

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE/SUBJECT FILES 8672

2437 SCOMM 102: HOUSE SPEC. COMM. ON FISHERIES, 1997-98

**Comments of Jim Butler to:
House Special Committee on Fisheries**

JB
203 7167

November 5, 1997
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Chambers
Soldotna, Alaska

Purpose of Testimony

- to review Greater Kenai Chamber of Commerce Resolution 96-02
Regarding Consistency in Cook Inlet Fishery's Management

- Local business person for over 20 years
- Member of Board of Directors Greater Chamber of Commerce

- see highlighted copy attached

Concerns with HB 149

- ⇒ removes management of salmon fisheries from Board of Fish
- ⇒ premised on asserting one economic activity over another which has been a substantial portion of Kenai's diversified business community for decades
- ⇒ ignores critical issues such as habitat preservation and scientifically based salmon run management
- ⇒ perpetuates conflict between two distinct industries (commercial and recreational salmon harvesting)
- ⇒ ignores successful ADF&G management of salmon runs in Cook Inlet which has resulted in viable commercial fishing industry while at the same time allowing for rapidly growing recreational fishing industry

NOTES:

GREATER KENAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**RESOLUTION 96-02****A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER KENAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING CONSISTENCY IN
COOK INLET FISHERY'S MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Kenai Chamber of Commerce is the 3rd largest Chamber in the State of Alaska and represents the interests of 440 business members, and

WHEREAS, the commercial salmon fishing industry in the Kenai area employs several thousand people in the salmon processing and harvest sectors of our local economy which provides a significant tax-base and economic activity for our community, and

WHEREAS, our local sport fishing industry has grown into a vibrant industry in Kenai, however, the recreational fishing experience is threatened by overcrowding and subsequent habitat damage along the Kenai River, and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research recently reported that the current Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Plan has achieved an economic balance among several sectors of our local economy, and

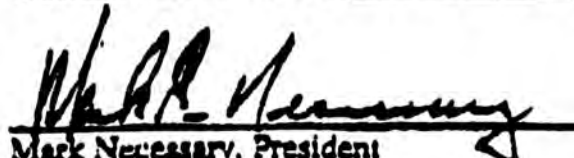
WHEREAS, numerous studies commissioned by State fish and land managers continue to report that increasing salmon escapement into the Kenai River will lead to degradation of critical river habitat and as well as a decrease in the fishing enjoyment of resident fishermen, and

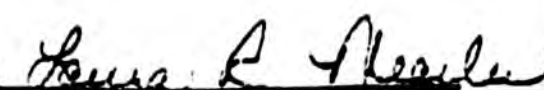
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kenai Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors believes the Board of Fisheries should maintain the existing Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Plan since it has successfully struck a balance between allocating salmon runs between competing economic interests while maintaining a maximum sustained yield, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the existing Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Plan has allowed for sufficient flexibility for fishery managers to effectively maintain healthy salmon runs and should the Board of Fish consider changes to the existing Cook Inlet fisheries Management Plan that such changes should be carefully considered:

1. The biological risk to future salmon runs which result from increased Kenai River habitat damage resulting from an increase in river sport fishing pressure, and
2. Potential impacts on various parts of the local Kenai economy which currently depend on the existing Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Plan's proven success.

PASSED BY THE GREATER KENAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THIS 14th DAY OF February 1996.


Mark Necessary, President
Kenai Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

ATTEST: 
Anna R. Meade

Board of Fish, Wild Stock Genocide : HB 149

To: Board of Fish
From: Don Johnson <ccpwow@ptialaska.net>
Subject: Wild Stock Genocide : HB 149
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

>>Dear Sirs:

>>

>>The following is the reason there are so many upset fishermen in the CookInlet Fishery, the CISMP builds one stock by destroying another. This letter describes the concept .

>>Thank you.

>>

>>Donald Johnson

>>PO Box 876

>>Soldotna Ak 99669

>>907 262 7893

>>*****

>> CISMP - Wild Stock Genocide

>>

>>>> When the Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan, [CISMP] started we had, more or less, natural wild mixed fish stock ratios.

The state and fishermen then thought they had a better idea, they decided to upset the natural ratios and force artificial ratios.

Theoretical stock ratios of 40 red salmon, 20 king salmon and 40 silver salmon are used in this example. Stock enhancement and the CISMP upset our natural stock ratios and increased the red run by around a factor of 10.

This caused the red stocks to go to 400 fish and wild stocks remained unchanged.

>>

>>>> In July commercial gillnets take about a 90 percent bite out of all stocks. Unfortunately a 90 percent bite out of the enhanced reds means a 90 percent bite out of all natural wild stocks also.

>> Before stock enhancement, a 90 percent bite out of all stocks leaves 4 reds, 2 kings and 4 silvers.

Now comes the magic, the reds only are enhanced to 400 fish and we let the kings and silvers reproduce on their own.

Fish managers can now sit back and watch these 2 kings and 4 silvers attempt to survive an annual gillnet attack tuned to a massive 400 red salmon return.

The 2 kings and 4 silvers will at best produce around 6 kings and 12 silvers.

These reduced wild stocks must now return to another 90 percent

Board of Fish, Wild Stock Genocide : HB 149

gillnet attack which will result in even fewer returns the next season. Each season these wild stock numbers must get smaller and smaller while the reds are artificially maintained at 400 fish.

>>

>>It doesn't take a fish manager to see the trends in this plan, these stocks have been seperated into two distinctive groups, [sustained yeild] and [nonsustained yeild].

>>

>>>You can change the numbers around to attempt to disprove this pattern but you will still be left with the same fundamental concept. Single stock enhancements, gillnets and mixed stocks spells trouble for the resource.>

>>

>>>>Cook Inlets red salmon run has been expanded by reducing the wild stocks migrating with them. With only a single user [commerical gillnetting] it is easy to see how this 90 percent gill net bite cannot be sustained on wild stocks; eventually the wild stock must collapse.

>>

I support any Bill which will give all fish stocks equal sustained yeild status, it is painfully clear the state is not currently implementing [equal] sustained yeild status on all fish stocks, that is why I support HB 149.

>Don Johnson

>ccpwow@ptialaska.net

>

>

>

NOVEMBER 5, 1997

SUBJECT: COMMENTS RE: HB 149

FROM: STEVEN PERRIZO

DUE TO ALL THE RECENT STUDIES AND INFORMATION ON THE KENAI RIVER OF OVERCROWDING, ETC., WHY WOULD ANYONE SUPPORT A BILL LIKE THIS THAT WOULD FURTHER COMPROMISE THE ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL BALANCE OF THE RIVER? THE WAY THIS BILL IS WRITTEN, IT APPLIES ONLY TO THE STOCKS WHICH HAVE 500,000 ANGLER DAYS OF ANNUAL EFFORT/ I.E. ONLY COOK INLET. AS IT STANDS NOW, 5% OF THE TOTAL SALMON HARVEST IN THE STATE COULD AMOUNT TO AS HIGH AS 10 MILLION, AND COOK INLET, THE ONLY AREA AFFECTED BY THIS BILL, TRADITIONALLY AVERAGES FAR BELOW THAT NUMBER.

DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY IS THE SECOND LARGEST EMPLOYER IN THE STATE, AND THE CITY OF KENAI AND SURROUNDING BOROUGH RELY HEAVILY ON THE REVENUES GENERATED FROM THIS INDUSTRY, IT SEEMS VERY INAPPROPRIATE TO PUT THIS INDUSTRY AT RISK TO BENEFIT NON-RESIDENT SPORT FISHERMEN.

AS A LOCAL RESIDENT, AND LOCAL TAXPAYER, AND ONE WHO LIVES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE KENAI RIVER, I PERSONALLY HAVE NOT FISHED THE RIVER IN THE LAST 10 YEARS BECAUSE OF OVERCROWDING, THEREFORE, I WOULD APPRECIATE SOME CONSIDERATION FOR THE LOCAL RESIDENTS AND AREAS DIRECTLY AFFECTED, WHEN DECIDING THE FATE OF THIS BILL.

11/5/97

I Donna Schouweiler age 38 a commercial Fisherman all my life. A way of making a living in which was proudly passed down to me by my father. My brothers and I were raised on chisik Island on a fish sight, but gradually moved forward to drifting. I am writing this letter to let you know how strongly I am against this Fish Initiative H B 149. I can't believe that our politicians who say they love our state could become so blinded by power that they seem to forget how we struggle with mother nature to survive. You are quit clearly trying to destory my lively hood. So sports fisherman and with great emphasis on the word Sports, can have time to play there recreational games.

I myself have witnessed these so called subsistence fisherman sale thier fish in which they claime they were using to feed their family's.

H B 149 is quiet clearly an effort to allow sports fisherman to put the entire responsibility of conservation and gauranteed sport harvests on the commercial fisherman's shoulders.

H B 149 is nothing more than an econmic monster to feed the tourisum and Mat-Su tourism industry at our (commercial fisherman) exspense.

I have a younger sister who has her own business as a Bed& Breakfast reservation's service and my mother has even run a bed& Breakfast buisness of her own. But even they can see how one sided this action will be. Further more this catch & release buisness is a big JOKE, did'nt your parents teach you not to play with your food!

It is quit clearl that the current board of Fisheries is vary obviously a one sided affair. For only 2 of the 7 board member's are involved in commercial salt waters fisheries. Even a child could see how one sided the situation is.

You must vote NO on H B 149 if any of us true Alaskan's who have fed our families by liveing off the land (moose & Fish) all our lives: it is'nt a tradition you just forget about. It is called survival in my life. You must let us continue to allow us to live up to our standards of living. Being a fisherman all my life and considering the way in which we were raised these people who think we are in for a get rich scam should come and spend a few day's with my familie. Futher more I would like to know how much money time and effort the sports fisherman have put toword preserving our fisherie. I know for a fact that commercial fisherman have been paying 2% of our income for at least 23 years, to support the aguiculture program and other fish iniitive programs to make sure we do not make the same mistakes that california and Oregan fisherman have made. After all this is our lively hood. Can you show me proof as to how much effort and money Sports fisherman have donated. You can't because they are just another group of people full of Greed.

Sincerty :

Donna Schouweiler

Donna L Schouweiler



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Special Committee
OU committee name Resources
committee on HB #149 dated 11-5-92
bill/subject

I support HB #149. It helps
me feed my family during the
long winter. I work in construction
as a result I do not work in
the winter, so this bill would
help me, and I vote

Signed: E Russell Penrod RP
Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 4016 Soldotna, Alaska 99669
Address

262-6795
Phone No.

To: **Members of the House Special committee on Fisheries**
From: **Sylvia Guild Beaudoin, P.O. Box 75, Kasilof, AK 99610**
Date: **Nov. 5, 1997**

Dear Commitee Members,

I am writing to you to alert the committee to my opposition to House bill 149. I have been an Alaskan resident since 1984. My husband and I have built our home here, and have developed a small export seafood business, in addition, we both fish commercially in Upper Cook Inlet. This bill places our livelihoods in jeopardy.

House Bill 149 is simply a rehashed version of the F.I.S.H. Initiative, which has already been found to be unconstitutional. In submitting this bill, Representative Kohring is wasting both the tax payers time and money.

We have in place a management system which is not only fair and equitable, but the envy of every other state in the union. Through the Board of Fish process, Alaskan residents have been given prioritve consumptive use of our state's salmon resources through subsistence and personal use harvests. Let me remind the committee of current management practises: The Kasilof River personal use gillnet fishery takes place prior to any commercial fishing. Kenai and Kasilof River dipnet fisheries open by date, regardless of escapement levels in these rivers. Personal use dipnet fisheries take place down-stream of the snar counters. Personal use dipnet fisheries run 24 hours a day, seven days per week. In the 1995 personal use fishery, 85,699 sockeye were harvested by 5,369 Alaskan residents, in the Kasilof and Kenai River areas alone. In 1996, the personal use fish harvest 136,043 sockeye, and participation was up to 8,888 Alaskan residents. This is a 58% increase. At this time, 1997 records are not yet available from the Department of Fish and Game, but it is fair to assume from the recent success of the personal use fishery, that the 1997 numbers will have increased, yet again.

House Bill 149 seeks to bypasses the Board of Fish process regarding allocation; and irrationally places the commercial guide industry into the same consumptive use category as individual Alaskans in their subsistence and personal use harvest. In so doing, the result of this bill will be that commercial salmon fishing in Cook Inlet or any other area in the state desired by the commerical guide industry, will no longer be viable and will cease.

Presently, non-resident sport fishing licenses out number resident licenses. Since the majority of the commercial sport industry's clients are non-residents, one could make the argument that this bill will give priority to non-residents. I ask you, why should the state of Alaska give priority to non-residents, and the commerical guide industry? This unregulated groups numbers are burgeoning, and the sheer volume of sportfishers have already stressed the fragile balance of many of our states most accessible waterways. This bill allows for the unlimited expansion of the commercial sport fishing industry.

Representative Kohring's states that "Bill 149 is not a reflection of any opposition to the commercial fishing industry." Of course it is. House Bill 149 is not about supplying fish for local residents, it is about giving priority to the commercial sport fishing industry and their ever expanding needs through the elimination of the the commercial salmon industry. Please do not pass House Bill 149. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely, *Sylvia J. Beaudoin*
Sylvia Guild Beaudoin
Owner, North Star Seafoods

Nov 05 1997

I'm writing to protest House Bill # 149. I don't agree that our fish and game management should be done by ballot or be a political matter.

The Cook Inlet management needs change to give more fish to resident anglers and to curb the number of guides for both salmon and halibut. These guides are commercial fishermen and should be regulated by law to limit their numbers before they wipe out the fish stocks they target.

My wife and I own a B & B located in Kodiak. We do business with guides and sport fishermen but also with folks that come to Alaska

Wm. Deed letter
(407) 262-2643

to see commercial set net fishing,
right in front of our home and
they visit with the fisherman
and learn about their life and the
history of the fishery. This is unique
in Alaska and should continue as
an attraction for Tourism.

There is a place for our sockeye
salmon set net fishermen. They have
given up a lot and love their lifestyle.
Don't take away their last shot at
living in our great state. The guide
industry should be working to control
themselves rather than go after the
whole pie for themselves.

Thank you
William Deal
Margaret A. Deal
Deals Den TB+TB
HC2 Box 525A
KASIKOF AK
99610

907 262 2643

To: Legislative Representatives Attending Hearing for HB 149
From: Jeff Beaudoin. P.O. Box 545, Clam Gulch, AK 99568
Date: Nov. 5, 1997

First of all, I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to participate in the public comment process. My name is Jeff Beaudoin, and I am a KPFA Board member and have commercially salmon fished in Cook Inlet for fourteen years. I oppose House Bill 149. This bill allows for the unlimited expansion to the commercial sport fishing industry. It seeks to bypasses the Board of Fish process regarding allocation, and the result of this bill, is that commercial salmon fishing in Cook Inlet will no longer be viable and will cease.

The other point I would like to make, is that this is a resident versus non-resident issue. Non-resident sport fishing licenses now out number resident licenses. And since the majority of the sport industry's clients are non-residents, one could make the argument that this bill will give priority to non-residents.

I oppose House Bill 149 because the "consumptive users" have already been accommodated by the Alaska Board of Fish. In the 1995 personal use fishery, 85,699 sockeye were harvested by 5,369 Alaskan residents, in the Kasilof and Kenai River areas alone. In 1996, the personal use fishery harvest 136,043 sockeye, and participation was up to 8,888 Alaskan residents. This is a 58% increase. At this time, 1997 records are not yet available from the Department of Fish and Game, but it is fair to assume from the recent success of the personal use fishery, that the 1997 numbers will have increased, yet again. KPFA and its members, have supported the personal use fisheries, and the Board of Fish has addressed this issue of consumptive use for its residents, as evidenced by the personal use harvest and participation.

The personal use preference already exists in current management practise. The Kasilof River personal use gillnet fishery takes place prior to any commercial fishing. Kenai and Kasilof River dipnet fisheries open by date, regardless of escapement levels in these rivers. Personal use dipnet fisheries take place downstream of the sonar counters. Personal use dipnet fisheries run 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

Representative Kohring's statement that "Bill 149 is not a reflection of any opposition to the commercial fishing industry." This is ridiculous. Of course it is. House Bill 149 is **not** about supplying fish for **local** residents, it is about giving priority to the commercial sport fishing industry and their ever expanding needs through the **elimination** of the the commercial salmon industry.

*Finally please address the ADF 96 Budget
to help secure the fisheries through the state.*



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB - 149 , dated 11-5-97
bill/subject

One only needs to read the paragraph stating the purpose of this bill to see that it is unconstitutional. These legislators have sworn an oath to uphold the constitution of the State of Alaska and presentation of this bill is a violation of this oath, therefore, these legislators and this bill are a danger to the constitution and the people it protects.

Signed: LINDA WRIGHT
Testifier

Myself

Representing (Optional)

Box 108, Kasilo, AK 99610
Address

262-9694
Phone No.

November 5, 1997

Mr. Don Ostling
P. O. Box 1781
Kenai, AK 99611

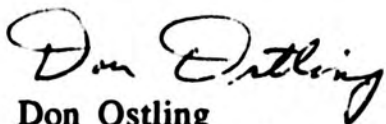
Dear Committee Members:

As a commercial fishermen in the Cook Inlet, I would like to submit my testimony opposing the passage of House Bill 149. I have been a drift-gill net fishermen since 1967 in the Cook Inlet. That is well over 30 years of consecutive seasons.

In this time period I have witnessed many other user groups coming into the area and claiming they have priority for the fish. I do not think anyone owns the fish, but I do see that recognition needs to be given to those of us who have fished the area for years and have raised our families to do like wise.

As a committee addressing HB149 "sport priority legislation" you need to recognize the history of the fishery. I respectfully request that you do not pass any legislation that would give a priority to any particular user group.

Sincerely,



Don Ostling
Cook Inlet Drift Fisherman



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Special Comm. on Fisheries
committee name

committee on House Bill #149 , dated November 5, 1997 .
bill/subject

I support house bill #149. We have five children and are soon to have six. Being able to get large amounts of fish is very helpful to us. It makes supporting a large family a little easier on the food expense.

Signed:

Donella M. Reed
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 926, Kasilof, AK 99610

Address

262-1693

Phone No.

November 5, 1997

To: House Special Committee on Fisheries

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

HB 149, as well as, the unconstitutional F.I.S.H initiative before it, was written to specifically apply to Cook Inlet salmon stocks, and further, written to bring about the end of commercial fishing in Cook Inlet.

It is my opinion that HB 149 was written to address the commonly held belief that the Cook Inlet Salmon management plan has failed to satisfy the needs of the in river commercial sport, recreational, and personal use fisheries, as well as, the ever expanding numbers of non-resident users.

It was also written to nullify the decision making powers of the Board of Fisheries. If the Legislature adopts HB 149 the first proposal the Board of Fisheries will address for Cook Inlet will be that the entire stocks of King salmon and Silver salmon in Cook Inlet are required by the sport fishery to meet the needs of in river users. Since these uses are the priority no decision is necessary for the Board to make. The Board will have no choice except to close all commercial fisheries to prevent the incidental take of these two species.

Any Bill which is designed to create exclusive uses of Alaska's natural resources cannot be good for the future of our State and, most probably are unconstitutional under the present wording of the Alaska State Constitution.

HB 149 is a bad Bill and should be defeated.

Respectfully yours



Bob Merchant

HC2 Box 9506

Soldotna, AK. 99669

Comm. Drifter CI

To: Legislative Representatives Attending Hearing for HB 149

From: Sylvia Guild Beaudoin. P.O. Box 75, Kasilof Ak ⁶¹⁰99160

Date: Nov. 5, 1997

To whom it may concern,

I am writing my opposition to House Bill 149, as I am unable to attend today's hearings. I hope that you will read and accept my testimony. I have been a resident of Alaska since 1984. My husband and I have built our home here, and developed a small export seafood business, and this bill places our livelihood in jeopardy.

House Bill 149 is simply a rehashed form of the F.I.S.H. Initiative, which has already been found to be unconstitutional. Therefore, the legislator proposing it is effectively wasting tax payer time and money by resubmitting this bill.

We have in place a management system which is not only fair and equitable, but the envy of every other state in the union. Our salmon stocks under careful balanced management have grown from low levels in the 1950's to the bountiful levels we all enjoy today. Currently Alaskan residents have priority use of these salmon resources through subsistence and personal use harvests. This is as it should be. House Bill 149 irrationally seeks to place the commercial guide industry into the same consumptive use category, as individual Alaskans in their subsistence or personal use harvest. This is wrong and unfair.

I ask you, why should the state of Alaska give priority to the commercial guide industry and guarantee unlimited numbers of salmon to their clients, when 80% of their clients are from out of state? Why should the state of Alaska give priority to the commercial guide industry when this unregulated group has burgeoned in the last ten years, with no limits on their numbers, and as a result they have already over stressed the fragile balance of many of our most accessible waterways? Why should the state of Alaska give priority to the commercial guide industry when the result of this bill would in effect put the commercial fish industry out of business in those areas desired by the commercial guide industry for their clients? The answer is the state of Alaska should not give the commercial guide industry such priority.

Please do not pass House Bill 149. Thank you for your time and consideration of my opinion.

Best regards,


Sylvia Guild Beaudoin

Year	Total Kodiak Commercial Chinook Catch	Commercial Chinook Salmon Harvest from the Ayakulik and Karluk Terminal Harvest Areas	Kodiak Island escapement
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1985	1942	1684	
1986	1604	1488	
1987	1295	798	
1988	4017	2550	22511
1989	10	0	17288
1990	3757	3138	20083
1991	5404	3844	19301
1992	6544	4246	13291
1993	10225	3952	16158
1994	10574	2966	14184
1995	8225	2602	19784
1996	6731	4295	14643
1997	728		19076

Notes:

- a) The above figures are annual catches and escapements through June 22 only.
- b) During June 5-June 22 management of the Kodiak area commercial salmon fisheries are directed for sockeye salmon destined to Karluk, Ayakulik, Alitak and Chignik;
- c) The majority of the commercial chinook catch occurs along the west-side of Kodiak Island during directed fisheries harvesting sockeye salmon returning to Ayakulik and Karluk;
- d) During the 1997 commercial salmon season the majority of Kodiak's commercial salmon fleet was on strike until June 22.

J. Jeffrey Bailey
1413 Sunrise Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
272-1067


January 30, 1996

RECEIVED
FEB 06 1996
Ans'd.....

Dear Representative Austerman,

As a commercial fishermen and seafood buyer in Cordova I feel that it is essential to the welfare of all Alaskans, especially those living in coastal communities who rely on commercial fishing for their livelihood, that the real motive behind the FISH initiative be addressed. It is obvious that the sponsors of this initiative are trying to re-allocate the salmon resource away from the commercial net fishery and allocate it to the commercial sport guide fishery. Many of the cosponsors are themselves commercial sport guide operators who use this resource for economic gain. The commercial sport guide operators have never been classified or regulated as commercial and now with the FISH initiative the time has come for this to change. Anyone using the salmon resource for economic gain is operating commercially and should be regulated as such.

At present the focus of this initiative seems to be directed at the Cook inlet and Kenai peninsula. If this initiative is passed it will be only a matter of time before all commercial fisheries in the state are targeted. This would jeopardize the livelihood of all commercial fishermen and the economic welfare of coastal communities.

Legislation needs to be passed to classify the sport guide operators as commercial fishermen. With all the commercial interests considered together it will then be possible to fairly allocate the salmon resource for the resident recreational sport fishermen. Before we can fairly allocate this resource between commercial and sport, we need to define what constitutes commercial use.

As the representative of a major coastal community I would like to see you address the issue of commercial use by supporting legislation to classify sport guide operators as commercial fishermen. This bill would require sport guide operators to submit daily fish tickets to ADF&G, and require them to pay raw fish tax and salmon enhancement taxes as already required of all other commercial fishermen in Alaska. With this change in classification a more accurate count of commercial sport guide fish will be available to ADF&G for better management of this vital resource. The added tax revenue will benefit all who are involved in this commercial salmon resource.

In closing I would like to applaud you for your efforts in helping to combat the FISH initiative.

Sincerely,


Jeff Bailey

FORUM / LETTERS

Unspoken truth: Sport guides are cor

By JEFF BAILEY

The ballot initiative to give sport fishermen a harvest preference over commercial fishermen on the surface seems like a reasonable approach to satisfy the needs of Alaska anglers who want fresh salmon for their dinner tables. Bruce Knowles, a co-sponsor of this initiative, was quoted in the Daily News (Oct. 13) as saying, "We're only asking enough to feed the people."

With such a noble reason, how could anyone resist running to the nearest petition to sign?

Before you sign, though, you need to understand that you will be supporting another, under-publicized and very much under-regulated Alaska commercial fishery: the commercial sport-guide salmon fishery. Anyone who uses the catch of fish for economic gain is operating commercially and should be subject to commercial regulation.

Contrary to what we are being led to believe, Bruce Knowles and other commercial guides have a vested commercial interest in our state's salmon fisheries. Their primary goal is to fill

COMPASS

FOR THE COMMUNITY

their commercial sport-guide boats with as many tourists as possible. The best way to promote their business is to fill the rivers with fish, virtually guaranteeing a limit for all on board. The proposed initiative undoubtedly assists commercial guide operators in this goal.

Before we vote to add more regulations to the already heavily regulated commercial net fishery, we need to ask some important questions:

1. Why is there no limited-entry system based on historical precedence for the commercial sport-guide salmon fishery, as there is for all other commercial salmon fisheries in the state? Presently, the number of commercial sport-guide operators is unregulated.

2. Why is it that commercial sport-guide operators aren't required by law to fill out commercial fish tickets to report their

daily catch and the value of that catch, as are all other commercial salmon fisheries? At present, they are required only to fill out a yearly estimate of catch with no value attached.

3. Why don't commercial sport-guide operators pay raw-fish tax and salmon-enhancement tax on the value of their catch, as do all other commercial salmon fishermen? Raw-fish tax is returned to the communities where these fisheries take place, and the enhancement tax goes toward habitat restoration, which is sorely needed on the Kenai and other rivers near Anchorage.

If every Alaskan is to get a fair share of our salmon resource, then the commercial sport-guide salmon fishery needs to be regulated and restricted as well. Alaska needs a limited-entry permit system for commercial salmon sport-guide operators in order to reduce the number of guides utilizing this resource commercially. Guides should be required to submit daily commercial fish tickets and to pay raw-fish and enhancement taxes on the value of their catch as

ERS

Commercial fishermen, too

If every Alaskan is to get a fair share of our salmon resource, then the commercial sport-guide salmon fishery needs to be regulated and restricted as well. Alaska needs a limited-entry permit system for commercial salmon sport-guide operators in order to reduce the number of guides utilizing this resource commercially.

their contribution to the resource they rely on for commercial gain.

Also, if escapement goals fall behind and the commercial nets must stop fishing, then the commercial sport guides need to get off the rivers. With equity in the management of all commercial salmon fisheries, there will be more opportunity for the Alaska angler who is truly "just trying to put food on the table."

For years, I've read the letters and opinions about how the com-

mercial fisheries take all the fish, leaving little for the subsistence, personal-use and sports fisheries. In most cases, the people who shout the loudest about the commercial fishermen are in fact commercial fishermen themselves. They're just hiding in sport-anglers' clothing.

□ Jeff Bailey is a commercial fisherman and president of Prime Select Seafoods in Cordova.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FISHERIES COMMITTEE
committee name
committee on HB 149 , dated 5/7/97
bill/subject

I AM OPPOSED TO THIS BILL FOR MANY REASONS. AS A ~~CHARTER~~ BOAT GUIDE SINCE '83 I HAVE SEEN IN P.W.S. AREA, THE FISHING FOR ALL SPECIES IMPROVE GREATLY. TO SUBJECT ALL COASTAL COMMUNITIES TO THIS LEGISLATION WOULD BE A SLAP IN THE FACE TO ALASKANS, COMMERCIAL, AND SPORT, NOT TO MENTION THE BOARD OF FISH WHO DO AN EXCELLENT JOB OF ALLOCATION.

FURTHERMORE ANYONE WHO MAKES A DOLLAR OFF OF ANY FISH IN ALASKA IS INVOLVED IN A COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE AND SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS SUCH, ITS NOT SPORT IF YOUR GETTING PAID FOR IT.

THE INTENT OF THIS BILL TARGETS THE WRONG USERS. I DONT THINK ITS FAIR TO ALLOCATE FISH TO SO CALLED SPORT INTERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF SOMEONE WHO MAKES A LIVING USING A NET. THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE MY OPINION.

Signed: Mike E. Bucher
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 1103 VALDEZ 99686
Address
835-4435
Phone No.

Fax re-submitted from Ketchikan Legislative Information Office
Phone: 225-9675 Fax: 225-8546

Address Ketchikan AK 99901
PO Box 9533
Representing (Original)

Phone: 247-9533

Black Goose

Signed:

Thank you

Board.

In regard to the 5% of the total statewide harvest of salmon being reserved for this preference use, this seems like it would result in a very high number of fish being reserved. I doubt this number can be just filed. Management of fish should be by the Fisheries Board.

I do not believe the state law should be giving preference to anyone in regard to state game and fish.

I am against HR 149.

Alaska State Legislature
House Resources Committee
Please enter into the record my testimony to the
HR 149
Committee on
Bill/Subject:
dated 4/30/97

P. O. Box 324
Kenai, Alaska 99611-0324
7 May 1997

Rep. Austerman, Chairman
House Fisheries Committee

Re: HB 149

Representative Austerman and Committee Members:

I am strongly opposed to HB 149.

This legislation is based on two assumptions and they are both wrong.

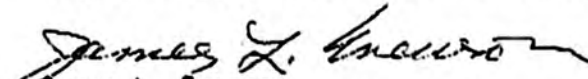
First, commercial salmon fishing in the central district has not caused the diminished runs in the Susitna River drainage and the Mat-Su area. The problem lies within the sport fishing areas themselves. Both over fishing and habitat degradation are the problems.

Second, there is nothing unfair about the commercial fisheries taking millions of salmon while the sport fishing takes relatively few.

The commercial fishing is an efficient, high volume business that provides food for millions of consumers throughout the world. Sport fishing is a one-man one-fish activity with an emphasis on recreation.

It is totally meaningless, in fact misleading, to compare the number of sport fishermen with commercial fishermen. If a comparison is made, the numbers of sport fishermen should be compared to the millions of consumers who purchase and enjoy the commercially caught salmon.

The arguments supporting HB 149 are misleading and dishonest. Commercial fishing is a time honored Alaskan industry and deserves respect, not lies and deception.


James L. Evenson

**Bruce J. & Theresa M Gabrys
10229 Baffin Street
Eagle River, Ak 99577**

May 8, 1997

**Amy Daugherty
Rep. Austerman's Office
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MN3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182**

Sent By Fax: (907) 465-4956

SUBJECT: Public Comment on HB-149

Dear Amy,

During the teleconference on HB-149 held on May 7, 1997 I testified in opposition to HB-149 by teleconference from Anchorage. During the course of the teleconference I was contacted by Tom Lee and he said my testimony was lost due to a technical problem and asked if I could provide my comments in writing to you at Representative Austerman's Office. My testimony was given from notes. I will keep as close to the public testimony as I am able:

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify. My name is Bruce Gabrys, I live in Eagle River Alaska, and am opposed to HB 149. I am a sport fisherman as well as a Cook Inlet Drift fisherman for the past 15 years.

I was here for the last teleconference and was not able to testify due to the lack of time. I did have the opportunity to hear Representative Kohring's explanation as to the purpose of this legislation. In his own words Representative Kohring said this bill is to help the Susitna river and the impact would be limited to Cook Inlet due to the 500,000 angler-day trigger.

If we cut directly to the issue. HB-149 is just a rehash of the Fish Initiative. If the issue is Cook Inlet, I fail to see the logic of computing the allocation on state wide totals. What does salmon returns from Ketchikan to Kotzebue have to do with

south central salmon returns? The 5th was a good marketing gimmick to get the 28,000 signatures on the Fish Initiative but it insults the intelligence of the people of Alaska and this committee!

The other issue I would like to address is the biology of the Mat-Su river systems. Few resources have been committed to understanding the biology of the system. Representative Kohring has stated that he nor his constituents "are not seeing the fish come thru the central district." Who says the fish are coming to the Susitna at all? To the best of my knowledge there has not been a fish counter in the Susitna since it was washed out in the 1986 flooding. We must understand the biology of what is happening in the river before we argue about allocation.

What about the exploding Pike population in the Mat-Su river systems? Pike are voracious feeders. They eat other fish. The Pike are predators on the salmon smolt. Since the flooding of the Susitna in 1986, Pike have spread through-out the river system. I believe it was on channel 2 television there was a short news clip a few months ago on fishermen catching 12 to 15 pound pike in the valley.

We must work together and spend the time and money it will take to understand the biology of the Mat-Su river system. Then sound management of the resource can be implemented. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. (end of testimony)

If you have questions please call me at 428-6575 during the day or leave message at my home number which is 694-3874. I can be contacted by fax at 696-3874. Thanks!

Sincerely,



Bruce J. Gabrys

John & Anne Herschleb

P.O. Box 447
Girdwood, AK 99587
soundedv@outomopu.com

Telephone (907) 783-3153
Fax (907) 783-1223

May 6, 1997

Representative Alan Austerman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Austerman,

As commercial fishers my husband and I are patently opposed to HB 149 - the FISH Initiative bill.

Our opposition lies with the provision that consumptive users may take more than five per cent of a particular salmon species or stock of the total harvest of salmon in any area. If consumptive users wanted to take five per cent of all runs statewide I would not have a problem with this, but to give them the ability to pick and choose species and areas to target is unfair and virtually shuts down commercial fishing on targeted salmon runs such as those on the Kenai.

This bill is an attempt by members of the Legislature to perform the duties the Board of Fisheries is charged with. It is micro-management by the Legislature and does not address all the complex issues the board has to take into account when making decisions of this nature.

If passed, this bill will decrease the amount of commercial fish taxes that the state, boroughs and municipalities collect. Commercial fishing is a large industrial employer in this state and this bill will decrease the number of jobs available in the industry, not to mention the impact on the income of the permit holders.

House Bill 149 is bad business for the state and for the commercial fishing industry. I trust you will convey my opinion to the House Special Committee on Fisheries at your public hearing tomorrow.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anne
Anne L. Herschleb

Beulah & Don Luhr
P.O. Box 141
Petersburg, Ak. 99833

August 21, 1997

House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State House of Representatives
Chairman Alan Austerman
Fax 907/465-4956

Dear Chairman Austerman,

We are writing you in opposition to HB 149 by Rep. Vic Kohring of Wasilla. This bill would subvert the Alaska State Board of Fish and politicize the allocation of the fisheries resource, which in turn would be extremely detrimental to the commercial fishing industry of our State.

This industry is important to our State and to the economical health of the majority of the communities in Alaska. We feel the Board of Fish does a commendable job of managing the States fisheries resource, and should not have it's integrity jeopardized by politics within the State Legislature.

This bill would be devastating to our livelihood and to that of our fellow fisherman. It is bad enough to be plagued with poor fishing seasons and low prices without having to worry about what our own legislature is trying to do to us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we urge you and the other committee members to vote no on HB 149.

Sincerely,



Don & Beulah Luhr
Fax #907/772-4239

**Bob Martinson Cordova District Fishermen United
Co-Chair Gillnet Division
HB 149**

RECEIVED
MAY 5 1997
Ans'd.....

**900 Iroquois Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654**



Dear Honorable Members of the House;

My name is Bob Martinson. Currently, I am Co-Chair of the Gillnet Division of Cordova District Fishermen United. I have lived in the Mat-Su Valley for nearly a decade.

First, I would like to point out to my representatives, I live in House District 27, but also to Vic Kohring and Beverly Masek, that they're not representing myself or my fellow limited entry permit holders of the Mat-Su.

There are more than 200 limited entry permit holders, and more than 2000 crew license holders residing in the Valley. Anchorage, last I read, had more than 1200 permit holders, with about 5500 crew members. These figures alone don't reflect all those they affect when they restrict commercial fisheries.

HB 149 is simply a rewrite Fish Initiative designed to allocate less to commercial fishing and to allocate more to the rivers. The typical sport fishers are not the one's driving this battle.

Lodge owners and river boat service's are the only one's you'll see show up for testimony on these issues. They, the sport business' are unrestricted and don't have to report their catches.

They also don't have to report that they took six people to one spot, dropped them off, and went back to take four others somewhere else.

These people are working on the spawners. These are the fish allocated to the river.

We, commercial fishermen have escapement levels which must be met or we don't fish. This is how Alaska's Department of Fish and Game is able to MANAGE the fishery.

With growing populations and growing demands for fish, we must all remember that the bottom line is the health of each fishery and to figure out where there are problems, and why there are

problems. Living in Wasilla, I've had candid conversations with commercial guides that didn't know that I was a commercial fisherman. They all seem to agree among each other, that if you're not the early-bird to a certain fishing hole, then it will be cleaned out by noon.

I suggest more upriver enforcement and some better means of upriver catch reporting.

Finally, while the A.D.F.+G. is MANAGING, the Alaska Board of Fisheries is ALLOCATING.

This system has been in place and is the only fair way, and most important, the only scientific way to determine so many factors.

Allocation is not to be done by ballot box or special legislation, but by those who know. That being, the scientists, fishermen and all those, who feed information to the Board of Fish.

It's an open forum and I just want to say HB 149 is another bad idea.

THANK YOU, for hearing my thoughts.

NANCY J. PACE

HC 31, Box 5079P
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-2286

April 30, 1997

TO: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resource, Finance

Re: Management of Salmon Fisheries - HB149

This is not a management plan. It is a mis-management directive. Current management plans would be negated and destroyed if this **DIRECTIVE** is adopted.

ADFG bag limits for all areas of the state are more than adequate to provide for the needs of Alaska's **CONSUMPTIVE USERS** (key word being consumptive - to consume as in ingest by mouth). alaskans have the best managed wild stocks (actually, nearly the last managed wild stocks) in the world. They provide continuing returns to support a broad economic base for a large segment of the population **AND** enough resource for the residents to enjoy **generous personal/sport/subsistence limits** - limits which put enough fish away for anyone's **CONSUMPTION**. Limits which also provide for the **CONSUMPTIVE USE** of many thousands of residents of other states and other countries as well. **And** by admission of these "others", as well as by observation of their activities "outside"; these same "sport limits" provide an economic return as well - financing more than a few "vacations"/"trips abroad", etc. These fish are shipped and sold to many foreign destinations.

Now, you are demanding that as an industry, Alaska's fishermen and the commercial fishing industry - an artery in this state's economy - **allocate 5% of their resource by region before** it leaves the high seas - Mandate that **NONE** of the resource is touched **at any point** along it's **entire** migration path until the terminal user is **GUARANTEED 5%** by numbers of the harvestable surplus. This is not only a ludicrous proposal, but impossible to carry out by any management scheme; **other than total elimination of any fishery except** the consumptive use fisheries. And you expect the residents of this state who are facing increasingly diminishing personal income (**DISPOSABLE INCOME = CONSUMPTIVE USE OF PERSONAL ECONOMIC RESOURCES**) and increasing employment only in minimum wage jobs to view this as an **opportunity** - as "a good thing". I say to you that this is nothing more than "A Modest Proposal" - and will be as well received.

ADFG is doing an outstanding management job with regulation and planning as it is. Leave fisheries management to the professionals, the biologists. Politics is no manager. And leave the professionals a resource to manage. Don't propose to mis-manage it at its source.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.



WILLIAM PACE

HC 31, Box 5079P
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-2286

April 30, 1997

TO: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resource, Finance

Re: Management of Salmon Fisheries - HB149

My wife and I are commercial fishers in Prince William Sound/Cordova and oppose HB149 as it is not founded on scientific data, but totally politically driven.

HB 149 proposes to allocate a mere 5% of our salmon to subsistence , personal use and sport fishing. However, this 5% is not by area, but using statewide totals to arrive at a 5% number for allocation to the Kenai and Mat-Su rivers. This would be devastating to commercial fishermen in False Pass, Kodiak and Cook Inlet because there insufficient numbers of kings and sockeye returning to Cook Inlet to equal 5% of the statewide salmon harvest if the entire runs were taken by these means.

In 1995, the total salmon return statewide was 169,160,000. Five percent (5%) of that is 8,458,000 salmon. This number could be allocated to the Kenai and Mat-Su rivers resulting in 100% of the king, sockeye and coho runs being allocated to subsistence, personal use and sport fishing since the estimated harvestable returns for all of Cook Inlet is 5,300,000 salmon.

It does not make economic sense to substantially restrict or close an industry vital to the existence of False Pass, Kodiak and Cook Inlet in a time when Alaska is losing its high paying jobs for minimum wage jobs, and our income on a personal level is not keeping pace with inflation. Yet HB 149 will inflict severe economic harm to Alaska's largest private sector employer and second largest revenue generator.

We reside in Wasilla and have talked to many sport fishermen who live in Alaska, and the one common complaint I hear is not commercial fishing, but that there are too many guides with tourists on the rivers. So many in fact, that fishing Alaska rivers is no longer a pleasant experience. In fact, competing with guides has made it quite unpleasant. HB149 will do nothing more than promote more guides and more crowding on the rivers. The only people who will benefit will be guides and lodge owners.

I have been to many public comment hearings whenever salmon issues come up, and if you will take note, it is usually guides, lodge owners and other financially interested parties who want increased allocations for sport fishing; not alaska resident sport fishermen.

Alaska now enjoys some of the largest runs in the history of the state. This is due to the management efforts of Department of Fish and Game and the Fisheries Board. Do not allow politics to interfere and destroy our abundant salmon as was done in the lower 48.

Thank you.

William Pace



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFSH
committee name
committee on HB 149 dated 5-5-97
bill/subject

I attempted to testify on April 28 and April 30 and have decided to write instead. I've been involved in fishing the upper Cook Inlet waters since 1951. I've angled, subsistence fished, personal use fished and commercially fished. I was president of the Northern District Setnetters Organization in territorial days and the early days of statehood. I was appointed to the first Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Council by Governor Egan and was elected president for four terms. I participated in research activities with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish & Game. So much for qualifications.

As to HB 149, I was dismayed to see a dead horse being beaten again. It appears obvious to me that the public time and money being wasted on this futile effort could be utilized much more effectively on some really constructive activities. The sponsors of this bill would profit their constituents and the rest of us a great deal more if they would help get more knowledge (facts, not opinions) about how that tremendous, volatile, unreliable salmon producer, the Susitna watershed and its neighbors, could be tamed and enhanced. The potential is tremendous. The newly coined buzz word, or phrase, "Alaskan common consumptive user," is a rather pitiful attempt to unite all of the competitors who are not commercial fishermen, and to include in the ranks of the "consumers" the obviously non-consumptive guides and what I call, when I'm being polite, "super sports." I perceive two types of sports fishers. The first being the individual with quite limited time, skill and not always the best equipment. The other might be called a "hobbyist" or "obsessed" or perhaps just "fortunate." These individuals apparently have unlimited time and resources to catch and release salmon over and over again in search of their prize "keeper." They occupy more than their fair share of the precious target areas and contribute, just by being there, more than their fair share to the degradation of the fishery environment. Are they more "consumptive" than the Alaskans who buy their personal fish from me? Let's do something constructive!

Thank you for your time and attention,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard E. Person".

Richard E. Person
PO Box 25
Clam Gulch, AK 99568
ph. 567-3580

**KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, IRA
P.O. BOX 928 KENAI, ALASKA 99611
TEL: (907)283-3633 FAX: (907)283-3052**

RESOLUTION NO. 96-05

**A TRIBAL RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING THE FAIRNESS IN
SALMON HARVEST (FISH) INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA is a federally recognized Tribal Government, chartered in 1971 under the statutes of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, as amended for Alaska in 1936 with a membership close to 1,000; and,

WHEREAS, "Kahnu", the Kenai River, is the life's blood of the Kenaitze Dena'ina, and many for their entire lives have realized its bounty as a natural expression of their inherited cultural way of life; and,

WHEREAS, it is the conviction of the Executive Committee/Tribal Council, of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA that the preservation of our Kenai River habitat is the primary means of promoting our common bond of association, perpetuating our heritage and culture, and maintaining the social integrity of our members and other residents of this community; and,

WHEREAS, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA is very alarmed that the Fairness in Salmon Harvest (FISH) Initiative, if voted in during the November 1996 elections, will create a Sport Fishing Priority over the State's salmon runs and will bring more heavy damage and destruction to the critical shoreline habitat along the Kenai River; and

WHEREAS, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA has experienced total devastation to its vital culture and heritage through apathy, insensitivity, and commercialism, is also very alarmed that the cultural and historical remains of our ancestors who once inhabited the shores of Cook Inlet and its tributaries will be completely destroyed through the explosion of sport fishermen and guides that the Kenai Peninsula will experience if the FISH Initiative is allowed to pass; and

WHEREAS, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA implores the State of Alaska not to allow the FISH Initiative to be considered until answers are found regarding what the impact of more salmon in our rivers and more damage to the vital shoreline will do to our valuable salmon resources; and

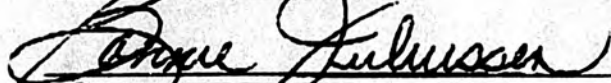
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA firmly believes as do our Cree Brothers, that "only when the last tree has been felled, the last river poisoned, and the last fish caught, will you recognize that one cannot eat money".

Page 2 of 2 Pages
Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA
Resolution No. 96-05

CERTIFICATION

VOTING FOR: 5
VOTING AGAINST 0
ABSTAINING: 0
ABSENT: 1


JAMES SHOWALTER
TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON


BONNIE JULIUSSEN
TRIBAL SECRETARY

Feb 16, 1996
DATE



CITY OF HOONAH

P.O. Box 360 • Hoonah, Alaska 99829 • (907) 945-3883 • FAX (907) 945-3445

RESOLUTION No. 96-02-05

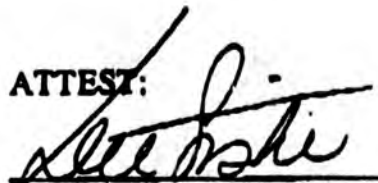
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOONAH RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY AND OPPOSING THE F.I.S.H. INITIATIVE

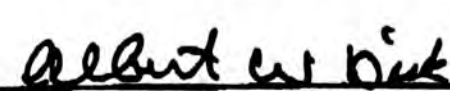
- WHEREAS:** the commercial fishing industry is comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses; and,
- WHEREAS:** the commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer and the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska; and,
- WHEREAS:** the commercial seafood industry contributes more than \$40 million annually in raw fish tax and the seafood processing industry pays over \$80 million annually in taxes and cash benefits to the State of Alaska and its communities; and,
- WHEREAS:** the F.I.S.H. Initiative threatens established and successful management practices which have resulted in record returns and salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of salt-water and in-river commercial fisheries; and,
- WHEREAS:** jobs in the seafood industry and support industries such as transportation, marine fuel, and retail could ultimately be at risk if this initiative passes; and,
- WHEREAS:** it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Hoonah acknowledges the social and economic importance of the Alaska commercial salmon fishing industry to our community and to the State of Alaska and **OPPOSES** the passage of the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum this 13th day of February, 1996

ATTEST:


Dee Fliske, CITY CLERK


Albert W. Dick, Mayor



Introduced by Mayor Selby
Requested by Kodiak Seniors
Association
Drafted Mayor Selby &
Kodiak Seniors Association
Introduced 01/04/96
Adopted 01/04/96

KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH
RESOLUTION NO. 96-02

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE
OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY
AND OPPOSING THE FAIRNESS IN SALMON HARVESTING (F.I.S.H.) INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry is comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses; and

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer with the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the F.I.S.H. Initiative threatens established and successful management practices that have resulted in record returns of salmon by jeopardizing the continued existence of salt-water and in river commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fish; and

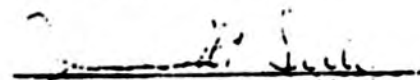
WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish process provides a rational decision-making approach to the allocation of fishery resources based on Alaska Department of Fish and Game fisheries management data and input from all fishing groups;

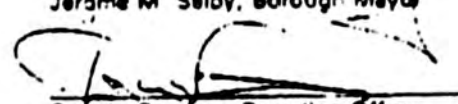
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH that the Kodiak Island Borough acknowledges the social and economic importance of the Alaska commercial salmon fishing industry to our community and to the State of Alaska and opposes the passage of the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH that the Kodiak Island Borough supports the Alaska Board of Fish process and urges that fishery allocation issues be decided by that process.

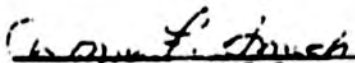
ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH
THIS FOURTH DAY OF JANUARY, 1996

KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH


Jerome M. Selby, Borough Mayor


Gary L. Stevens, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Donna F. Smith, CMC, Borough Clerk

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 1335

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, ALASKA, OPPOSING AND URGING A "NO" VOTE ON HOUSE BILL 149, AN ACT RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SALMON FISHERIES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS

A. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly has long recognized the commercial fishing industry as an integral part of the economy of Ketchikan and has promoted it as a resource worth protecting, enhancing, and stimulating.

B. Many of the citizens of Ketchikan, including commercial fishermen, are also avid sport fishers. The Alaska sportfishing visitor market is growing at about the same rate as the overall visitor market according to ADF&G license sale data.¹ Tourism is also becoming an integral part of the economy of Ketchikan.

C. Therefore, the Assembly is sensitive to the need to maintain viable and balanced recreational and commercial fisheries in Alaska.

D. The healthy and abundant salmon runs Alaska enjoys today are a result of successful management plans developed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and implemented by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

E. This House Bill changes the way fishery managers allocate salmon among different groups of fishers. It creates a salmon harvest priority for subsistence, personal use, and sport fishers. Under the bill fisheries managers must reserve enough of each stock of salmon for non-commercial fishers to meet their "harvest needs," defined as the total harvesting capability of all non-commercial users based on projected participation. Only after this reservation is made, and assuring enough returning salmon for spawning, may managers allocate salmon to commercial fishers.

F. The initiative limits the salmon harvest for personal use and sport fishers to no more than 5% of the total projected statewide harvest of all species of salmon combined. However, there is no limit to the number of salmon which may be allocated by managers to personal use and sport fishers for any particular species or stock of salmon or in any given geographic region.

¹The Role of Sport Fishing in the Southeast Alaska Tourism Economy.
McDowell Group, June 1992

SOUTHWEST ALASKA

MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE



**3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone (907) 562-7380
Fax (907) 562-0438**

RESOLUTION 96-2

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY AND OPPOSING THE FAIRNESS IN SALMON HARVESTING (F.I.S.H.) INITIATIVE

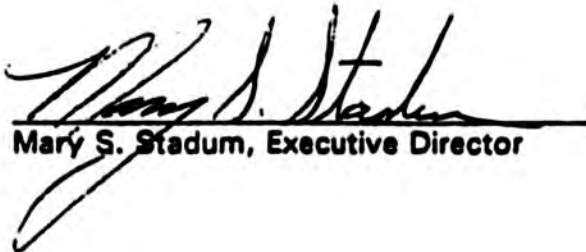
- WHEREAS,** the commercial fishing industry is comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses; and
- WHEREAS,** the commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer with the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** the F.I.S.H. initiative threatens established and successful management practices that have resulted in record returns of salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of salt-water and in-river commercial fisheries; and
- WHEREAS,** it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fish; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Board of Fish process provides a rational decision-making approach to the allocation of fishery resources based on Alaska Department of Fish and Game fisheries management data and input from all fishing groups; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference acknowledges the social and economic importance of the Alaska commercial salmon fishing industry to communities and to the State of Alaska and opposes the passage of the F.I.S.H. initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports the Alaska Board of Fish process and urges that fishery allocation issues be decided by that process.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE THIS
13th **DAY OF JANUARY, 1996.**


Alice J. Ruby, President


Mary S. Stadum, Executive Director

g:\winter.96\res962.fsh

CORRECTION

**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION**



Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education
State of Alaska

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 1335

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, ALASKA, OPPOSING AND URGING A "NO" VOTE ON HOUSE BILL 149, AN ACT RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SALMON FISHERIES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS

A. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly has long recognized the commercial fishing industry as an integral part of the economy of Ketchikan and has promoted it as a resource worth protecting, enhancing, and stimulating.

B. Many of the citizens of Ketchikan, including commercial fishermen, are also avid sport fishers. The Alaska sportfishing visitor market is growing at about the same rate as the overall visitor market according to ADF&G license sale data.¹ Tourism is also becoming an integral part of the economy of Ketchikan.

C. Therefore, the Assembly is sensitive to the need to maintain viable and balanced recreational and commercial fisheries in Alaska.

D. The healthy and abundant salmon runs Alaska enjoys today are a result of successful management plans developed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and implemented by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

E. This House Bill changes the way fishery managers allocate salmon among different groups of fishers. It creates a salmon harvest priority for subsistence, personal use, and sport fishers. Under the bill fisheries managers must reserve enough of each stock of salmon for non-commercial fishers to meet their "harvest needs," defined as the total harvesting capability of all non-commercial users based on projected participation. Only after this reservation is made, and assuring enough returning salmon for spawning, may managers allocate salmon to commercial fishers.

F. The initiative limits the salmon harvest for personal use and sport fishers to no more than 5% of the total projected statewide harvest of all species of salmon combined. However, there is no limit to the number of salmon which may be allocated by managers to personal use and sport fishers for any particular species or stock of salmon or in any given geographic region.

¹The Role of Sport Fishing in the Southeast Alaska Tourism Economy.
McDowell Group, June 1992

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1. The Assembly finds that the provisions of House Bill 149 ties the hands of Alaska's fisheries experts who have effectively dealt with allocations issues in the past. The provisions of the bill tend to arbitrarily create an unfair allocation of the salmon resource among fishers and it sets the stage to keep purse seine, gillnet, and troll fishers tied to the docks waiting while the subsistence, personal use and sport fishers exercise their "reasonable opportunity to take enough salmon necessary to satisfy their harvest needs."

Section 2. The Assembly opposes and urges a "no" vote on House Bill 149.

Section 3. The Borough Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Alaska's Governor Tony Knowles; Senate President Mike Miller, Speaker of the House Gail Phillips, Senator Robin Taylor, Representative Bill Williams, House Special Committees on Fisheries, Resources and Finance.

Section 4. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

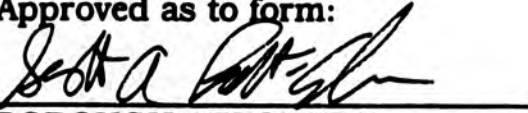
ADOPTED this 5th day of May, 1997.


BOROUGH MAYOR

ATTEST:


BOROUGH CLERK

Approved as to form:


BOROUGH ATTORNEY

EFFECTIVE DATE: <u>5/5/97</u>			
ROLL CALL	YES	NO	ABSENT
CONLEY	✓		
COYNE	✓		
ELKINS	✓		
MARSHALL	✓		
MARTIN	✓		
TIPTON	✓		
VAN HORN	✓		
MAYOR (Tie Vote Only)			N/A
4 AFFIRMATIVE VOTES REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE			

SOUTHWEST ALASKA

MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE



**3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone (907) 562-7380
Fax (907) 562-0438**

RESOLUTION 96-2

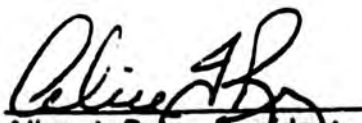
A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY AND OPPOSING THE FAIRNESS IN SALMON HARVESTING (F.I.S.H.) INITIATIVE

- WHEREAS,** the commercial fishing industry is comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses; and
- WHEREAS,** the commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer with the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** the F.I.S.H. initiative threatens established and successful management practices that have resulted in record returns of salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of salt-water and in-river commercial fisheries; and
- WHEREAS,** it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fish; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Board of Fish process provides a rational decision-making approach to the allocation of fishery resources based on Alaska Department of Fish and Game fisheries management data and input from all fishing groups; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference acknowledges the social and economic importance of the Alaska commercial salmon fishing industry to communities and to the State of Alaska and opposes the passage of the F.I.S.H. initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports the Alaska Board of Fish process and urges that fishery allocation issues be decided by that process.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE THIS
13th **DAY OF JANUARY, 1996.**


Alice J. Ruby, President


Mary S. Stadum, Executive Director

g:\winter.96\res962.fsh

Resolution No 96-1

RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF
THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY AND
OPPOSING THE F.I.S.H. INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry is comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer and the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska, and,

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry contributes more than \$40 million annually in raw fish tax and the seafood processing industry pays over \$80 million annually in taxes and cash benefits to the State of Alaska and its communities; and,

WHEREAS, the F.I.S.H. Initiative threatens established and successful management practices which have resulted in record returns of salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of salt-water and in-river commercial fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, jobs in the seafood industry and support industries such as transportation, marine fuel and retail, could ultimately be at risk if this initiative passes; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CITY OF KAREANOF ACKNOWLEDGES the social and economic importance of the Alaska commercial salmon fishing industry to our community and to the State of Alaska and OPPOSES the passage of the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

ADOPTED this 17th day of March 19 96.

David M. Book
Mayor

Emily V. Munson
City Clerk



City of Pelican

BOX 737

PELICAN, ALASKA 99832

PHONE 735 2202

FAX 735 2258

CITY OF PELICAN, ALASKA

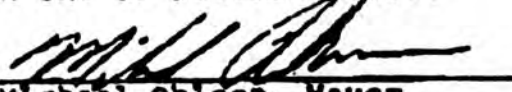
RESOLUTION 1995-24

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY AND OPPOSING THE F.I.S.H. INITIATIVE

- WHEREAS; the commercial fishing industry is comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses; and,
- WHEREAS; the commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer and the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska; and,
- WHEREAS; the commercial seafoods industry contributes more than \$40 million annually in raw fish tax and the seafood processing industry pays over \$80 million annually in taxes and cash benefits to the State of Alaska and its communities; and,
- WHEREAS; the City of Pelican recieved \$165,808 in Raw Fish Taxes which represents 31.62% of our FY-96 annual operating budget; and,
- WHEREAS; the F.I.S.H. Initiative threatens established and successful management practices which have resulted in record returns of salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of salt-water and in-river commercial fisheries; and,
- WHEREAS; jobs in the seafood industry and support industries such as transportation, marine fuel, and retail could ultimately be at risk if this initiative passes; and,
- WHEREAS; it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Pelican City Council, of the City of Pelican, Alaska ACKNOWLEDGES the social and economic importance of the Alaska commercial salmon fishing industry to our City and to the State of Alaska and OPPOSES the passage of the F.I.S.H. initiative.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF December 1995.

Signed:


Michael Ohlson, Mayor

Attest:


Sheri Paddock,
City Clerk/Treasurer

A

Resolution 96-1

A resolution opposing the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

WHEREAS the commercial fishing industry and the sport fishing charter industry are comprised of small, family-run businesses and both are important to the economy of Petersburg and;

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of these industries for the state to maintain viable recreational, consumptive, and commercial fishing opportunities and;

WHEREAS the Alaska Board of Fisheries is committed to balancing the needs of all users of the salmon resource including subsistence, personal-use, sport, and commercial interests and;

WHEREAS the Fairness In Salmon Harvesting, or F.I.S.H. Initiative threatens established and successful management practices which have resulted in record returns of salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of saltwater and in-river fisheries and;

WHEREAS the F.I.S.H. Initiative represents a direct threat to Petersburg's largest employers, the commercial fishing and seafood processing industries and;

WHEREAS the loss of the commercial seafood industry would result in economic loss and hardship to the businesses and residents of our community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce OPPOSES the passage of the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

ADOPTED this 14th day of May 19 96.

Anna S. Burk
DIRECTOR
Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

B. E. Flinn
PRESIDENT
Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

RESOLUTION NO. 1418-R

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY AND OPPOSING THE F.I.S.H INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry is comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses as well as large commercial processors vital to the economies of local communities; and

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer and the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry contributes more than \$40 million annually in raw fish tax and the seafood processing industry pays over \$80 million annually in taxes and cash benefits to the State of Alaska and its communities; and

WHEREAS, the F.I.S.H. initiative threatens established and successful management practices which have resulted in record returns of salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of salt water and in-river commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS, jobs in the seafood industry and support industries such as transportation, marine fuel and retail could ultimately be at risk if this initiative passes; and

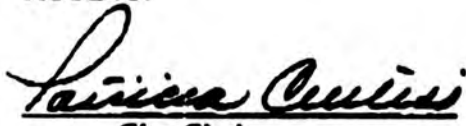
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Petersburg acknowledges the social and economic importance of the Alaska commercial salmon fishing industry to our community and to the State of Alaska and opposes the passage of the F.I.S.H. initiative.

Passed and Approved by the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Alaska this 4 day of December, 1995.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk



THE GREATER SITKA
chamber
OF COMMERCE
Box 638 - Sitka Alaska 99835
907 747-8604

March 1, 1996

Representative Ben Grussengdorf
House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Resolution in Opposition of the F.I.S.H. Initiative

Dear Ben.

The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce supports the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska in their recognition of the social and economic importance of the Alaska Commercial Salmon Fishing Industry and opposing the F.I.S.H. initiative. In an unanimous vote by the Chamber Board of Directors we hereby approve the attached resolution

Sincerely,

Dan Keck
President

The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce
RESOLUTION NO. 96-1
March 1, 1996

A resolution of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce of Sitka, Alaska recognizing the social and economic importance of the Alaska commercial salmon fishing industry and opposing the F.I.S.H. initiative.

WHEREAS, Alaska's fishing industries comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses; and

WHEREAS, the fishing industry is the largest private sector employer and the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the commercial seafood industry contributes millions of dollars annually in raw fish tax (of which Sitka received \$733,800 in 1995) and the seafood processing industry pays millions of dollars annually in taxes and cash benefits to the State of Alaska and its communities; and

WHEREAS, the F.I.S.H. initiative threatens established and successful management practices which have resulted in record returns of salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of salt-water and in-river commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS, subsistence, recreational and commercial fishers, as well as Sitka's aquaculture industry and Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, would be directly adversely impacted by the F.I.S.H. Initiative; and

WHEREAS, jobs in the seafood industry and support industries, such as transportation, marine fuel, and retail businesses, could ultimately be at risk if this initiative passes; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable subsistence, recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

NOT, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the social and economic importance of the salmon fisheries industry to our community and to the State of Alaska and opposes the passage of the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce in Sitka, Alaska on this 1st day of March, 1996.


Dan Keck
President

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 96-633

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH
OF SITKA, ALASKA RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
IMPORTANCE OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING
INDUSTRY AND OPPOSING THE F.I.S.H. INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, Alaska's fishing industry is comprised of thousands of small, family-run businesses; and

WHEREAS, the fishing industry is the largest private sector employer and the second largest revenue producing industry in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the commercial seafood industry contributes millions of dollars annually in raw fish tax (of which Sitka received \$733,800 in 1995) and the seafood processing industry pays millions of dollars annually in taxes and cash benefits to the State of Alaska and its communities; and

WHEREAS, the F.I.S.H. Initiative threatens established and successful management practices which have resulted in record returns of salmon and jeopardizes the continued existence of salt-water and in-river commercial fisheries; and

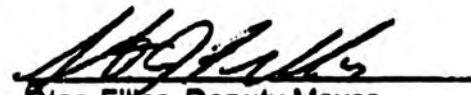
WHEREAS, subsistence, recreational and commercial fishers, as well as Sitka's aquaculture industry and Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, would be directly adversely impacted by the F.I.S.H. Initiative; and

WHEREAS, jobs in the seafood industry and support industries, such as transportation, marine fuel, and retail businesses, could ultimately be at risk if this initiative passes; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to maintain viable subsistence, recreational and commercial fishing opportunities regulated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska acknowledges the social and economic importance of the salmon fisheries industry to our community and to the State of Alaska and opposes the passage of the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 20th day of February, 1996.


Stan Flier, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Pallett
Municipal Clerk



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Fisheries
(committee name)

committee on HB 149, dated 4/30/97
(bill/subject)

I want to go on record in opposition to HB 149. As currently drafted, HB 149 would allocate 5% of the state-wide salmon catch to the sport fisher. Under the current language, all 5% could be taken in Prince William Sound and the Copper River. This would completely destroy Cordova's economy, an economy that has supported this community for nearly 100 years. Direct impacts include the potential loss of \$500,000 in shared fish tax for the City of Cordova (a value equivalent to 5 mils of property tax). It has been estimated that the commercial fishing industry makes up a minimum of 50% of Cordova's economy, and is actually higher. As drafted, HB 149 could bankrupt the community of Cordova. The potential problems

Signed: Scott Janke - City Manager
Testifier Name

City of Cordova
Representing (Optional)

Box 1210 Cordova, AK 99574
Address

907-424-6200
Phone Number

that HB 149 could cause to coastal communities, could cause a major liability for the state, as economies crash, people become unemployed, and an important industry dies.

7901 E. 130th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
March 3, 1997

Rep. Alan Austerman
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Rep. Austerman:

Please share this letter with your committee members and the Resource and Finance Committee as appropriate.

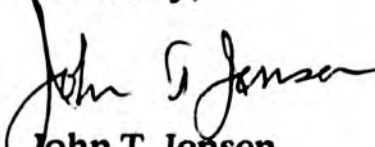
At the Auke Bay weigh-in station for the (Juneau) Golden North Salmon Derby, there is a sign that says: "PINK HUMPBACK SALMON WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!" That is what most sport fishermen (I started in Alaska in 1949) think of humpies and chums so HB 149 really is deceiving when it asks for an allocation of five percent of the projected *total statewide* harvest when that number is inflated so badly because of the humpie count. We sport fishermen much prefer to catch and eat kings or reds or silvers; that has to be the reason this bill says that personal use and sport fisheries can take *more than five percent* of the total harvest of salmon in the area.

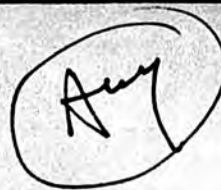
I was not aware that the legislature could allocate natural resources by legislation as this bill proposes.

I also commercial fish; last year my red season was shut down early to protect silvers for the sport fishery in Bristol Bay and I am aware that the Cook Inlet commercial season has been cut back on both ends over the years to allocate more salmon for sport fishing to include the increasingly commercialized (guided) sport fisheries.

Oppose HB 149. Thank you.

Sincerely,


John T. Jensen



*file
HB 149*


RECEIVED
MAR 07 1997
Ans'd.....

House Bill 149

11/15/97

Testimony of Deborah Lyons

Good Afternoon members of the House Legislature. Thank you for the effort involved in coming to our region to hear testimony on Fisheries' Bills before the 1998 Legislature.

My name is Deborah Lyons. I hold the Crew member seat on the NSRAA Board of Directors. I serve the State of Alaska as a member of the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission and I am currently involved in the US / Canada Stake holder negotiations as a representative of power and hand troll fishermen. I am submitting written testimony on HB 149.

HB 149 is an allocation issue which would be more properly handled in the Board of Fisheries process. If you are to pass this bill it will reallocate chinook stocks produced by NSRAA if the definition of salmon (salmon that originate in or return to spawn in the waters of the state) is applied to salmon produced by this Aquaculture Association. Salmon currently harvested in the commercial fisheries would be reallocated to the group of common consumptive users named in the bill.

Before beginning the comments on HB 149 I'd like to make an observation.

You may have read remarks in the press made recently by Prime Minister Glen Clark of British Columbia and Yves Fortier the Canadian Federal Negotiator in the Salmon Commission. They have been saying that "There is no point in conserving or producing the salmon if they are going to be caught by foreigners". We should acknowledge and be proud of the fact that that type of Thinking is foreign to Alaskans. No allocation squabble is ever treated as having a preference over the conservation of our precious fisheries resources. Could you imagine the boys in the Mat-Su saying, "Why bother conserving and producing salmon if those bums in Kodiak are able to catch some of them." Although we're having allocation squabbles between gear types we should compliment our fishermen for always putting conservation first. It is so wonderful that our fishermen don't think like Canadians.

In SE Alaska we have learned that by cooperating with one another and supporting projects which enhance all fishing opportunities in the region we strengthen the total fishing economy we all depend on. On the NSRAA Board, through the projects of the association, we produce Chinook, Coho, Sockeye and Chum salmon that are shared by all common property fishermen. Two years ago more than 40% of all the king salmon taken in the Sitka sound sport fishery were NSRAA produced fish. We are embarking on a project to return an additional 50,000 king salmon to this area in the next five years.

Our organization is also involved in a pilot project with the Sitka Tribe to utilize salmon carcasses and wood chips to produce high quality compost. Southeast fish and chips, if you will. We've begun work with Northwest food banks and we make surplus fish available to the Sitka residents. We provide the fish to feed the birds at the raptor center. We make our large meeting room available as a resource to the community free of charge. It is a popular place for quilters, potluck dinners and informational forums. We have been very responsible in the way we conduct our activities in order to preserve the health of wild stocks in the region as our #1 priority.

We are also a board of tight-fisted, penny-pinching fishermen. Our projects are designed to ensure that 70% of what is produced is taken in the common property fisheries and that there will be stocks available to take for cost recovery. These cost recovery monies in addition to the 3% Aquaculture Tax on the CFEC permit holders not only cover the costs of the projects but generate enough money to pay back our debt to the State. We are very proud of the fact that that debt is virtually eliminated.

We are not here to whine or to ask for special treatment. We are not asking for handouts. We are not here to engage in mortal combat with you, but HB 149 is very threatening to the economic stability of our region and ignores the historical context of the fisheries.

HB 149 would establish a preference for the limitless thousands of cruise ship passengers visiting SEAK who would like to take a few sport fish home. If the harvest needs of these people are to be met, the troll King salmon fishery could be eliminated.

Before you embark on this sweeping reallocation please consider the history of this fishery and be aware of where we are today.

The following excerpt is from a paper by Senator Ted Stevens titled: United States - Canada Salmon Treaty Negotiations: The Alaska Perspective, published in Environmental Law Vol. 16:423. It helps you understand the objectives of the 1985 Treaty and the rebuilding program the State engaged in. It should help explain why there is an expectation that hatchery produced chinook salmon would be made available to harvest by commercial fishermen.

"During the many long years of negotiations with Canada. Alaskan fishermen made many unilateral sacrifices in conjunction with the State of Alaska's effort to reverse the decline of the chinook salmon."

This was exemplified by the Alaska Dep't of Fish and Game's actions in 1980-1984 to reduce catch ceilings for Southeast Alaska trollers and the incidental catch rates for other fisheries. During that period, however, Canadian fishermen actually increased their harvest of southbound chinooks, thereby negating Alaska's attempts to enhance escapement for the benefit of all Pacific coast salmon fishermen.

The 1982 agreement did not reflect the conservation efforts already being carried out by Alaska. A two cycle rebuilding period of ten years for chinooks to enhance the Columbia River stocks was contemplated by the 1982 agreement, but there was no reasonable transition for southeast Alaska fishermen. Reductions in catch levels for the southeast troll fishery necessary to sustain such a short rebuilding period, in addition to the limits already imposed by the ADF&G, would have forced almost all southeast Alaska fishermen out of the fishery, resulting in severe economic dislocations for Alaska coastal

¹ For example, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game implemented many conservation measures to protect chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska. These measures included: closure of waters west of Cape Suckling to trolling (1974); limited entry for power trollers (1975); restriction on sport fishing bag and possession limits (1975); elimination of directed net fisheries for chinook (1975-1977); closure of terminal areas to trolling (1975-1977); closure of inside areas to protect immature chinook (1975-1977); a 28-inch minimum size limit for chinooks (1977); closure of outside waters to hand trolling (1978-1980); establishment of eight day opening/six-day closure fishing periods (1979); prohibition of sport fishing from commercial vessels (1979); reduced line limits for power and hand troll fisheries (1980); moratorium on entry into the hand troll fishery (1980); and limited entry for hand trollers (1981); establishment of a guideline harvest level of 320,000 chinook (1980) and then a reduction of the guideline harvest level to 285,000 chinook (1981); prohibited use of any other hooks than single hooks (1981); reduced chinook fishing seasons in coastal and offshore waters from April 15-October 30 to May 15-September 20 (1981); closed entire troll fishery from April 15 to May 15 (1981); closed the troll fishery in-season to protect chinook and coho twice during 1980 and three times in 1981; and required fishermen to report catches before transporting out of state (1981). Alaska Dep't of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Div., Conservation Measures Taken by Alaska to Protect Chinook Salmon in Southeast Alaska (unpublished data) (Mar. 12, 1982).

communities.²

The 1985 Treaty, in contrast, takes into account the deep Alaskan commitment to conservation. It allows for an extended rebuilding period with protection against a sudden reduction of Alaskan harvests in order to achieve a gradual recovery of the Columbia River Chinook stocks without destroying the troll fishery.

Although the 1982 agreement would have imposed restrictive quotas on all facets of the United States intercepting chinook fisheries, it did not include comprehensive restrictions on the Canadian fishery off the west coast of Vancouver Island. As a practical matter, this loophole from restricted fisheries would have allowed Canadian fishermen to shift their efforts from restricted fisheries to the Vancouver Island fishery. The 1985 Treaty closed this loophole by imposing specific quotas on all significant Canadian intercepting chinook fisheries.

Alaska's continuing effort to bolster the declining chinook stocks was incorporated into the 1985 Treaty. While the 1982 agreement would not have credited Alaskan fishermen for any future gains derived from Alaska's restoration programs, the Treaty as adopted takes into account any demonstrated contributions of enhancement activities. This is particularly relevant to Alaska, because the State has embarked on a comprehensive enhancement program which will provide over 200,000 additional chinooks by 1990.³ "

The following information is to bring you up to date on where we are today in the rebuilding program. This is information I provided to the Board of Fisheries at the 1997 meeting in Ketchikan. It explains the Letter of Agreement Management in place today and how the Alaska hatchery stocks and Treaty stocks harvests interrelate.

² Almost all communities in southeast Alaska rely on salmon for economic sustenance. See, e.g., G Rogers & R. Cooley, *Alaska's Population and Economy: Regional Growth, Development and Future Outlook* 168-72 (Mar. 1982) (salmon account for 80% of total value of commercial fisheries; "southeast Alaska generally produced the largest portion of the total commercial fishery values during the decade...").

³ See ADF&G, *Pre-Season Management Plan for 1985 Southeast Alaska Chinook Fisheries* 7 (April 1985). See also *Alaska Salmon Catch Report*, *supra* note 12, at 10-14.

The 1985 Pacific Salmon Commission Chinook Rebuilding Program and the Chinook Management Plan

**Presentation to the Board of
Fisheries 1997 Southeast Alaska
Finfish Meeting**

**Deborah A. Lyons
Northern Panel, Pacific Salmon Commission**

Objectives of the Chinook Rebuilding Program

The 1985 US/Canada Treaty established ceilings which would reduce harvests from historic levels

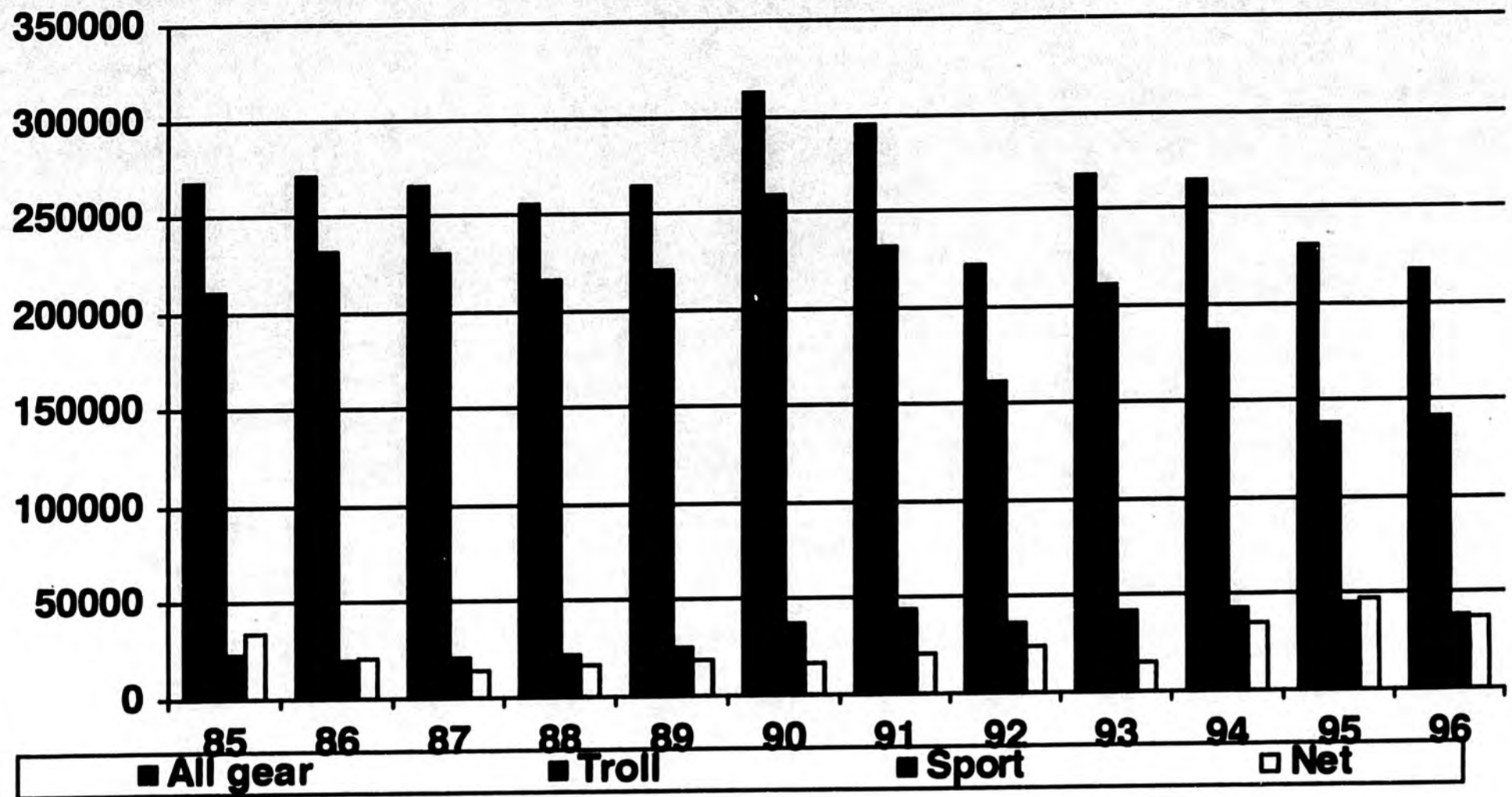
Chinook salmon escapements would increase

Abundance of Chinook salmon would increase

Harvest could then increase

1985-1996 Treaty Catches

Since the signing of the Treaty in 1985, Alaska Chinook catches have stayed well below the pre-Treaty average of 333,665



As the State and Federal Governments contemplated signing the 1985 Treaty Trollers were worried

- Are we doing the right thing by agreeing to these Treaty reductions?
- Reducing our catch could rebuild stocks. When stocks rebuild, will we be able to fish again?
- The Treaty also imposed restrictions on the seine and gillnet fisheries
- Would the fishermen be supported by the State of Alaska and the Dept of Fish and Game in future years?

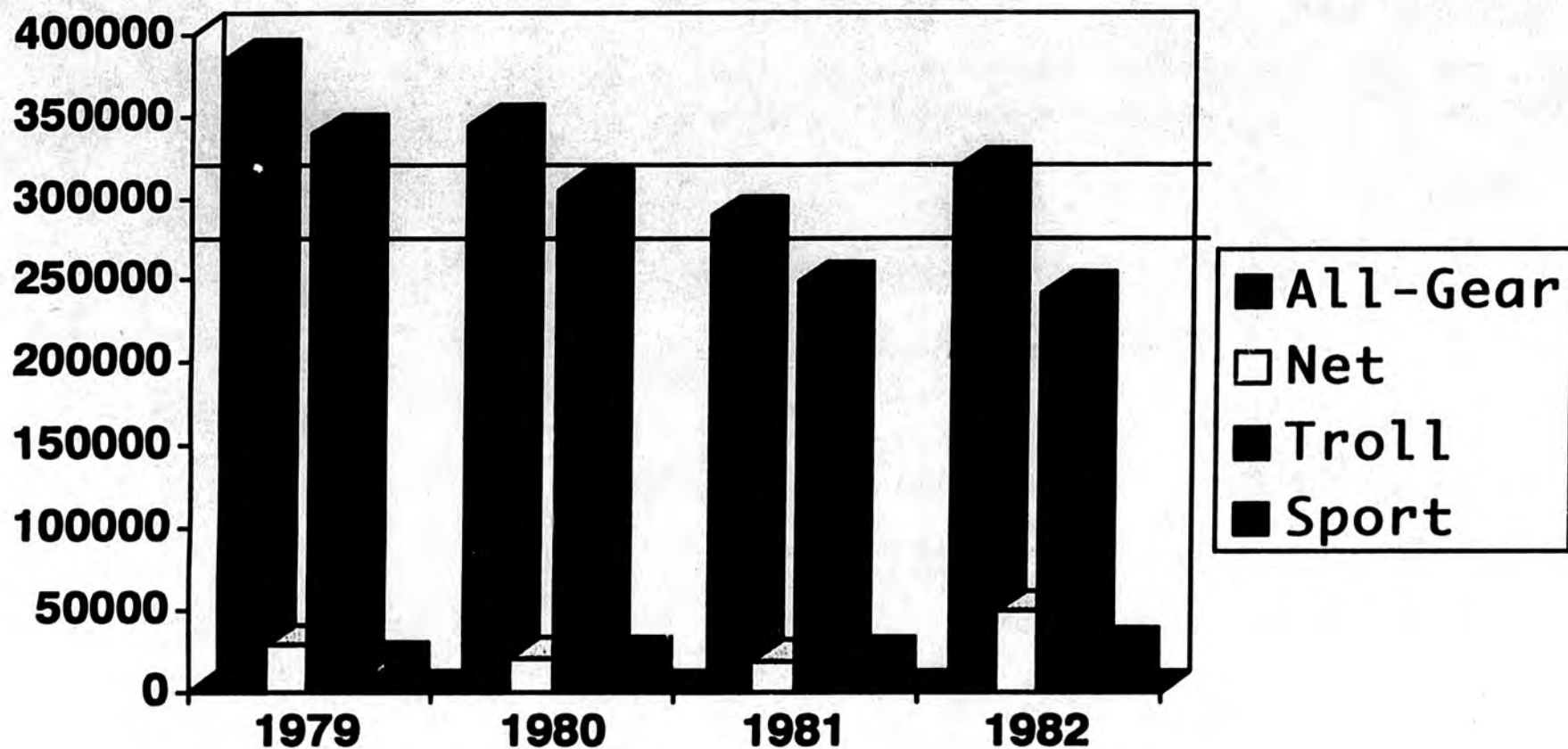


Trollers trusted the Department of Fish and Game and the State of Alaska

- The Department of Fish and Game was very persuasive.
- "Come on Boys, Tighten your belts and by 1994 you will be catching 400,000..."
- The Board of Fisheries also reassured the Trollers that the purpose of the rebuilding program was to restore the troll fishery, as well as to rebuild the stocks.
- 5AAC 33.365. (c) "It is the goal of the Board to restore Chinook salmon stock abundance to a level that will allow a return to the pre-1981 season dates".



The 1985 Treaty recognized the Alaskan average harvest of 333,665 during the 79-82 base period. The negotiated ceiling of 263,000 would hold harvest below this level to help rebuild stocks. The base period abundance equaled 1.



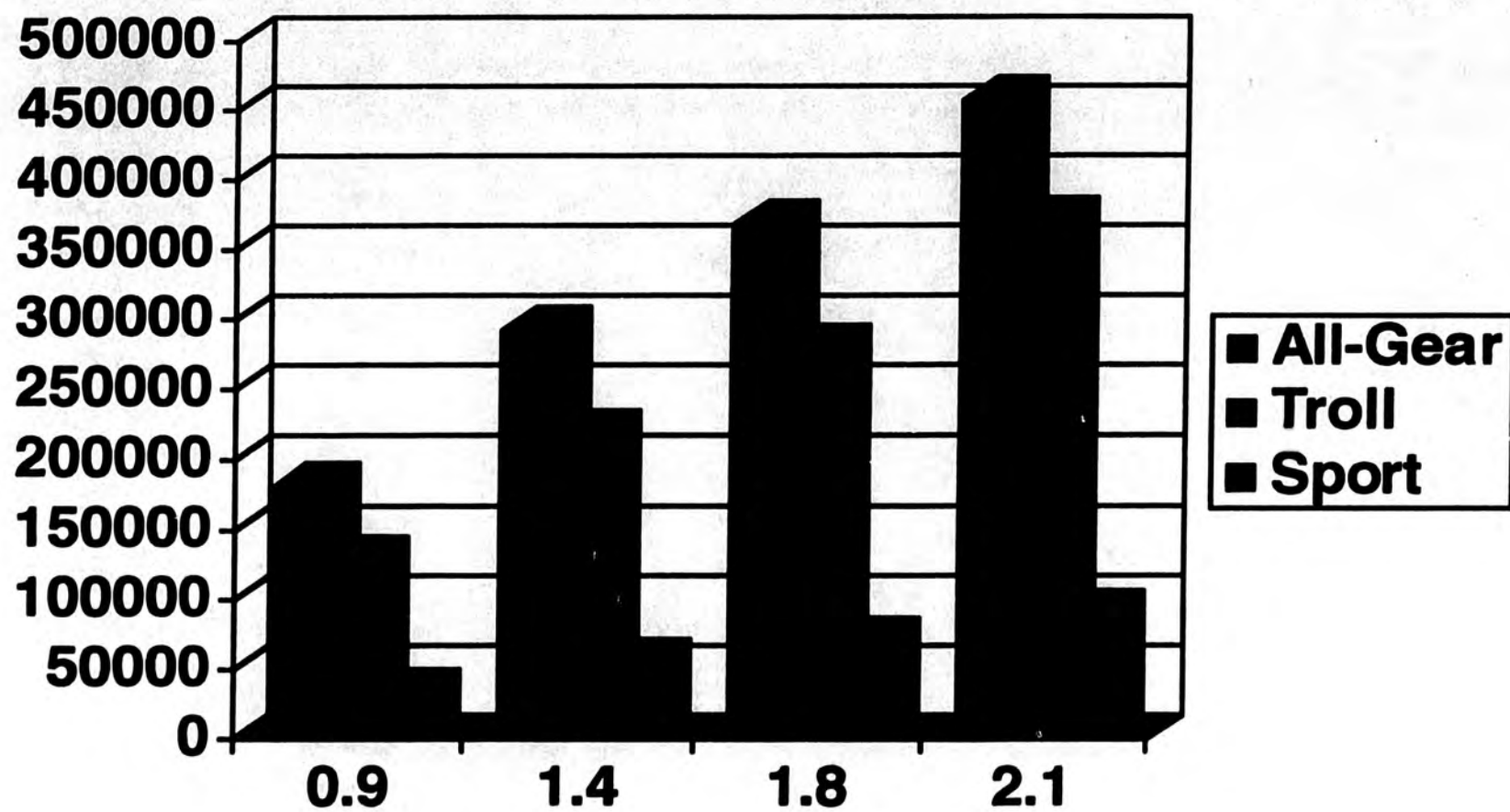
Average catches by gear type during the 1985-1996 rebuilding program

	1979-1982 <u>Pre-Treaty</u> Average	1985-1996 <u>Treaty</u> Average	% Change
All-Gear	333665	284997	-15%
Troll	283535	221646	-22%
Sport	21000	35906	+70%
Net	29129	27381	-6%

1996 change from ceiling management to Abundance based approach

- The US Treaty commissioners signed a Letter of Agreement which changed the manner in which the level of Alaska harvest is determined.
- The LOA defines a formula that combines a pre-season prediction of chinook abundance with a stepped harvest rate
- In years of lowest abundance, the AK all-gear catch will be 45% lower than in the base period years
- As abundance increases the formula allows the harvest rate to increase gradually.
- In years of strong abundance the AK harvest rate still remains at 30% below the base period levels
- The formula combines response to conservation concerns, historically proportional sharing of stocks in the mid-range and the opportunity to increase harvests as stocks rebuild.
- Canada has not yet reviewed or agreed to this management.

Abundance based determination of catches allow for increased harvest when stocks are plentiful



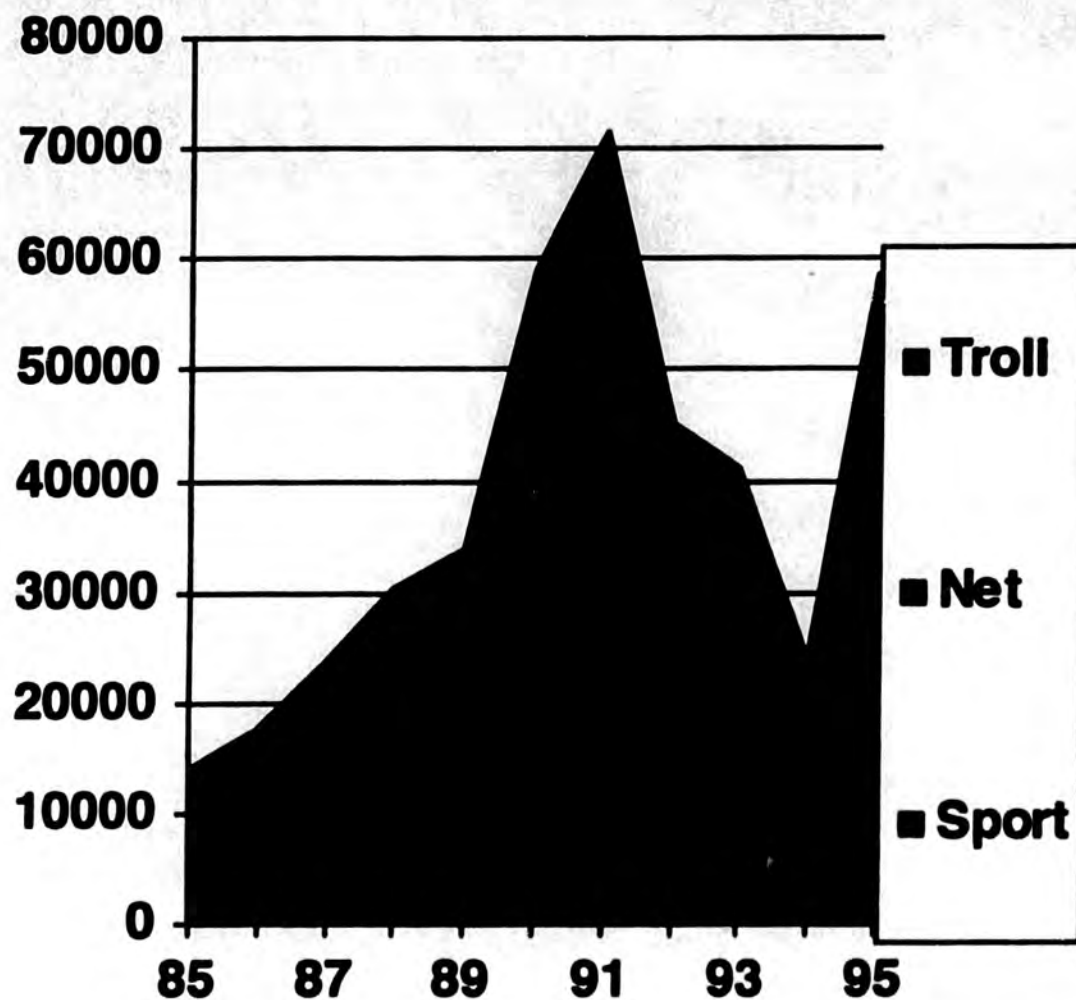
Comparison of Treaty Ceiling Harvests and Abundance Based Harvests to Pre-Treaty levels.

	Pre-Treaty Average	Treaty Average	Abundance Estimate			
			.9	1.4	1.8	2.1
Sport Harvest	21000	35906	32113	54117	69579	87419
% Change		+71%	+53%	+158%	+231%	+316%
Troll Harvest	283535	221646	128566	216467	278315	369678
% Change		-22%	-55%	-24%	-2%	+30%

The number of Treaty fish available to the Trollers directly affects their ability to access hatchery Chinook

- The Alaska Chinook salmon have an early run timing and are caught primarily before July 1. Alaska hatchery Chinook are produced from broodstock developed from the wild stocks and also follow this pattern
- The spring Troll openings were necessary for this reason: To allow fishermen an opportunity to harvest the hatchery Chinook
- Whenever these Spring hatchery openings occur, some Non-Alaska hatchery Treaty Chinook are inevitably caught.
- Another purpose of the Troll Sport allocation is to allow enough Treaty fish to the Trollers so that the Spring Hatchery openings can occur and that there are enough Treaty fish in the quota to "spend" as the hatchery openings occur.
- Many Chinook hatchery facilities and programs were established with US Canada Treaty funds as part of the rebuilding program

The 80-20 Split allows access to Alaska Hatchery produced Chinook



- Alaska hatchery produced chinook are available to all gear types
- As production has increased, catches have also increased
- Major hatchery chinook returns to Sitka, Ketchikan, and Juneau have contributed greatly to the success of anglers from the cruise ships who are charter boat clients in those areas
- If access to Chinook produced by the rebuilding program is assured, commercial fishermen will continue to fund these programs through the Aquaculture Associations

For your information I am also providing some recent data which demonstrates that the rebuilding program has worked in Southeast Alaska. The chinook stocks we fish on are largely healthy and rebuilt. That means they are achieving their escapement goals on a regular basis. For your general information as legislators I've included the status of the major intercepting Canadian fisheries. I apologize if I have passed the point where you are hearing more than you want to know on this subject. I am deeply concerned that you may be considering this action in the absence of this information. The Legislature was wise to create the Board of Fisheries as a forum in which these matters could be considered.

This last page of data summarizes how the 1997 SEAK Chinook fishery was distributed under the existing allocation plan.

Please note the 1997 Alaskan hatchery contribution of 54,756 chinook to the SEAK fisheries. We are significantly behind schedule on our goal to produce 200,000 chinooks by 1990 as described in Senator Steven's article.

Please also realize that last year SEAK chinook abundance was at 1.46. That means the rebuilding program is working in that abundance was 50% higher than at the time we signed the Treaty.

If the 1997 SEAK fishery harvest rate had been the same as it was in the years just before we signed the 1985 Treaty our catch of Treaty chinook in Southeast Alaska this year would have exceeded 500,000 chinook. The current Letter of Agreement signed by Washington, Oregon and Southern US Treaty Tribes allowed us to fish at 302,000 chinook.

Simply put, chinook salmon abundance was up 50% from the Pre-Treaty years. Our negotiated catch was still 13% below the 1979-1982 All gear average catch of 333,655 chinook salmon. This is hardly a great deal for all the Alaskan fishermen who harvest these stocks but it is better than the one we had with the old 263,000 ceiling type management.

The most necessary thing for you to appreciate is the conservative nature of the current chinook management, the extremely high political cost of hanging on to our access to these stocks and the expectation that hatchery produced chinook would benefit the commercial fishery.

CORRECTION

**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION**



Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education
State of Alaska

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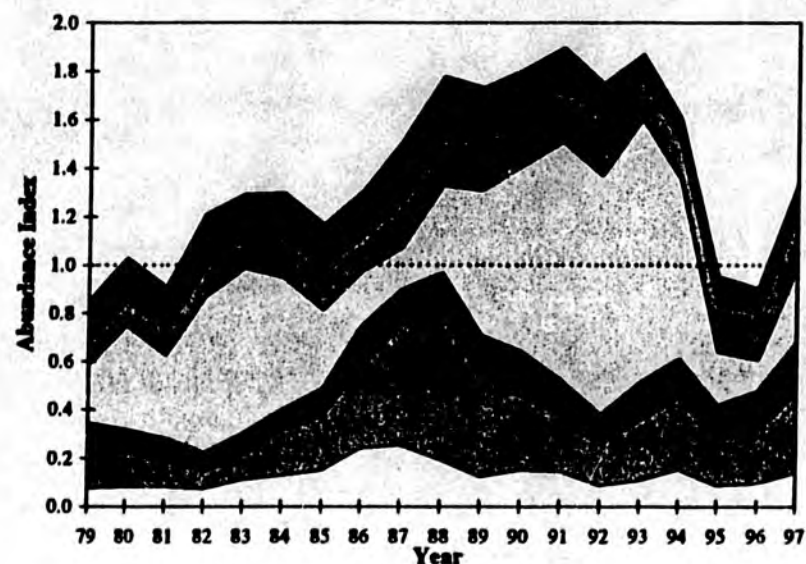
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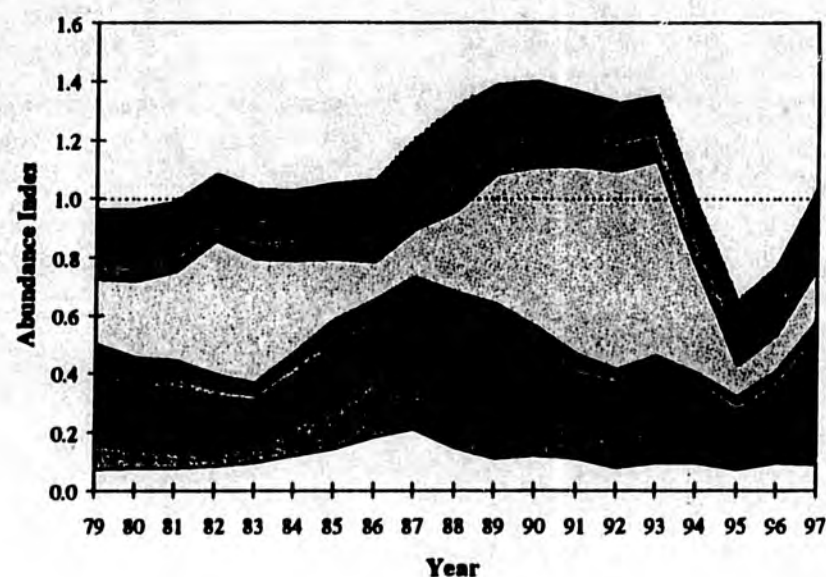
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Chinook Stock Abundance in Major PST Fisheries

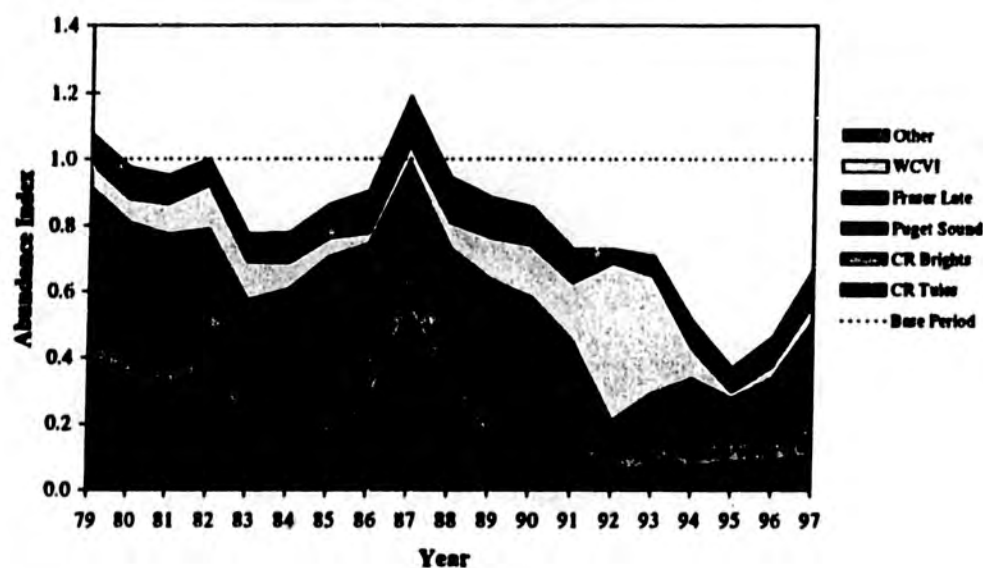
SEAK Troll Fishery



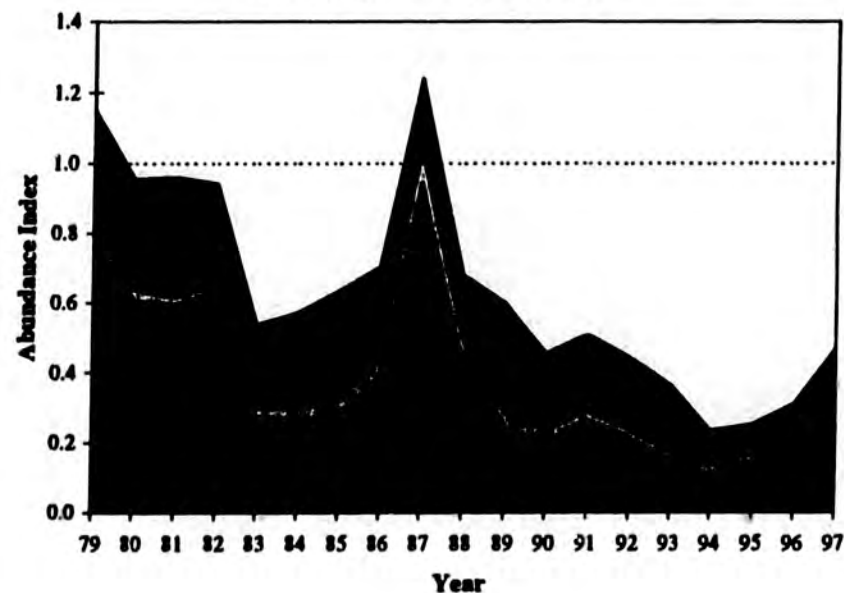
NCBC Troll Fishery



WCVI Troll Fishery

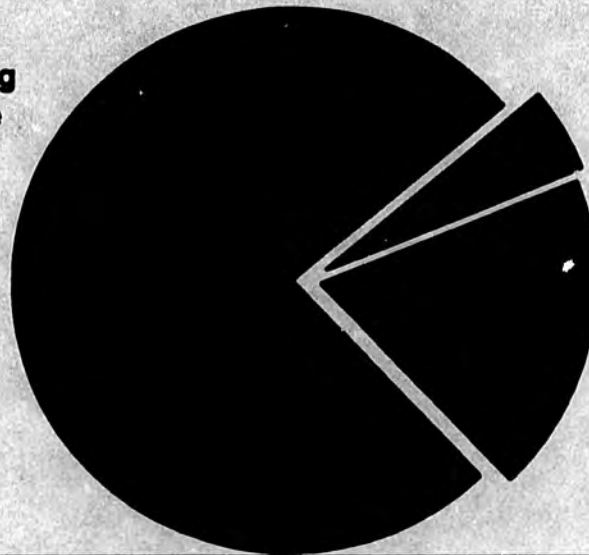


WA/OR Sport & Troll Fishery



Percent Origin of the Canadian Georgia Strait Treaty Chinook Fishery

Naturally Spawning
Stocks in Trouble
(Not Rebuilding)
76%

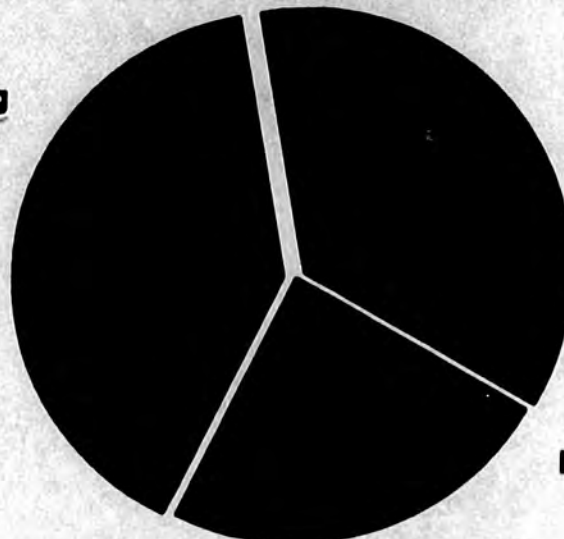


Healthy Naturally
Spawning Stocks
(Rebuilt)
5%

Hatchery
19%

Percent Origin of the Canadian West Coast of Vancouver Island Treaty Chinook Fishery *

Naturally Spawning
Stocks in Trouble
(Not Rebuilding)
40%



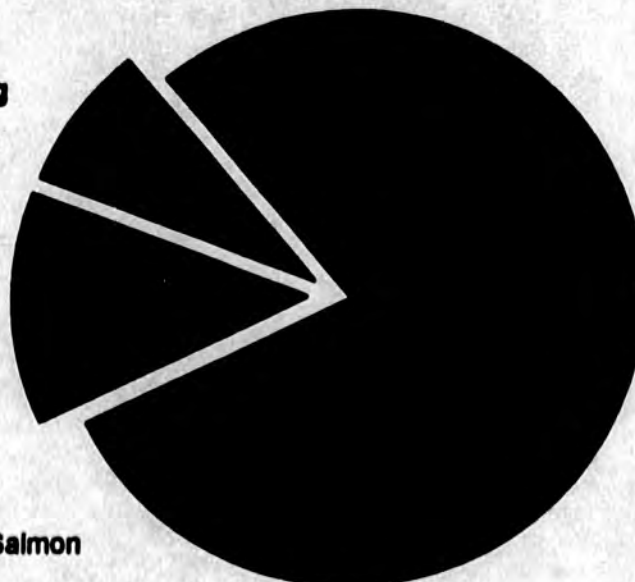
Healthy Naturally
Spawning Stocks
(Rebuilt)
36%

Hatchery
24%

** This fishery
harvests 1 out of
every 3 endangered
Snake River Fall
chinook caught*

Percent Origin of the Southeast Alaskan Treaty Chinook Fishery

Naturally Spawning
Stocks in Trouble
(Not Rebuilding)
8%



Healthy Naturally
Spawning Stocks
(Rebuilt)
79%

Hatchery
13%

Data Source: Pacific Salmon
Commission

1997 SEAK Chinook Catch Summary
(Preliminary)

A. Catches by gear type.

Gear	Treaty	Alaska Hatchery Add-On	Total	Allocation at 1997 Quota
Seine	4,504*	5,843	10,347	13,000
Gillnet	9,417*	5,308*	14,725	7,000
Subtotal	13,921	11,151	25,072	20,000
Troll				
Winter	19,597	1,317	20,914	
Spring	22,798	19,928	42,726	
Summer				
July 1-7	119,780	2,705	122,485	
Aug. 18-24	42,547	454	43,001	
Aug. 30-Sept. 5	17,139	139	17,278	
Subtotal	221,876*	24,543	246,419	225,856
Sport	55,788	11,939	67,727	56,464
Harvest Totals	291,585	47,633	339,218	302,320

*Includes Annette Island and catches (504 chinook).

B. Alaska hatchery contribution = 54,756 chinook.

BUSINESS

997

SEP 30, 1997 ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

SECTION F

Theory runs hot and cold

Water temperature cycles linked to salmon numbers

By JIM CLARKE
The Associated Press

If a new meteorological theory about decade-to-decade temperature swings in the Pacific Ocean is right, salmon fishery managers in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest might face identity crises en masse.

The theory, in short, goes like this: It's the temperature of seawater at various depths, more

than local management, that has been the deciding factor in salmon abundance and shortage across the Pacific.

"Fisheries management actions and harvest practices are not the only drivers of salmon production," University of Washington researcher Nathan Mantua said last week. Mantua and his colleagues have been working on the theory for several years.

"It may be that it's easy to manage fisheries when the ocean factors are going your way and it's hard when the ocean's against you," Mantua said. "Maybe you don't want to pat yourself on the back too hard when things are good and you don't want to take all the blame when things are bad."

His paper, "A Pacific Inter-Decadal Climate Oscillation With

Impacts on Salmon Production," isn't going to reach any best-seller lists, but it has been the subject of some head scratching in salmon management circles.

It's particularly timely for two reasons: the mysteriously poor red run in Bristol Bay this summer, and the concern about how the El Nino weather phenomenon

Please see Page F-4, SALMON

SOLMON: Water temperature linked to fish numbers

Continued from Page F-1

might affect salmon.

Just 12 million of a forecast 25 million reds returned to the bay, and scientists still aren't sure what happened to them. Theories abound, everything from interception by foreign fleets to a die-off because of unusually warm Bristol Bay water, but there isn't enough evidence for experts to pick the most likely reason.

El Nino, the warming of mid-Pacific water off the coasts of Peru and Chile, usually occurs several times a decade and has been blamed for violent weather all across the world. This winter's El Nino is expected to produce a warmer, possibly wetter winter in Alaska.

Mantua's theory is more subtle than El Nino and unrelated. He and his colleagues think a warming and cooling of the Pacific at a depth of several dozen feet, which occurs every decade or two, can affect salmon production

dramatically in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

The effects are opposite for the two regions: When Alaska salmon booms, as it has been for much of the past two decades, the Pacific Northwest suffers. Then a "regime shift" occurs, and Alaska production drops while British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Northern California salmon become more abundant.

That's what was going on in the 1950s and '60s, he said, when Alaska suffered, but southern areas had record catches.

The reason for the swing has to do with the availability of the foods salmon eat while maturing in the ocean.

Here's how David Musgrave, a fisheries professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, explains it:

Phytoplankton and zooplankton are the bugs of the ocean, with the former living off nothing but sunlight and then getting eaten by the latter. Salmon, in turn, eat the

zooplankton.

In the North Pacific, where Alaska-bound salmon live, there always are enough nutrients around, but they tend to mix at colder, deeper depths. Warm the water and that "mixing layer" rises toward the surface, giving the salmon more food and as a result more salmon.

It's the opposite off the West Coast. There, warmer temperatures tend to inhibit the availability of food for the salmon at the proper depths, Musgrave said.

He's impressed with Mantua's research, especially the correlation between changes in water temperatures of just a few degrees and wide swings in salmon abundance.

"Things don't come out this nicely, usually. That's why I'm so impressed with it," Musgrave said.

Mantua's conclusions have Doug Eggers a little put out. As chief fisheries scientist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Eggers puts great stock in the ability of

fisheries managers to promote healthy returns and close off fishing when those returns appear threatened.

A combination of factors have affected salmon production over the last century, not just the weather, he said. Dams and other development in the Pacific Northwest have nearly destroyed runs. Alaska's salmon industry and stocks suffered from overfishing in the 1920s, for instance, but have rebounded recently because the state's oil wealth has helped pay for better data collection.

So is the weak Bristol Bay run and spotty returns elsewhere this summer a harbinger of a general downturn in Alaska's salmon industry?

One year of bad returns isn't enough for Mantua or anyone else to say for certain. But Eggers doesn't dismiss the possibility.

"We could be entering a new downturn in productivity, and we need to know that," he said Friday. "That's when you risk overfishing."

General Mills

SACRAMENTO, Ca. division of its Lodi employees as part of a officials announced 643 employees, minors. The division si of the company's fl popular recently, a specify which ones include both hourly fected employees v placement assistan cause they directly Sanger, chairman: "However, by addi mix, we should str growing ready-to-e in the midst of rest operations in part t that require high-l

Suiza Foods t

DALLAS — Suiza l buy Morningstar C stock to create the Morningstar make International Delic dairy products unc store brands. The sales of more than \$1.8 billion in annu Foods Co., said an wards & Sons in S at about \$43.77 1/2 f Suiza fell \$2.438 at change, while Mor per share on the N

YOUR MONEY: Small-company funds perform well

Continued from Page F-1

double-digit returns in back-to-back quarters, according to Lipper Analytical Services, another mutual-fund performance evaluator.

Mutual fund investors have started to notice. In a reversal of the dominant trend early this year, individuals have been pouring less new money into the giant index-tracking funds in recent weeks and accelerating their purchases of mutual funds that pick stocks of

panies, including Fidelity Investments and Franklin Templeton Group, reported on Monday that the amount of cash flowing into their small-stock funds was sharply higher in September than in recent months.

"Over the past six months, the leadership of the market has changed from the largest stocks to those of much smaller companies," said Amy Arnott, editor of Morningstar Mutual Funds, a Morningstar publication. "That has led to a resurgence

Second, Lipper said, the strengthening dollar has dampened Wall Street's expectations for profits at many of the large, multinational companies that dominate the S&P 500 index — such as Coca-Cola, Gillette and General Electric.

"I don't think all of a sudden that fund managers have taken smart pills," Lipper said. "But I think we have had a rotation into a period where active managers will do better because their merchandise is doing better in

Robert Pozen, president of Fidelity Management and Research, attributes the turnaround partly to the broadening appeal of smaller-company stocks.

"In this kind of market, we can really take advantage of our tremendous breadth of research," Pozen said. "When you have 10 to 20 stocks leading the market, it's hard for us to show our stuff."

The improved performance has also revived cash flows at Fidelity, a unit of FMR Corp. It already has

MEETIN hold line

Continued from Page

than another six mo be doubly shocked. think by next spring will be back to raisin Jones said the mu

er extension week away

Subsistence Task Force. The force recommendation is a three-part solution, calling for three things simultaneously, in a linked fashion: amending Title VIII of CA;

amending the Alaska Constitution so as to allow the Legislature to provide for rural subsistence; and amending state statutes to facilitate the other changes.

One part of the three-part plan could go into effect unless the others did.

The task force solution, however, has met strong opposition from sport hunting and other interests. Some opponents, notably the Alaska Outdoor Council and Rod Arno, claim the plan would delete equal rights in the state constitution. Arno said, "This isn't a hunting issue, it's all about

civil rights now."

Other stumbling blocks have come from some Native groups who say they would fare better under federal management anyhow.

And Senate President Mike Miller, R-North Pole, a member of the so-called "Subsistence Seven," has stated publicly there does not appear to be nearly enough support in the Legislature to get the plan on to a statewide ballot for voter consideration.

These factors have, so far, apparently stopped the governor from calling a special session of the Legislature to consider the plan — or any alternative plans.

Now, with the federal takeover deadline only a week away, the idea of calling a special session might be moot — unless it were done to give Babbitt the message he indicated he is seeking, that "real progress" is being made.

Concerned parents to meet Monday

WASILLA — The first meeting of a new task force, "Parents & Youth Against Violence," will meet 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 29, at Wasilla City Hall. Teen-agers and parents are invited to discuss concerns and fears, and to seek solutions.

The task force was created to "stop teen gangs, violence and victimization," organizer Geri McCann said. Local mayors, legislators, law enforcement officers and school representatives are expected to attend, McCann added.

Among items set for discussion are creation of a teen hotline, changing school policies and changing laws to create stiffer penalties for youthful offenders.

Palmer hearing slated for salmon priority law

By PAUL STUART

Frontierman reporter

PALMER — The House Special Committee on Fisheries will hold a public hearing in Palmer next week on a bill that would give first priority in salmon allocation to personal consumptive users. The hearing will be 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the Mat-Su Borough assembly chamber.

House Bill 149, sponsored by Rep. Vic Kohring, R-Wasilla, is intended, Kohring said, "to direct the Board of Fisheries to provide first priority of the salmon resource to the personal consumptive user, that is sports fishermen, personal and subsistence users, following minimum escapement goals ... for sustained yield purposes."

Kohring said last week the issue came sharply to his attention, when a strike by the Kodiak commercial fishing fleet earlier this year was followed by an abundance of salmon in rivers and stream of



Vic Kohring

Kohring said, "despite claims to the contrary." Commercial fishermen denied any correlation, and many biologists said they weren't sure.

At the time Kohring stated his theory that the halt to fishing during the Kodiak strike was a key factor in increasing salmon runs in Mat-Su streams, he was supported by most sportfishers in the Valley.

In addition to next week's hearing in Palmer, Rep. Alan Austerman, R-Kodiak, who chairs the House Special Committee on Fisheries, said other hearings on HB 149 will be held in Kodiak on Oct. 24, Kenai on Nov. 6 and Sitka on Nov. 18.

the Mat-Su Valley.

"There appeared to be a direct correlation between the nets being pulled and the increased salmon runs in the Valley."



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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FACSIMILE: (907) 465-2332

August 4, 1997

The Honorable Vic Kohring
Alaska State Legislature
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Representative Kohring:

This letter addresses your comments published in the *Anchorage Daily News* regarding the Kodiak commercial salmon fishery being responsible for affecting realized run strength for several Cook Inlet chinook salmon stocks. I reviewed the issues raised in the article with my staff. I hope the information contained in this letter will assist you in better understanding the issue.

The Department of Fish and Game (department) does not believe that the June Kodiak commercial salmon fishery has a significant impact on adult chinook salmon returning to the streams of the Big Susitna drainage. This conclusion is based on consideration of the run timing of Big Susitna mature chinook salmon stocks, the potential impacts of Kodiak commercial fisheries on immature "feeder" Big Susitna chinook salmon stocks, and historical fishery information.

Run Timing Considerations: Deshka River weir count data for the past three years (back-calculated to River Mile 7) indicate that 25 percent of the escapement is enumerated by June 9, 50 percent by June 15, and 75 percent by June 20. Run timing for Alexander Creek is earlier. Creel data suggest the peak of the run is in Alexander Creek during June 1-5, with about 75 percent of the run entering the river between May 24-June 15. Commercial fishing does not begin in Kodiak until approximately June 9. Travel rate for mature chinook salmon varies from 20 to 30km (13 to 19 miles) per day with an optimum travel speed of 45km (28 miles) per day (based upon published literature). A straight-line measure from the mouth of the Susitna River to the south end of Kodiak Island is about 275 miles or 440km.

Chinook Salmon Stock	General Run Timing	Dates of Hypothetical Presence In Kodiak	
		Using 25km/d	Using 45km/d
Deshka R.	Peak June 15 (June 9-20)	May 27 (May 22-June 2)	June 5 (May 30-June 10)
Alexander Creek	Peak June 5 (May 24-June 15)	May 18 (May 6-28)	May 26 (May 14-June 5)

From the above information neither the Deshka River nor Alexander Creek adult chinook salmon would be vulnerable to commercial salmon fishing within the Kodiak Management Area. There is a slight probability that the tail end of the Deshka run might be present, assuming this stock travels at 45km per day and the entire run passes by the Kodiak archipelago, both of which are highly improbable. If the Kodiak commercial salmon fishery is harvesting any adult chinook salmon from these stocks, the numbers are low. The department bases this conclusion on the timing of the Kodiak commercial salmon fishery relative to the upstream migration of the Big Susitna stocks. In practice, the potential interception of adult fish may be so low as to be numerically undetectable with existing data.

Immature Rearing Chinook Considerations: There is potential for ocean rearing "feeder" immature Big Susitna River chinook salmon stocks to be taken in Kodiak salmon fisheries. However, we do not believe the catch is large.

The past record of coded wire tagged chinook salmon taken in Kodiak commercial salmon demonstrates that the stock composition of the catch is from a very diverse population of fish from Alaska, British Columbia, and the Pacific Northwest states of Washington and Oregon. We believe the diverse nature of the catch may buffer significant impact of the catch on any single stock, including Big Susitna chinook salmon stocks.

After rigorous technical peer review, a coded-wire-tag-recovery project for the Kodiak commercial salmon fishery was instituted in 1997. This project was designed to detect and estimate the harvest of certain chinook salmon stocks of Cook Inlet origin annually within the Kodiak area from June 9 through August 6, 1997-1999. Once this scientific information is available the department may be better able to evaluate the impact commercial salmon fishing in the waters of the Kodiak archipelago have on Cook Inlet chinook salmon stocks.

August 4, 1997

Historic Fishery Information: During the 1989 oil spill, no commercial fishing took place in Kodiak waters and no measurable increases in Cook Inlet chinook salmon runs were experienced. This is another indication that if there are any adult Cook Inlet bound chinook salmon harvested in the Kodiak commercial fishery, the numbers are small.

Additionally, during 1995-96, an average of 24,000 king salmon entered Kodiak streams while the commercial catches in Kodiak were 18,000 and 13,000, respectively. This would be a relatively low harvest rate even if the Kodiak fishery were catching only local stocks. It is unlikely that this fishery could exact such minimal pressure on local stocks and have a larger impact on chinook salmon stocks originating 275 miles away.

I hope you find the information in this letter helpful. If you have any questions or additional comments please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Rue", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Frank Rue
Commissioner

cc: Senator Rick Halford
Senator Lyda Green

Year	Total Kodiak Commercial Chinook Catch	Commercial Chinook Salmon Harvest from the Ayakulik and Karluk Terminal Harvest Areas	Kodiak Island escapement
------	--	---	--------------------------

1985	1942	1684	
1986	1604	1488	
1987	1295	798	
1988	4017	2550	22511
1989	10	0	17288
1990	3757	3138	20083
1991	5404	3844	19301
1992	6544	4246	13291
1993	10225	3952	16158
1994	10574	2966	14184
1995	8225	2602	19784
1996	6731	4295	14643
1997	728		19076

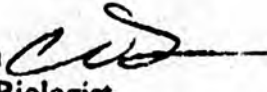
Notes:

- a) The above figures are annual catches and escapements through June 22 only.
- b) During June 5-June 22 management of the Kodiak area commercial salmon fisheries are directed for sockeye salmon destined to Karluk, Ayakulik, Alitak and Chignik;
- c) The majority of the commercial chinook catch occurs along the west-side of Kodiak Island during directed fisheries harvesting sockeye salmon returning to Ayakulik and Karluk;
- d) During the 1997 commercial salmon season the majority of Kodiak's commercial salmon fleet was on strike until June 22.

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME****COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION****MEMORANDUM**

TO: Peter J. Probasco
Regional Supervisor
Commercial Fisheries Management
and Development Division
Kodiak

Date: 25 September, 1997

FROM: Charles O. Swanton 
Regional Research Biologist
Commercial Fisheries Management
and Development Division
Kodiak

SUBJECT: Preliminary Summary of the 1997 Chinook Salmon Harvest, Escapement, and CWT Recoveries within the Kodiak Management Area.

1997 Catch and Escapement Summary

The preliminary Kodiak Management Area (KMA) commercial chinook salmon harvest for 1997 (as of 15 September) is 18,696 fish which compares reasonably well to the recent 10 year average (1987-96; excluding 1989) of ~21,000. During the 1997 season, a price dispute of approximately 11 days during June (11-22 June) and another 12 days in July-August (26 July-7 August) had a depressive effect upon catches; it is likely that commercial catches would have approached or surpassed the 10 yr. average, barring this dispute. The year end harvest distribution by management district was: 5,698 fish NW Kodiak, 4,247 fish from Afognak; 3,405 fish from the Mainland; 2,796 fish SW Kodiak; 1,686 from the Eastside Kodiak District and 290 fish for the Alitak Bay District. The percent of the season's chinook salmon catch by district which occurred prior to 6 August (date when Coded Wire Tag sampling terminated) ranged from 83% (Afognak District) to 100% (Southwest Kodiak District). The catch timing by district during 1997 was similar to previous years, however district catches were lower than the previous five year average (1992-96).

Average weights of commercially caught fish (from fish ticket data) by district, for the season ranged from 6.9 lbs (Afognak District) to 18.2 lbs (Southwest Kodiak District).

Probasco

2

9/25/97

Preliminary total escapements for the Karluk and Ayakulik (Red River) were 13,443 and 14,357 fish respectively, for a total chinook salmon escapement of 27,800. This escapement level is comparable to the 10 year average (1987-96) of ~25,300 fish, both systems combined.

Coded Wire Tag Sampling Summary

Sampling commenced on 9 June and terminated on 6 August and was curtailed by the aforementioned price disputes. During this period, in the areas sampled (Westside Kodiak, Alitak Bay, Eastside Kodiak, and Mainland Districts), there were 16,802 chinook salmon caught which represents ~90% of the KMA year end total. From this catch a total of 6,017 fish were inspected for missing adipose fins (36% scanning rate) and 162 heads retained and shipped to the ADF&G tag lab. There were 26 presumed tagged fish (missing adipose fins) that either had no tag or the tag code was nonsense. Of the 136 recoverable tags, there were 101 British Columbia, 17 Alaska, 10 Washington, and 8 Oregon CWT marked fish. There are 12 samples (representing 457 fish scanned and 10 tag recoveries) that have been purposefully omitted until the actual catch area can be confirmed. Presently, 1997 fish ticket data is still incomplete and editing for accuracy is ongoing.

Of the 17 Alaska fish recovered with tags, 11 were from Cook Inlet (two Kenai R. three Ship Cr., three from Ninilchik R., one Deception Cr., one Crooked Cr., and one from Homer Spit) three from Kodiak (Buskin R.), and three from Southeast Alaska.

A summary of the CWT sampling results by area are presented (Table 1). The sampling crew, much to their individual efforts were successful at meeting, or in many instances exceeding the 20% scanning rate objective. Due largely to availability, numerous samples from the Mainland District were obtained even though this area was not part of operational plan objectives. These samples were collected without compromising targeted, area specific data collection efforts.

CWT Summary by Area

Within the Westside area, composed of the SW Afognak Section, NW Kodiak and SW Kodiak Districts, the overall sampling fraction or scanning rate was 26% of the landed catch (2,977 fish scanned from a catch of 11,386). The sampling fractions for all weeks ranged from a low of <2% (7-13 June) to greater than 70% during the week ending 20 June. Samples were collected from all weeks spanning 9 June through 25 July with low catch levels hampering sample collection during the weeks ending 13 June, 18 July and 8 August. A total of 58 CWT marked fish were recovered with 79% of British Columbia origin (46 tags), 15.5% from Alaska (9 tag recoveries), and about 2% each from Washington and Oregon. A majority of the tag recoveries occurred during July.

For the Alitak Bay District, obtaining samples for all targeted weeks was difficult owing to the limited catch that occurred. This is partially indicated by the overall catch being low compared to previous years and the overall sampling fraction for this area being 57% (129 fish scanned from 225 fish catch). There were only two tagged fish recovered both of BC origin. Within the