
12 charter fisheries, and providing a critical source of food taken in recreational and subsistence
13 fisheries; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Chinook salmon is a cultural icon for both Native and non-Native

1 Alaskans; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, Chinook salmon runs were dramatically low, and disaster
3 declarations were made for Upper Cook Inlet and the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, economic losses to the state for commercial and recreational
5 fisheries were over \$34,000,000, not including significant effects on subsistence users and on
6 the cultural and spiritual values of Alaskans; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, setnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet were almost entirely shut
8 down for fear of intercepting hundreds of Chinook salmon; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, recreational fisheries for Chinook salmon on the Kenai River
10 were completely shut down; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, subsistence fisheries in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers were
12 under severe restrictions, and, despite those restrictions, many escapement goals were not
13 met; and

14 **WHEREAS** Chinook salmon stocks from Alaska are caught and discarded in the
15 Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska pollock fisheries and other trawl fisheries in the Gulf of
16 Alaska; and

17 **WHEREAS** Chinook salmon bycatch is a direct and controllable source of mortality
18 for extremely valuable and declining salmon runs throughout the state; and

19 **WHEREAS** nets containing salmon-excluding devices are available, and new
20 concepts and designs to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch are becoming available; and

21 **WHEREAS** the Chinook salmon bycatch cap in the Bering Sea pollock fishery is set
22 at 60,000, which is more than the entire subsistence fishery on the Yukon River; and

23 **WHEREAS** the Senate acknowledges and appreciates the work done by the trawl
24 industry and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to reduce bycatch and recognizes
25 that the trawl industry and the council are working to further reduce bycatch; and

26 **WHEREAS** SeaShare is a nonprofit organization that partners with the nation's food
27 bank network to use edible bycatch as a source of nutrition and means of alleviating hunger;
28 and

29 **WHEREAS** the Chinook salmon bycatch cap in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery is
30 set at 25,000, which is more than the 10-year average bycatch in the fishery; and

31 **WHEREAS** the Gulf of Alaska bycatch allowance represented 20 percent of the 2011

1 Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Chignik, and Alaska Peninsula sport, subsistence,
2 and commercial Chinook salmon harvest and will likely represent a greater percentage of the
3 2012 harvest; and

4 **WHEREAS** the other Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries, other than the pollock fishery,
5 currently operate without any bycatch limits; and

6 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering a cap on
7 Gulf of Alaska fisheries, other than the pollock fishery, and is initiating a catch share program
8 for the Central Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries, which could lead to the adoption of regulations
9 that would further reduce bycatch;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate requests that the North Pacific Fishery
11 Management Council take action to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and
12 Bering Sea trawl fisheries by setting new limits in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries and
13 lowering existing limits in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska pollock fisheries to at least half
14 of the current limits and to further reduce bycatch in any Gulf of Alaska catch share program;
15 and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate requests that the North Pacific Fishery
17 Management Council require 100 percent observer coverage in all Gulf of Alaska trawl
18 fisheries to provide accurate estimates of bycatch; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate requests that the North Pacific Fishery
20 Management Council require that participants in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl
21 fisheries take part in the SeaShare program and require that edible bycatch from these
22 fisheries be provided to Alaska residents.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska;
24 and all members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version CSSR 5(RES)
Fiscal Note Number _____
() Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) _____ Dept. Affected _____
Title SR 5 CHINOOK BYCATCH LIMITS Appropriation _____
Sponsor Senator Micciche Allocation _____
Requester Senate Resources Committee OMB Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	FY14 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY14 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY14	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002	Federal Receipts						
1003	GF Match						
1004	GF						
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)						
1037	GF/MH (UGF)						
1178	temp code (UGF)						
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES							

Estimated **SUPPLEMENTAL (FY13) operating costs** _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated **CAPITAL (FY14) costs** _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? _____
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended, or repealed? _____ Discuss details in analysis section.

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial version.

Prepared by Senate Resources Committee Phone 465-4843
Division _____ Date/Time 2/13/13 12:00 AM
Approved by /s/ Senator Giessel, Chair Date 2/13/2013

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSR 5(RES)

Analysis

This bill has no fiscal impact to the State.

Timeline: Salmon Bycatch Management Measures in Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fisheries

- 1982: “foreign fishing days,” when the groundfish harvest was primarily taken by foreign boats: catch limit of 55,250 Chinook salmon. This limit was allocated among the nations participating in the fishery, and any nation which exceeded their limit was not allowed to fish in much of the Bering Sea for the rest of the season
- 1990: “penalty box” system put in place. Individual vessels with high bycatch rates were to be prohibited from fishing for a set period of time. This program was never put into place because of due process issues and observer data concerns.
- 1994: Bering Sea Chum salmon savings area adopted: fixed area closure which is closed to all trawling August 1 -31 and remains closed if 42,000 chum salmon are caught in the Catcher Vessel Operating Area (CVOA) between August 15 and October 14. Regulation still in place, but all vessels are currently exempt under the rolling hot spot system (Amendment 84).
- 1995: Bering Sea Chinook salmon savings area adopted: areas closed when 29,000 Chinook salmon are caught. Timing of closures varied based on when the trigger was exceeded. This regulation is not in place since 2011 when Amendment 91 went into effect.
- 2006: Bering Sea Rolling Hot Spot system put in place. Vessels are exempt from salmon savings areas if they are participating in the rolling hot spot program. The rolling hot spot program, administered by the pollock fisheries, is designed to move pollock boats away from the areas of highest salmon bycatch throughout the season. The areas are not fixed in location, but adjust through time to the changing location of high bycatch areas.
- 2011: Amendment 91 with hard caps on Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch goes into effect. Amendment 91 includes an overall cap of 60,000 Chinook salmon if the pollock fishery is participating in approved incentive plans, or an overall hard cap of 47,591 if the industry is not participating in approved incentive plans. If they are participating in approved incentive plans, they may exceed the performance standard of 47,591 in two out of any seven years (but only up to 60,000 Chinook salmon). If they exceed the performance standard in a third year out of any seven the cap drops to 47,591 permanently. Amendment 91 also requires that all participants in the pollock fishery must have at least 100% observer coverage: those vessels which were previously required to have 200% observer coverage are still required to do so.
- 2012: Cap of 25,000 Chinook salmon goes into effect for the Gulf of Alaska pollock fleet.



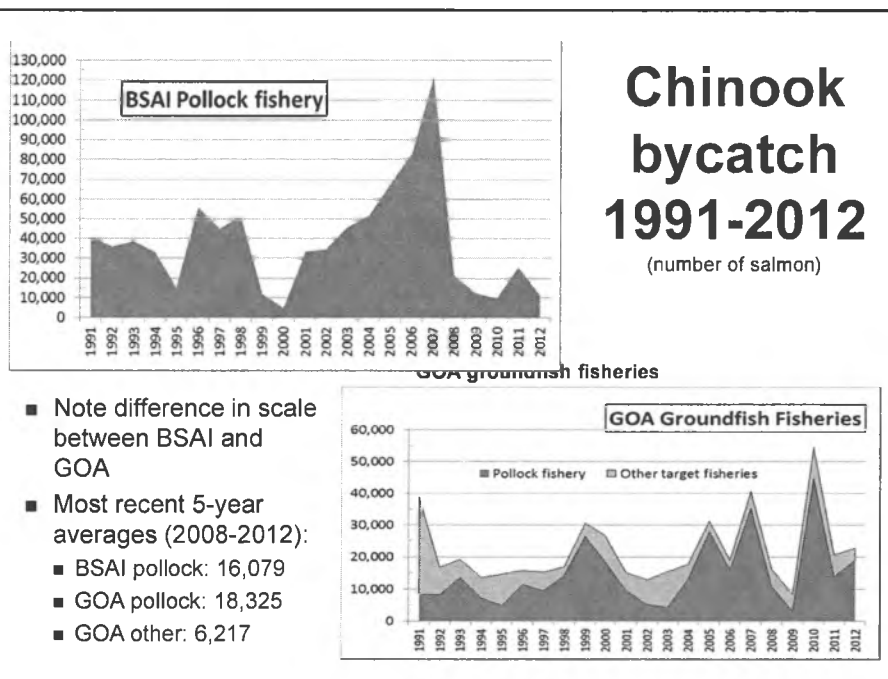
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

- manages offshore Federal fisheries off Alaska (3-200 miles) with NMFS
- Management governed by the Magnuson-Stevens Act (U.S. Federal law). Balance of 10 National Standards, including:
 - Minimize (salmon) bycatch to extent practicable
 - Prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery (e.g., the Alaska groundfish fisheries)
 - Provide for the sustained participation of and minimize adverse impacts on fishing communities

Salmon bycatch in the Alaska groundfish fisheries

NOTE: Council does not regulate any salmon fisheries (State of Alaska), only salmon bycatch occurring in offshore groundfish fisheries

- Trawl fisheries catch Chinook salmon as bycatch
 - In the Bering Sea, bycatch is in the pollock fishery
 - In the GOA, it is mostly in the pollock fishery (~75%), but also in flatfish, Pacific cod, and rockfish fisheries
- By law, bycatch is counted, but cannot be retained or sold



What action has the Council taken? Bycatch limits that close the fishery

- **Bering Sea pollock fishery**
 - 60,000 Chinook salmon bycatch limit, with incentive plans to remain below 47,951 salmon (*implemented 2011*)
 - Apportioned by sector (catcher vessel, catcher processor, mothership, CDQ) and inshore cooperative
 - If sector exceeds its apportionment of 47,591 Chinook salmon 3 times in 7 year period, sector's limit will permanently reduce to lower cap
 - Council receives annual report on incentive programs

What action has the Council taken? Bycatch limits that close the fishery

- **GOA pollock fishery**
 - 25,000 Chinook salmon bycatch limit (*implemented mid-2012*)
 - Apportioned between the central and western regulatory area pollock fisheries
- **GOA non-pollock fisheries**
 - Limits currently under review range from 5,000-12,500 Chinook salmon
 - Council final action scheduled for June

What action has the Council taken? Stock of origin research

- Purpose:
 - to understand relationship between Chinook salmon bycatch in the groundfish fisheries and the status of individual Chinook stocks

What action has the Council taken? Stock of origin research

- Bering Sea
 - Basis of Council action in 2009 (PSC limit)
 - bycatch and genetics information from 2005-2007
 - AEQ model provided information on proportional stock of origin of bycatch, broken out to regional and western Alaska river systems
 - Coastal western Alaska is largest component of bycatch
 - Since 2011: systematic sampling procedure for Chinook
 - including full census and increased observer coverage (min. 100%)
 - genetic breakdown of samples presented each April
 - April 2013 is first time will receive complete annual report based on full census and systematic sampling protocol (for 2011)
 - Best information on impact rate to western Alaska
 - bycatch was between 0.7% - 2.4% of combined run sizes in 2011
 - See *Stram and Ianelli paper from AYKSSI, December 2012*

What action has the Council taken? Stock of origin research

- **GOA**
 - Very limited information to date
 - Insufficient samples for stock composition analysis
 - Indication of presence of stocks from limited samples (primarily from pollock fishery) and coded wire tags
 - Systematic sampling procedure now underway in pollock fishery (result of Council action)
 - Census from observed and unobserved pollock deliveries, but lower observer coverage than Bering Sea
 - Genetic breakdown of available samples each April
 - awaiting 2011 results; 2010: stocks present predominantly Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and coastal southeastern AK
 - Full retention under review in non-pollock fisheries
 - Census sampling will likely not be possible, but other sampling methodology may be used.

What action has the Council taken?

- Extensive outreach to coastal and interior communities
 - Purpose: solicit input on salmon bycatch actions prior to Council action, promote 2-way dialogue
 - Community meetings, participation at subsistence regional advisory council meetings, regional large forums (e.g., AVCP, YRDFA, YRP), statewide teleconferences
- Food bank donations
 - Council amended requirements in 1996 to allow donation of bycaught salmon to food banks
 - Voluntary industry program; heightened participation in recent years, in Bering Sea and GOA
 - Donations of salmon and halibut in 2012:
 - BSAI: 73,000 lbs; ~85% salmon
 - GOA: 30,000 lbs; ~15% salmon

What action is the Council taking? Chinook salmon bycatch reduction in other management actions

- Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch reduction
 - Measures to reduce chum salmon bycatch in pollock fishery need to be tempered by concurrent objective to not increase Chinook salmon bycatch
 - To date, measures under consideration have been shown to exacerbate Chinook bycatch reduction. Council is developing more adaptive approaches.
- Development of bycatch management tools for GOA underway
 - Council considering cooperative management and bycatch avoidance incentives for trawl fisheries
 - Necessary in context of Chinook salmon PSC limits as well as recent halibut and crab protections

Summary

- Chinook salmon bycatch reduction is continuing priority for Council
- Management achieved through hard cap limits as well as incentive programs
- Regular reporting of Chinook salmon bycatch levels allows the Council to react to potential problems



COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

RESOLUTION 2013-01

A RESOLUTION URGING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT REDUCE THE CHINOOK SALMON BYCATCH IN THE GULF OF ALASKA AND BERING SEA TRAWL FISHERIES

WHEREAS, Chinook salmon is the official fish of Alaska and a cultural icon for both native and nonnative Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, Chinook salmon is a significant source of food in both the subsistence and recreational fisheries and a key component of the State's commercial and charter fisheries; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2012, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster exists for three regions of the Alaska Chinook salmon fishery, including Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS, economic losses to the State of Alaska for commercial and recreational fisheries alone was over \$34 million, which does not include the significant impacts to subsistence users; and

WHEREAS, closures in the 2012 Cook Inlet set net fishery caused by low Chinook salmon returns resulted in a sockeye harvest with an ex-vessel value that was about 10 percent of the recent five-year average; and

WHEREAS, the sport fish harvest of late-run Kenai River Chinook was 103 fish, which was 99 percent below the recent five-year average; and

WHEREAS, these same Chinook salmon are caught and discarded in the Pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska and other trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, by-catch by the trawl fleets can be regulated to protect the mortality of this extremely valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, the Chinook by-catch cap in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery is set at 25,000 Chinook salmon, which exceeds the ten-year average by-catch in the fishery; and

WHEREAS, the non-pollock Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries currently operate under no by-catch limit; and

WHEREAS, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering a cap on the non-pollock fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and is initiating a catch share program for Central Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries which should reduce by-catch further;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC):

SECTION 1. That the CLAC urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to adopt and implement management measures that reduce the Chinook salmon by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fisheries by setting new limits.

SECTION 2. That the CLAC urges NPFMC to lower the existing Chinook by-catch limits in the GOA and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to 5,000 Chinook salmon.

SECTION 3. That the CLAC urges the NPFMC to further reduce Chinook by-catch in any catch share program.

SECTION 4. That the CLAC urges NPFMC to require 100 Percent observer coverage in all trawl fisheries in the GOA to provide accurate estimates of by catch.

SECTION 5. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to all members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

SECTION 6. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADF&G THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.

ATTEST:

George Heim, Chairman, Cooper Landing Advisory Committee

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Executive Board of Directors

Resolution No. 2013 - xx 03

- TITLE:** **Calling for the State of Alaska to Institute Legal Challenges and Take Other Actions to Invalidate the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Actions Allowing 60,000 Chinook Salmon to be Taken as By-Catch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery**
- WHEREAS,** **The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for 42 member indigenous Native villages within Interior Alaska and support the endeavors of its member villages; and**
- WHEREAS,** **TCC fully supports its member villages in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and**
- WHEREAS,** **Healthy and abundant Chinook Salmon stocks of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers are essential to the cultural, nutritional and economic well-being and way of life of the tribal villages and peoples who live along these river drainages; and**
- WHEREAS,** **Food security is a basic human right recognized by the United Nations and affirmed by the United States in the UN declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and**
- WHEREAS,** **The Chinook stocks in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages, and Chinook stocks throughout the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, are in a serious state of decline, resulting in closed commercial fisheries and subsistence fisheries restricted to the point where villages are not attaining the amount needed to satisfy their basic needs and tribal members have been issued citations and had their nets confiscated for fishing for Chinook salmon to feed their families; and**
- WHEREAS,** **The projected Chinook runs for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers next season are projected to demonstrate a more drastic decline, and recent information demonstrates that this trend has existed over the last decade or more; and**
- WHEREAS,** **Representatives of the State of Alaska joined other members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) in voting to allow as many as 60,000 Chinook salmon to be wasted as by-catch in the Bering Sea Pollock trawl fishery each year, and a large percentage of these Chinook have been scientifically shown to be headed to the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers; and**
- WHEREAS,** **The State and NPFMC decided to allow this large by-catch despite knowing that the Chinook stocks on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers are in trouble, that the tribal people who depend upon these salmon for cultural and economic survival are suffering, and that international agreements with Canada regarding Yukon Chinook cannot be satisfied**

(at least without extreme sacrifices by Villages throughout the U.S. portion of the Yukon; and

WHEREAS,

The State of Alaska is quick to sue the Federal agencies anytime it thinks that a resource's classification, for example a listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, will impact any potential development or any desire of industry, and the State has either filed litigation or threatened to do so for the related to ESA listings for Polar Bears and several other marine mammal species; and

WHEREAS,

The State of Alaska has also filed numerous lawsuits against the Federal Agencies related to these agencies' efforts to protect the Alaska Native subsistence way of life and the tribes' customary and traditional hunting and fishing practices and needs, despite the State's failure to keep its promise for a rural subsistence priority or a constitutional amendment allowing for a meaningful State subsistence priority.

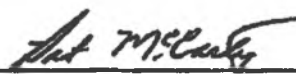
HEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Tanana Chiefs Conference Executive Board calls on the State of Alaska Governor and Attorney General to file a lawsuit challenging the NPFMC's decision to allow 60,000 Chinook salmon to be wasted as by-catch annually in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery, to seek relief through this lawsuit that would instead minimize and within a reasonable time work to eliminate Chinook by-catch, and to work with TCC in this litigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as an alternative to litigation, the State of Alaska representatives to the NPFMC introduce a formal process to, without delay, reconsider its decision on Chinook by-catch, and that the State work in this reconsideration to significantly reduce allow Chinook by-catch below 60,000 and eventually eliminate this by-catch; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska work with TCC to establish a through federal legislation a significant per fish fine for by-catch of Chinook salmon in the Pollock fishery and dedicate funds derived from these fines to research designed to identify Chinook stocks taken as by-catch, ways to eliminate by-catch, and science into the causes of the decline in Chinook stocks through the AYK regions, and to establish a tribal voting seat on the NPFMC.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Board of Directors on March 7, 2013 at Fairbanks, AK and a quorum was duly established.



Pat McCarty,
Secretary/Treasurer

Introduced by: Haggerty, Johnson, Mayor
Date: 02/05/13
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2013-013**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT REDUCE THE CHINOOK SALMON
BYCATCH IN THE GULF OF ALASKA AND BERING SEA TRAWL FISHERIES**

- WHEREAS,** Chinook salmon is the official fish of Alaska and a cultural icon for both native and nonnative Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS,** Chinook salmon is a significant source of food in both the subsistence and recreational fisheries and a key component of the State's commercial and charter fisheries; and
- WHEREAS,** on September 12, 2012, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster exists for three regions of the Alaska Chinook salmon fishery, including Cook Inlet; and
- WHEREAS,** economic losses to the State of Alaska for commercial and recreational fisheries alone was over \$34 million, which does not include the significant impacts to subsistence users; and
- WHEREAS,** closures in the 2012 Cook Inlet setnet fishery caused by low Chinook salmon returns resulted in a sockeye harvest with an ex-vessel value that was about 10 percent of the recent five-year average; and
- WHEREAS,** the sport fish harvest of late-run Kenai River Chinook was 103 fish, which was 99 percent below the recent five-year average; and
- WHEREAS,** these same Chinook salmon are caught and discarded in the Pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska and other trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** bycatch by the trawl fleets can be regulated to protect the mortality of this extremely valuable resource; and
- WHEREAS,** the Chinook bycatch cap in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery is set at 25,000 Chinook salmon, which exceeds the ten-year average bycatch in the fishery; and
- WHEREAS,** the non-pollock Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries currently operate under no bycatch limit; and

WHEREAS, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering a cap on the non-pollock fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and is initiating a catch share program for Central Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries which should reduce bycatch further;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the KPB Assembly urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to adopt and implement management measures that reduce the Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fisheries by setting new limits.

SECTION 2. That the KPB Assembly urges NPFMC to lower the existing Chinook bycatch limits in the GOA and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to at least half the current limits.

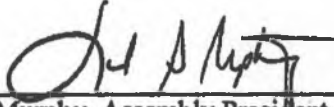
SECTION 3. That the KPB Assembly urges the NPFMC to further reduce Chinook bycatch in any catch share program.

SECTION 4. That the KPB Assembly urges NPFMC to require 100 percent observer coverage in all trawl fisheries in the GOA to provide accurate estimates of bycatch.

SECTION 5. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Parnell and all legislators representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough and all members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

SECTION 6. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.


Linda Murphy, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Haggerty, Johnson, McClure, Pierce, Smith, Tauriainen, Wolf, Murphy
No: None
Absent: Smalley



**ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
P.O. BOX 219
BETHEL, ALASKA 99559**

**ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

BETHEL, ALASKA

MARCH 5, 2013

RESOLUTION NO. 13-03-03

- TITLE:** **Calling for the State of Alaska to Institute Legal Challenges and Take Other Actions to Invalidate the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Actions Allowing 60,000 Chinook Salmon to be Taken as By-Catch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery**
- WHEREAS** The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages, and
- WHEREAS** AVCP fully supports its member villages in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and
- WHEREAS** Healthy and abundant Chinook Salmon stocks of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers are essential to the cultural, nutritional and economic well-being and way of life of the tribal villages and peoples who live along these river drainages, and
- WHEREAS** Food security is a basic human right recognized by the United Nations and affirmed by the United States in the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and
- WHEREAS** The Chinook stocks in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages, and Chinook stocks throughout the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, are in a serious state of decline, resulting in closed commercial fisheries and subsistence fisheries restricted to the point where villages are not attaining the amount needed to satisfy their basic needs and tribal members have been issued citations and had their nets confiscated for fishing for Chinook salmon to feed their families, and
- WHEREAS** The projected Chinook runs for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers next season are projected to demonstrate a more drastic decline, and recent information demonstrates that this trend has existed over the last decade or more, and
- WHEREAS** Representatives of the State of Alaska joined other members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) in voting to allow as many as 60,000 Chinook salmon to be wasted as by-catch in the Bering Sea Pollock trawl fishery each year, and a large percentage of these Chinook have been scientifically shown to be headed to the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers; and
- WHEREAS** The State and NPFMC decided to allow this large by-catch despite knowing that the Chinook stocks on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers are in trouble, that the

tribal people who depend upon these salmon for cultural, nutritional and economic survival are suffering, and that international agreements with Canada regarding Yukon Chinook cannot be satisfied (at least without extreme sacrifices by Villages throughout the U.S portion of the Yukon; and

WHEREAS The State of Alaska is quick to sue the Federal agencies anytime it thinks that a resource classification, for example a listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, will impact any potential development or any desire of industry, and the State has either filed litigation or threatened to do so for the related to ESA listings for Polar Bears and several other marine mammal species; and

WHEREAS The State of Alaska has also filed numerous lawsuits against the Federal agencies related to these agencies' efforts to protect the Alaska Native subsistence way of life and the tribes' customary and traditional hunting and fishing practices and needs, despite the State's failure to keep its promise for a rural subsistence priority or a constitutional amendment allowing for a meaningful State subsistence priority.

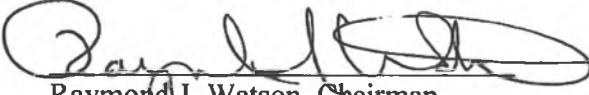
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Executive Board calls on the State of Alaska Governor and Attorney General to file a lawsuit challenging the NPFMC's decision to allow 60,000 Chinook salmon to be wasted as by-catch annually in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery, to seek relief through this lawsuit that would instead minimize and within a reasonable time work to eliminate Chinook by-catch, and to work with AVCP in this litigation, and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as an alternative to litigation, the State of Alaska representatives to the NPFMC introduce a formal process to, without delay, reconsider its decision on Chinook by-catch, and that the State work in this reconsiderations to significantly reduce allow Chinook by-catch below 60,000 and eventually eliminate this by-catch, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska work with AVCP to establish a through federal legislation a significant per fish fine for by-catch of Chinook salmon in the Pollock fishery and dedicate funds derived from these fines to research designed to identify Chinook stocks taken as by-catch, ways to eliminate by-catch, and science into the causes of the decline in Chinook stocks through the AYK region, and to establish a tribal voting seat on the NPFMC.

ADOPTED by the Association of Village Council Presidents during an Executive Board Meeting held at Bethel, Alaska, this 5th day of March 2013 with a duly constituted quorum.

CERTIFIED:


Raymond J. Watson, Chairman


Myron P. Naneng Sr., President



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

725 Christensen Drive, Suite 3-B, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Tel: 907-272-3141 Fax: 907-272-3142

Resolution: 2013-02
Salmon Bycatch

WHEREAS the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) works on behalf of subsistence and commercial fishing families within the Alaskan and Canadian Yukon River drainage who depend on wild salmon for subsistence and commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS Chinook and chum salmon provide an essential source of food, income and culture for the people of the Yukon River, with chum salmon increasingly important for commercial fisheries and subsistence as Chinook salmon decline; and

WHEREAS subsistence harvests of Chinook salmon have been severely restricted in recent years, and no directed commercial harvests of Chinook salmon have taken place on the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS despite these restrictions the Chinook salmon Canadian escapement goal has only been met in 2 out of the last 5 years and mean run size of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon (which comprise approximately 50% of the run) declined 45% for the period 1998-2010 compared to 1982-1997; and

WHEREAS the Board of Fish has recently taken action to restrict subsistence fishing on the first pulse of Chinook salmon as a conservation measure; and

WHEREAS the Bering Sea pollock fishery catches these same salmon as bycatch; catching over 122,000 wild Chinook salmon in 2007 and over 700,000 chum salmon in 2005; and

WHEREAS according to the best available scientific information half to 70% of the Chinook salmon taken as bycatch are of Western Alaska origin, and of this 40% are from the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS the management measures adopted in April 2009 by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council) provide for a 47,591 bycatch level in most years, with the potential for the fleet to reach 60,000 in two out of every seven years without consequence; and

WHEREAS although bycatch has remained well below the cap in recent years, the current management regime allows the potential for the pollock fleet to catch as many as 60,000 Chinook salmon as bycatch; and

WHEREAS Chinook salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery is consistently high from October 1 on, and in 2011 over half of the annual bycatch was taken in October and November; and

WHEREAS in these times of severe Chinook salmon declines, all sources of mortality must be reduced and all harvesters of salmon must bear equitably in conserving Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS there is currently no limit on chum salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery in place;

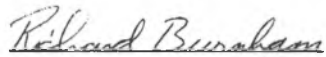
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council take action immediately to reduce the overall bycatch cap to 30,000 and change the pollock fishing season closing date to Sept. 30 to avoid the consistently high bycatch in October.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that YRDFA requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council also take action to adopt chum salmon bycatch management measures which will adequately protect Western Alaska chum salmon runs.

COPIES of this resolution will be sent to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner, Yukon River Panel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of State, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference and other Western Alaska salmon groups.

APPROVED unanimously this 14th day of February 2013 by the Board members and delegates of YRDFA assembled at their Twenty-third Annual Meeting held in St. Mary's, Alaska.

Attest:



Richard Burnham, YRDFA Co-Chair



William Alstrom, YRDFA Co-Chair



March 26, 2013

Senator Peter Micciche
Alaska State Senate
State Capital, Room 125
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Support for Senate Resolution 5

Dear Senator Micciche:

The Alaska Marine Conservation Council is dedicated to protecting the long-term health of Alaska's oceans and sustaining the working waterfronts of our coastal communities. Our members include fishermen, subsistence harvesters, marine scientists, small business owners and families. Our ways of life, livelihoods and local economies depend on sustainable fishing practices and productive oceans.

The Alaska Marine Conservation Council strongly supports SR 5, requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council) to take action to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl fisheries by setting new limits and lowering existing limits. Chinook salmon is critical to subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries, and a major contributor to the economy and culture of Alaska. As Chinook salmon populations suffer throughout Alaska, it is critical that bycatch of our state fish is reduced.

In recent years, Chinook salmon have declined severely throughout Alaska, and as a result commercial fishery failures and disasters were declared for the Upper Cook Inlet in 2012, Yukon River (2008-2012) and Kuskokwim River (2011-2012). Seven Chinook salmon stocks, including Yukon River, Norton Sound subdistricts 5 and 6 and several Upper Cook Inlet stocks are listed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries as stocks of concern. There are no directed commercial harvests of Chinook salmon on the Yukon. Subsistence fisheries on the Yukon River have been severely restricted for years and subsistence was dramatically restricted on the Kuskokwim River in 2012 as well. Despite these restrictions and sacrifices on the part of subsistence users, many escapement goals were still not met.

In Upper Cook Inlet, Chinook salmon runs were so poor that the Secretary of Commerce declared a fisheries disaster. The setnet fishery was almost completely shut down, and the Kenai River was closed to all recreational Chinook salmon fishing for part of the season. Economic losses were estimated at almost \$27.7 million to commercial fisheries and direct and indirect losses to sport fisheries.

In the midst of these significant declines, allowable bycatch amounts of Chinook salmon in federal trawl groundfish fisheries remain at unacceptably high levels. Some fisheries

still do not have any limits on Chinook bycatch, such as the Gulf of Alaska non-pollock trawl fisheries. These loopholes need to be closed and current bycatch measures in place for Chinook need to be reexamined. Current bycatch caps in the Gulf and Bering Sea by should be reduced at least half in light of these declines. Fisheries without bycatch limits must have meaningful caps implemented in a timely manner. As the Council considers sweeping fishery management plan revisions in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries to reduce bycatch of all species, significant and meaningful bycatch reductions need to be built in upfront in the program.

While bycatch is not the only source of the decline, it is critical to reduce all sources of mortality that are controllable in times of low abundance. Bycatch is a direct and controllable source of mortality for Chinook salmon in Alaska. A Chinook salmon bound for an Alaskan system which is not meeting its' escapement goals carries great value to that system. While all other users have to reduce their harvest to protect Chinook salmon in years of low returns, often at great cost, the trawl fisheries must do the same.

In order to gain an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the impacts and levels of bycatch in federal groundfish fisheries, a minimum of 100% observer coverage should be required in all trawl fisheries. The long awaited restructured observer program has resulted in an astoundingly low coverage rate of 14-15% in the fisheries that have the highest bycatch of Chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska. This coverage rate does not provide adequate monitoring to provide confidence in the accuracy of the bycatch numbers.

Action to reduce mortality of Chinook salmon in the federal arena is a slow process and it is critical that the Council hears from our State legislature that federal groundfish fisheries must take responsibility to reduce the impact of bycatch on struggling Chinook stocks. The Council's actions have a direct impact on the state of our salmon returns, which are critical to the economy, culture and communities of Alaska. It is critical that the State of Alaska takes a leadership role in advocating for the health of Chinook stocks and supporting bycatch reductions. The Alaska Marine Conservation Council strongly supports SR 5 and encourages State leaders to advocate for management measures to reduce Chinook bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl fisheries.

Sincerely,

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

Kelly Harrell
Executive Director

Lynne Smith

From: Jimmie Jack's Alaska Lodge <jimmiejack@jimmiejackfishing.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 4:12 PM
To: Sen. Peter Micciche
Cc: 'Jim Drath'
Subject: SR 5

Dear Senator Micciche,

I support HR 6 and SR 5.

Chinook salmon is critical to subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries, and a major contributor to the economy and culture of Alaska.

As a (commercial halibut fisherman, charter operator, sport salmon fisherman, subsistence fisherman, consumer of salmon, etc.)

I strongly support reductions in Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries.

Chinook salmon have declined severely throughout Alaska: commercial fishery failures and disasters were declared for the Upper Cook Inlet, Yukon River and Kuskokwim River. While by-catch isn't the only cause of the decline, it's critical that we reduce all sources of mortality on our prized Chinook salmon.

We have operated a charter business/lodge in Kenai for over 18 years. The Kenai River king salmon fishery used to be world class when I was growing up in the early 1980's. I remember as a kid there were so many kings in the river we could catch them with no bait, and we did not have to have any expertise, or put in 8 hours! Now I send 4 guide boats out daily in July, and we get 1-3 kings in 8 hours. It is very sad to me and my family, but if we continue doing things the same way, we will kill the LARGE Kenai River king salmon. Oh we will have kings, but we may not have the big ones.

Now the Kenai River only has a world class size king salmon that is so hard to catch that typical peak season bookings are way down from historical numbers. For example, the month of July has historically been the peak of large Kenai River kings with a large run. Currently, August silver salmon bookings are just as strong as July, while in the past July would have been filled first.

This is the first year that I have had guests bring up the fact that the July returns are down, and through the media they are aware that the Kenai River king run is struggling. One group the other day, was deciding between Mexico and Alaska, and opted for Mexico for better fishing, and a lower price. We will never beat Mexico on price, so we should ensure we offer a quality sport fishery.

All other users have to reduce their harvest to conserve Chinook salmon in years of low returns, the trawl fisheries must do the same.

The Council's actions have a direct impact on the state of our salmon returns: it's critical that the State of Alaska plays a leading role in advocating for by-catch reductions.

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Tel: 907-262-5561

Lynne Smith

From: richard bremicker <rfbumppo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2013 12:49 PM
To: Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: King Salmon Bycatch

Senator Micciche-

I have been a resident of the Kenai Peninsula for over forty years and have been a commercial fisherman, a charter boat captain and both a sport and personal use fisherman. I strongly support your efforts to reduce bycatch of king salmon in the trawl fisheries. Something has to be done to protect this valuable resource for the people of Alaska. Thank you, Richard "Bumppo" Bremicker, Homer Alaska.

Lynne Smith

From: Aaron Cooper <captcoop@acefishn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:13 AM
To: Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: SR5

Senator,

I appreciate and fully support the efforts behind SR5. As you are fully aware of our community here in Kenai and countless others across our state strongly depend on returning salmon stocks. While most of our other stocks have been doing relatively well our King Salmon stocks are at very crucial point, if every little step is not taken to insure a sustainable run for the future, that very run may no longer exist.

While there are other contributing factors to our poor King Salmon stocks in Alaska, one of the greatest contributors to our King Salmon stocks, is commercial by catch. It is imperative that everyone shares the burden of conservation and I strongly support reductions in Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries.

Αγαπώ και πλήρως υποστηρίζω τους προσπάθειες του Συνατόρου, που χειρατάιανλψ ηαπε μψ ποτε βεηινδ ΣΡ5. Τηανκ που φ ορ βρινγινγ φορτη α χριυχαλ πιεχε οφ Αλασκαν λεγισλατιον τηατ χαν ηαπε α χριυχαλ μπαχτ ον ουρ φισηεριεσ φορ ψεαρσ το χομε.

Ψουρ φριενδ,

Aaron Cooper
ACE Fishing Adventures
907-335-2248
1-888-347-4654
www.acefishn.com
captcoop@acefishn.com

Connect with us on Facebook for the latest in News and Reports on the Kenai!!
<http://www.facebook.com/ACEFishingadventures>

Lynne Smith

From: Greg & Sherri Brush <fishme@ezlimit.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:27 AM
To: Sen. Peter Macciche
Subject: SR 6

Dear Senator,

For the record, myself and my family, fully support SR6 (limiting commercial by-catch and Ak chinook) primarily for conservation but also for economic reasons. I respectfully request that Senator Macciche also show outspoken support and diligence in seeing it through.

Thank you, Greg Brush

Greg & Sherri Brush
EZ Limit Guide Service
PO Box 4278
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-6169
www.ezlimit.com
fishme@ezlimit.com

Lynne Smith

From: Lynne Smith
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 11:31 AM
To: Lynne Smith
Subject: FW: Support for HR6 and SR5

From: Mark Glassmaker [<mailto:mofish@pci.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:10 AM
To: Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: Support for HR6 and SR5

I would like to express my support for both HR6 and SR5 which seek to reduce Chinook Salmon bycatch. This waste of this highly valuable Alaska resource must be further reduced. The depletion of these stocks statewide have had a tremendous impact on my community and I appreciate your effort to help this resource recover.

Sincerely,

Mark & Cindy Glassmaker

Alaska Fishing with Mark Glassmaker

1-800-622-1177

[*mofish@pci.net*](mailto:mofish@pci.net)

[*http://www.mgfalaska.com*](http://www.mgfalaska.com)

[*http://www.kenai-guides.com*](http://www.kenai-guides.com)



Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association

P.O. Box 991
Kodiak, AK
99615
(907) 486-3910
alaskawhitefishtrawlers.org

April 28, 2013

Honorable Cathy Giessel
Chair - Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate
(907) 465-3871

Re: Senate Resolution 5 Chinook salmon bycatch

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the Senate Resource Committee:

The trawl industry is very concerned about the health of the Chinook salmon resource. We are doing a number of things that will help us better understand and manage bycatch.

- Genetic Analysis of Bycaught Chinook Salmon.

Our industry has partnered with National Marine Fisheries Service in funding the expanded Chinook salmon genetic research being done at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center - Auke Bay Laboratories in Juneau. It is very important to know where the salmon are coming from before management decisions are made that could severely impact the trawl industry by putting unnecessary restrictions in place. The concerns that you have expressed in your resolution are related directly to the health of Chinook salmon returns in Cook Inlet and Western Alaska river systems and there is no evidence to indicate that trawl bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska is the source of those problems. The most recent genetic data shows that the majority of Chinook bycatch is coming from SE Alaska, British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest, with a predominance coming from hatcheries. At next week's meeting of the NPFMC in Anchorage, the results of the most up-to-date salmon genetics research will be presented under Item C-6 (e) "Update on salmon genetics research".

- Salmon Excluders

Extensive work has been undertaken and salmon excluders have proven very successful in the Bering Sea trawl fishery. This technology was developed for the higher horsepower fleet and we are in the process of doing the scientifically focused work needed to modify that technology for use in the lower-horsepower vessels in the Gulf of Alaska.

We were successful in obtaining an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for a research project in the Central Gulf of Alaska. This project is starting now and the scientifically validated improvements in excluder technology in the Gulf of Alaska will be put in place as soon as possible.

- 100% Observer Coverage

The NPFMC has worked for a number of years developing the Restructured Observer program which began this year and we have supported this endeavor. Within this

program is the capability of achieving scientifically valid estimations of bycatch by all fleets. Rather than circumventing the work done by the NPFMC, NMFS and NOAA in establishing this program, concerns about the coverage levels should be directed to the existing program so that appropriate changes can be made within the program.

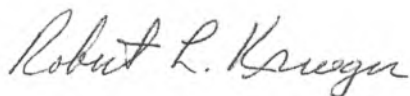
We Need the Tools!

In the Gulf of Alaska, the trawl fishery continues to be a race. There is no opportunity to take careful measures to reduce bycatch when the vessel fishing next to you is simply filling his boat and heading to town regardless of the bycatch. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has already begun the process of creating a new management structure for CGOA trawl fisheries. A goal of this new program will be to slow the fisheries down which will give vessels the additional time to locate and fish in areas when and where levels of reduced bycatch are located. Another goal of the program will be to make vessels individually accountable and responsible for their own bycatch.

If the Senate wants to have a positive impact on the Chinook salmon resource, we encourage you to ask the North Pacific Fisheries Marine Council to move ahead as quickly as possible with a program that will stop the race for fish and give the trawl industry tools to effectively manage bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska.

We fully understand that you feel compelled to "Do Something" to protect the Chinook resource. But simply calling for 50% reductions of the caps of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska without fully analyzing and considering the potential for enormous economic harm to harvesters, processors and fishery dependent communities is not good policy. We ask you to support true solutions that will fix problems and not create additional problems in the process.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Krueger, Executive Director
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association
robert.krueger@alaskawhitefishtrawlers.org



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P.O. Box 988 • KENAI, AK 99611

March 29, 2013

The Honorable Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator:

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe supports and endorses Senate Resolution No. 5 requesting that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council take action to reduce the quantity of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering-Sea trawl fisheries by setting new limits in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries and lowering the existing limits in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea Pollock fisheries to at least half of the current limits.

Chinook salmon are a vital part of our lives as Kahtnuht'ana, people of the Kenai. We eagerly await the call of the golden crowned sparrow each spring heralding the arrival of Euq'aka'a, the king salmon, for we know that our bodies and souls will soon be fed. We share our first king with our Elders, celebrating custom and tradition that further define our connection to our lands, waters, past and future.

Unfortunately the low 2012 Chinook salmon runs and subsequent closure drastically reduced our access to this most valued and revered resource. We do not support the present bycatch cap for Pollock fisheries or the fact that other trawl fisheries operate without bycatch limits. They are unacceptable when we and our fellow Alaska Native people are denied our fundamental food rights.

We also question estimates of bycatch and strongly support 100 percent observer coverage in all Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries.

On behalf of our 1,430 Tribal members and those that came before us and those that will follow, we thank you for introducing this resolution. The present management and protection of Chinook salmon is flawed and lacking accurate data. The measures presented in Senate Resolution No. 5 are a step forward in protecting a resource interwoven in the lives of all who call the Kenai home.

Please do not hesitate to seek further assistance and support from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe as you work to address this important issue.

Again, chiqinik, thank you.

Sincerely,

Rosalie A. Tepp
Chairperson
Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Senate Hearing on SR 5**March 29, 2013****3:30pm****Angie Whitman; Bethel, AK**

Senator Micciche, Senate District O, Soldotna, thank you for introducing this resolution on the Senate Floor, you are very gracious for doing so. My name is Angie Whitman, I live and work in Bethel, and I am a constituent of Senator Hoffman, Senate District S. I am representing myself, but there are so many others who are in my situation. I'm fortunate enough to be taking a class on the state of Alaska legislature as a student with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Thank you very much for this opportunity to be heard.

I am speaking in support of your Senate Resolution 5, and I'd like to bring my viewpoint on this resolution. The issue I bring up is one of injustice. One group is legally allowed to waste our salmon resource, while we on the Kuskokwim were severely restricted, issued citations, made to appear in court, and paid fines.

It is great to have this resolution for the reduction of salmon bycatch. It is too bad that other areas of the state were affected by the incredible bycatch numbers. We have had to fight for reduction of interception of our salmon resources way back in 2004, regarding area M, and here, just a few years later, for the high-seas trawl fisheries waste – termed bycatch.

It is too bad that we have to place so much attention on this problem, because we have so many other problems which need our time and attention; such as fuel prices that go through our roofs, literally; for fuel and electricity.

I want to word my statements in such a way as to be resonating in your memories that maybe you won't sleep at night until this problem of injustice is corrected.

We are trying to assure that we have our dried fish, and other sustenance which Chinook salmon provide for us. You cannot put a dollar value on it, because Walmart, AC, or

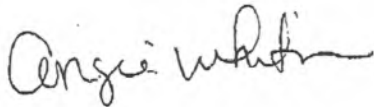
Costco do not sell the bounty that Chinook provides for us, and no fishery disaster declaration can replace or does, because those declarations only try to replace business associated loss.

There is no business loss to me, or for many hundreds of people who went without Chinook last summer. I felt it, and so did many others. Are we able to make a claim for loss? No.

While there is waste of our salmon resource occurring on the high-seas we were told to conserve – do not go out fishing, there are low numbers of returning Chinook salmon.

We the people of the region must have our resources returned to us. To those who hold votes in the legislature, please vote to pass Senate Resolution 5. It is a resolution worthy which would benefit residents of this state the people of the Kuskokwim region find they are a member of. Sometimes I wonder why we are a member of this state, when it seems the legislature doesn't seem to notice the high prices of fuel, groceries, airfare, and life loss due to alcohol and drug abuse and the lack of relevant historic education in the schools, but we are here far away in a roadless, land which we love. Please put an end to the waste of our precious salmon resource. This resolution is a start.

Thank you for your time, your hard work to represent the people of the state. Godspeed to you and the legislature to help bring justice to the people of our region, and if you have any questions for me I'd be glad to answer them.



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Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
SR5 Testimony SRES 3/29/13

My name is Julie Bonney. I represent the members of Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, both shorebased processors and trawl catcher vessels that support fishery economies in Alaskan coastal communities.

We are certainly sympathetic to Chinook direct users and their pain due to the recent poor Chinook salmon runs. However, the entire topic of salmon bycatch is extremely complicated, an issue that stakeholders in the federal fisheries and the NPFMC has spend a large amount of time and energy to figure out ways to reduce and mitigate the impacts of bycatch.

It is important that the committee understands that the GOA trawl industry and the BSAI trawl industry are completely different both in terms of Chinook salmon that we catch and the fishery management tools available to the fleets to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch.

First, The GOA Chinook salmon bycatch taken in the trawl fisheries are not Coastal Western Alaska stocks. For the GOA, 99% of the 2011 genetic samples were from GOA/Pacific coast regions, with the British Columbia contributing 40%, followed by the west Coast of the US at 26% and Southeast Alaska at 14%. All three of these regions have a large amount of hatchery produced Chinook salmon with an annual release in the neighborhood of 200 to 250 million fish. Presently environment conditions are extremely favorable for Chinook in both Canada and the Pacific Northwest; these areas are seeing all time highs for both returns and catches. Frankly in recent years the GOA trawl industry are seeing more and more Chinook salmon on the fishery grounds.

Second, The GOA trawl industry is still managed at the fleet level for both bycatch and groundfish catches which create a "race for fish". In a race for fish vessels compete for their share of both the available fisheries quotas and bycatch caps. By managing Chinook salmon bycatch at the fleet level, every participant suffers from the action of any individual vessel with high bycatch. The high salmon bycatch from one vessel limits the fishing opportunity of every other vessel dependent on a Chinook salmon cap. Similarly, the Chinook avoidance of any one vessel accrues to the benefit of all other vessels. The paradox of this race for fish management structure is that the participants who incur the greatest costs to avoid Chinook salmon are likely to realize the least benefit from the fishery, while those who incur the least salmon avoidance costs realize the greatest gains. Trawl dependent processors and communities who depend on their harvesting vessels are impacted by these perverse incentives of this type of fishery management system since the incentives in the fishery are all upside down.

In the BS the fisheries both the pollock quota and Chinook salmon hard cap are allocated to fishery cooperatives; in these cooperatives each harvesting vessel knows how much of both pollock and Chinook salmon they are allowed to catch. This fishery management structure holds each harvesting vessel responsible for its own fishing behavior; this sets up a system of incentives that rewards good behavior at the vessel level.

If the legislature truly wants to do something positive to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the GOA, that also supports a vibrant groundfish trawl industry and dependent coastal Alaskan communities we would ask that your resolution be modified to ask the NPFMC to move forward expeditious with a cooperative program similar to the BS that provides the necessary fleet tools and incentives to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch.

This is the first year that I have had guests bring up the fact that the July returns are down, and through the media they are aware that the Kenai River king run is struggling. One group the other day, was deciding between Mexico and Alaska, and opted for Mexico for better fishing, and a lower price. We will never beat Mexico on price, so we should ensure we offer a quality sport fishery.

All other users have to reduce their harvest to conserve Chinook salmon in years of low returns, the trawl fisheries must do the same.

The Council's actions have a direct impact on the state of our salmon returns: it's critical that the State of Alaska plays a leading role in advocating for by-catch reductions.

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