

HB

18

<TARGET><BILL>HB 18</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
18</SUBJECT><COMM>HFSH28</COMM></TARGET>

35,000-

HOUSE BILL NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES STOLTZE, HUGHES, AND KELLER, Tuck, Thompson

Introduced: 1/16/13

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fishing restrictions are
2 implemented to achieve a management goal."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.05.251 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (j) Except as provided in AS 16.05.258, when the harvest of a stock or species
6 is limited to achieve a management goal, the Board of Fisheries shall place restrictions
7 on all other fisheries before restricting personal use fisheries. In this subsection,
8 "management goal" means the escapement or estimated population size of the
9 exploited stock that provides the greatest potential for sustained yield as established by
10 the board.

Salmon

where.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-Chair:
House Finance Committee

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for;
Alaska Court System
Fish & Game

Member:
Legislative Council
Committee on Committees
Legislative Budget & Audit (alt)



BILL STOLTZE
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Sponsor Statement
For House Bill 18
by Representative Bill Stoltze

"An Act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fishing restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Insuring that residents have access to Alaska's fisheries resources is vitally important as we continue to grow as a state. Right now, user groups are growing both in size and number, splitting the allocation of our resources into smaller percentages. However, one thing all Alaskans can agree on is that we should have a priority over people coming from elsewhere in the country and the world to utilize and harvest our fisheries resources.

Fisheries that are restricted to residents only are meant to enable Alaskans to access their fisheries resources for their personal use and consumption. Currently, there are many personal use fisheries throughout the state. Excluding the priority that is already contained within statute for subsistence, HB 18 directs the Board of Fisheries to place restrictions on sport and commercial fisheries before putting restrictions on personal use fisheries when the harvest of a stock or species is limited to achieve an escapement goal.

I ask for your consideration and support of HB 18 so Alaskans can be assured that they will continue to have access to their fisheries resources to the benefit of themselves and their families.

Rec. 16.05.251 - Regulations of the Board of Fisheries

- (a) The Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations it considers advisable in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) for
- (1) setting apart fish reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the waters of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the legislature;
 - (2) establishing open and closed seasons and areas for the taking of fish; if consistent with resource conservation and development goals, the board may adopt regulations establishing restricted seasons and areas necessary for
 - (A) persons 60 years of age and older to participate in sport, personal use, or subsistence fishing; or
 - (B) persons under 16 years of age to participate in sport fishing;
 - (3) setting quotas, bag limits, harvest levels, and sex and size limitations on the taking of fish;
 - (4) establishing the means and methods employed in the pursuit, capture, and transport of fish;
 - (5) establishing marking and identification requirements for means used in pursuit, capture, and transport of fish;
 - (6) classifying as commercial fish, sport fish, guided sport fish, personal use fish, subsistence fish, or predators or other categories essential for regulatory purposes;
 - (7) watershed and habitat improvement, and management, conservation, protection, use, disposal, propagation, and stocking of fish;
 - (8) investigating and determining the extent and effect of disease, predation, and competition among fish in the state, exercising control measures considered necessary to the resources of the state;
 - (9) prohibiting and regulating the live capture, possession, transport, or release of native or exotic fish or their eggs;
 - (10) establishing seasons, areas, quotas, and methods of harvest for aquatic plants;
 - (11) establishing the times and dates during which the issuance of fishing licenses, permits, and registrations and the transfer of permits and registrations between registration areas is allowed; however, this paragraph does not apply to permits issued or transferred under AS 16.43;
 - (12) regulating commercial, sport, guided sport, subsistence, and personal use fishing as needed for the conservation, development, and utilization of fisheries;
 - (13) requiring, in a fishery, observers on board fishing vessels, as defined in AS 16.05.475 (d), that are registered under the laws of the state, as defined in AS 16.05.475 (c), after making a written determination that an on-board observer program
 - (A) is the only practical data-gathering or enforcement mechanism for that fishery;
 - (B) will not unduly disrupt the fishery;
 - (C) can be conducted at a reasonable cost; and
 - (D) can be coordinated with observer programs of other agencies, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission;
 - (14) establishing nonexclusive, exclusive, and superexclusive registration and use areas for regulating commercial fishing;
 - (15) regulating resident or nonresident sport fishermen as needed for the conservation, development, and utilization of fishery resources;
 - (16) requiring unlicensed fishing vessels present in or transiting the waters of the state to report to the department the quantity, species, and origin of fish on board; in this paragraph, "unlicensed fishing vessel" means a fishing vessel that is not licensed under AS 16.05.490 - 16.05.530;
 - (17) promoting fishing and preserving the heritage of fishing in the state.
- (b) [Repealed, Sec. 12 ch 52 SLA 1986].
- (c) If the Board of Fisheries denies a petition or proposal to amend, adopt, or repeal a regulation, the board, upon receiving a written request from the sponsor of the petition or proposal, shall in addition to the

Rec. 16.05.251 - Regulations of the Board of Fisheries

requirements of AS 44.62.230 provide a written explanation for the denial to the sponsor not later than 30 days after the board has officially met and denied the sponsor's petition or proposal, or 30 days after receiving the request for an explanation, whichever is later.

(d) Regulations adopted under (a) of this section must, consistent with sustained yield and the provisions of AS 16.05.258, provide a fair and reasonable opportunity for the taking of fishery resources by personal use, sport, and commercial fishermen.

(e) The Board of Fisheries may allocate fishery resources among personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fisheries. The board shall adopt criteria for the allocation of fishery resources and shall use the criteria as appropriate to particular allocation decisions. The criteria may include factors such as

- (1) the history of each personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishery;
- (2) the number of residents and nonresidents who have participated in each fishery in the past and the number of residents and nonresidents who can reasonably be expected to participate in the future;
- (3) the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption;
- (4) the availability of alternative fisheries resources;
- (5) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the state;
- (6) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;
- (7) the importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.

(f) Except as expressly provided in AS 16.40.120 (e) and 16.40.130, the Board of Fisheries may not adopt regulations or take action regarding the issuance, denial, or conditioning of a permit under AS 16.40.100 or 16.40.120, the construction or operation of a farm or hatchery required to have a permit under AS 16.40.100, or a harvest with a permit issued under AS 16.40.120.

(g) The Board of Fisheries shall consider a request of the commissioner for approval of a petition to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to establish a moratorium on new entrants into a commercial fishery under AS 16.43.225 at the board's next regular or special meeting that follows the receipt by the board of the request for approval of the petition and that allows time for the notice required under this subsection. The board may consider the request of the commissioner for approval of the petition only after 15 days' public notice of the board's intention to consider approval of the petition. The board shall consider whether the commissioner, in support of the request for approval of the petition, has adequately shown that the fishery meets requirements for a moratorium on new entrants under AS 16.05.050. The board by a majority vote of its members at the meeting when the petition must be considered shall approve or disapprove the petition.

(h) The Board of Fisheries shall adopt by regulation a policy for the management of mixed stock fisheries. The policy shall provide for the management of mixed stock fisheries in a manner that is consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks.

(i) Notwithstanding AS 16.43.140 (c)(5), the board may adopt, at a regularly scheduled meeting at which the board considers regulatory proposals for management of a specific salmon fishery, a regulation to allow a person who holds two entry permits for that salmon fishery an additional fishing opportunity appropriate for that particular fishery.

(j) Except as provided in AS 16.05.258, when the harvest of a stock or species is limited to achieve a management goal, the Board of Fisheries shall place restrictions on all other fisheries before restricting personal use fisheries. In this subsection, "management goal" means the escapement or estimated population size of the exploited stock that provides the greatest potential for sustained yield as established by the board.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 18
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB018-DFG-CO-03-22-13
Title: PERSONAL USE FISHING PRIORITY
Sponsor: ** STOLTZE, HUGHES
Requester: House Special Committee on Fisheries

Department: Department of Fish and Game
Appropriation: Administration and Support
Allocation: Commissioner's Office
OMB Component Number: 2175

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2014 Request	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2014	FY 2014					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial version.

Prepared By:	Ben Mulligan, Legislative Liaison	Phone:	(907)465-6137
Division:	Commissioner's Office	Date:	03/22/2013 04:30 PM
Approved By:	Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner	Date:	03/22/13
	Department of Fish and Game		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 18 VA

Analysis

House Bill 18 directs the Board of Fisheries to place restrictions on all other fisheries before restricting personal use fisheries when the harvest of a stock or species is limited to achieve a management goal. The priority for subsistence use and allocation of fish and game (AS 16.05.258) is exempted from the proposed prioritization laid out in HB 18.

It is assumed that any regulations that may need to be promulgated would occur during the Board of Fisheries normal board cycle and therefore would not have a fiscal impact upon any of the department's programs and/or operations.

Representative Paul Seaton, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, 120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 18 PERSONAL USE PRIORITIES, OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Seaton and Committee Members,

My name is Steve Merritt and I am a commercial fisherman living in Craig, Alaska. I oppose HB 18 which seeks to provide a priority for personal use fisheries second only to subsistence. I do not believe that such a priority is necessary or reflects the true nature of most personal use fisheries, nor does it allow for the orderly and sustainable management of our state's fisheries resources.

The most significant problem with HB 18 is that it ties the hands of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) and could confound sustainable fisheries management. Personal use fisheries are conducted in river and can have a significant impact on spawning stocks.

Subsistence fisheries have been granted highest priority in times of resource shortages, because they are intended to provide **the basic necessities of life** for rural residents. Personal use fisheries allow individuals to take finfish, shellfish, or aquatic plants, often at higher levels than sport fisheries, for use as food or bait by that individual or their immediate family.

While the BOF intended that personal use fisheries not harm sport and commercial fisheries, they also provided ample opportunity for personal use fishermen when developing regulatory measures. This is revealed in harvest limits that far exceed what many Alaskans consider necessary for basic sustenance.

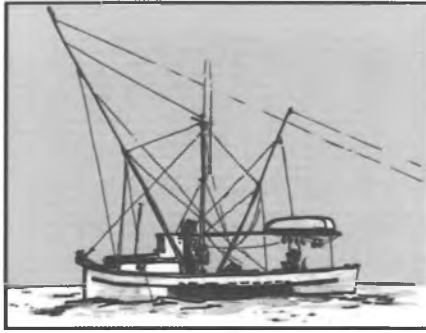
I question whether or not the current conduct of some of these fisheries actually meets the intended goal, which is to provide food and bait for individuals who need more than a basic sport license can provide. Unfortunately, what is obvious to many of us around the state is that despite extremely liberal management of personal use fisheries by the BOF, it's still not enough for some greedy personal use fishermen?

I do not deny that the personal use fishery is important to many Alaska residents, but giving personal use fisheries priority over other uses of the resource could negatively impact a great many more Alaskans than it will help. Sport and commercial fisheries, and the consumers served by the seafood industry, are part and parcel of the 'broader public interest'.

I oppose priority status for personal use fisheries and consider such a designation to be contrary to sound resource management.

Sincerely, Steve Merritt

Steve Merritt
Box 1138
Craig, Alaska 99921



Alaska Trollers Association

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February 1, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Oppose HB 18 Personal Use Priority

Dear Representative Seaton and Committee Members:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) opposes HB 18, which seeks to provide a priority for personal use fisheries second only to subsistence. Our members do not believe that such a priority is necessary or reflects the true nature of most personal use fisheries, nor does it allow for the orderly and sustainable management of our state's fisheries resources.

ATA represents the Southeast commercial troll fleet. Our members are professional hook and line salmon fishermen. The troll fleet is one of the largest salmon fleets in the state and is 85% resident. A large number of troll permit holders live in rural communities. Many of our members participate in other commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries.

The most significant problem with HB 18 is that it ties the hands of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) and could confound sustainable fisheries management. Personal use fisheries are conducted inriver and can have a significant impact on spawning stocks. While personal use fishermen may harvest fewer fish compared to commercial, they still bear a responsibility to conserve the resource.

The BOF is the best forum to analyze with ADFG and the public the biological reasons for dips in salmon production, and then distribute the conservation burden proportionate to the impact of the fishery. From there, a system exists to allocate surplus production when stocks rebound. Allocation by the BOF is governed by a policy that has been in place since the early 90's.¹ The policy recognizes history of use and dependence by residents, and also allows for distinctions between guided and unguided harvesters, as approved by the legislature in 1992. This policy

¹ [Board of Fisheries Allocation Criteria](#)

provides ample opportunities for the BOF to protect important personal use needs for residents, while at the same time avoiding undue hardship on all other fisheries of importance to local communities. A full set of BOF policies can easily be found online.²

A troublesome aspect of the bill is that it would hold personal use fisheries above sport and commercial for regulatory and allocation purposes, no matter what the circumstance, which has never been the intent. No rationale has been provided by the makers of the bill through a public sponsor statement, so barring a persuasive argument we have not yet heard, ATA strongly opposes prioritizing personal use.

Subsistence fisheries have been granted highest priority in times of resource shortages, because they are intended to provide the basic necessities of **life** for rural residents.

Personal use fisheries allow individuals to take finfish, shellfish, or aquatic plants, often at higher levels than sport fisheries, for use as food or bait by that individual or their immediate family. Ostensibly, the higher bag and possession limits reflect the food and bait needs of residents who, for one reason or another, do not qualify for subsistence.

While our association supports the intent behind true personal use fisheries – to feed Alaskans - we question whether or not the current conduct of some of these fisheries actually meets the intended goal, which is to provide food and bait for individuals who need more than a basic sport license can provide. Sport and commercial fisheries also provide food for residents, are those needs not important?

Of the personal use permit holders, those who would appear to most need the liberal harvest limits are not necessarily the ones removing high volumes of fish. Let's look at the Chitina personal use fishery as an example.

The 2000 census counted 123 people, 52 households, and 30 families residing in the Chitina area. The Alaska Subsistence Fisheries 2003 Annual Report (ADFG, 2005), states that just 29 personal use permits were issued to Copper Basin residents. Of those, 19 fished, with a harvest of 232 fish and just 0.3% of the total Chitina personal use harvest (Table XII-5).

The vast majority of the fish caught in the Chitina personal use fishery were harvested by people traveling from the urban areas of Fairbanks (2,034 permits issued/ 28,949 fish caught) and Anchorage (1,475 permits issued/ 19,443 fish caught). Rounding out the top five communities harvesting in the Chitina personal use fishery were Delta Junction, Eagle River, and Eilsen Air Force Base (Table XII-5). Most of these communities can hardly be described as subsistence in nature, much less lacking significant opportunities to secure the basic **necessities of life**. **Yet that is essentially what granting a personal use priority would imply.**

What justifies granting personal use fishermen more protection than resident sport and commercial fishermen and their resident customers, who all rely on the same stocks?

² Board of Fisheries Findings and Policies

Most fishermen who travel to Chitina from urban communities are not low income. They often do so at great expense. Not only do they pay the cost of traveling a long distance to this remote community, they often secure the services of guides, water taxis, and custom process facilities. Those services are not cheap. This makes the need for personal use by such fishermen questionable to other Alaskans. There are personal use opportunities closer to Fairbanks and Anchorage, so the methods and means of harvest are neither efficient nor economic in terms of effort and cost. Obviously, these folks simply enjoy going to Chitina and bringing back lots of fish. Not a problem, but also not worthy of a higher priority than is granted to other fishermen.

The regulatory history of the Chitina dipnet fishery clearly shows that the Board of Fisheries considered it an area worthy of personal use designation, not special priority.

Over time, the BOF has established specific parameters around personal use fisheries, to delineate this use from subsistence and protect both the resource and other, longstanding fishing interests. When establishing the personal use category in 1981, the BOF made its intent quite clear with respect to personal use priority:

7. ...It is the intent of the Board that subsistence, commercial, and sport users have a reasonable opportunity to take any surplus before a personal use fishery is allowed.

While the BOF intended that personal use fisheries would not harm sport and commercial fisheries, they also provided ample opportunity for personal use fishermen when developing regulatory measures. This is revealed in harvest limits that far exceed what many Alaskans consider necessary for basic sustenance. The Board's intention to be liberal in the application of personal use is also revealed in a memo to ADFG Commissioner Frank Rue dated March 21, 1996 from Assistant Attorney General Stephen Daugherty indicating that (*emphasis added*):

...although *the proposal for creation of personal use fisheries presented to the Board of Fisheries was very restrictive, the board adopted a much less restrictive regulatory scheme for personal use fisheries.* As originally proposed, personal use fisheries could only be conducted where they would not negatively impact an existing resource use, and initial bag limits were proposed at very low levels. The board modified the proposed regulations to allow for the *provision of personal use fisheries if they were in the broad public interest*, and it also adopted bag limits based on amounts taken under subsistence regulations. *The board explicitly rejected some uses permissible under subsistence regulations and provided that it was illegal to buy, sell, trade, or barter fish taken in a personal use fishery, but the board did not provide an explicit prohibition on sharing.* See Board of Fisheries Proposal 107 (Apr. 1982); 5 AAC 77.010(b).

The legislature also took up personal use fisheries, as noted by Daugherty, and clearly stated that personal use fisheries were to be granted status equal to – not higher or lower than – other fisheries (*emphasis added*):

The record indicates that although personal use fisheries were not intended to have a priority over sport and commercial fisheries, they were also not considered lower in

priority. The legislation treated personal use fisheries on the same basis as sport and commercial fisheries and subjected them to the same allocation criteria.

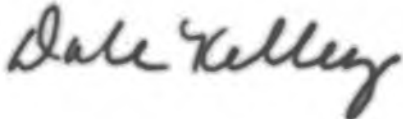
Unfortunately, what is obvious to many of us around the state is that despite extremely liberal management of personal use fisheries by the BOF, it's still not enough for some personal use fishermen from urban areas who seem more interested in putting their wants over the needs of the resource and fellow fishermen, Alaska consumers, and Alaska communities.

While we do not deny that the personal use fishery is important to many Alaska residents, including some that we represent, we note that giving personal use fisheries priority over other uses of the resource could negatively impact a great many more Alaskans than it will help. Sport and commercial fisheries and the consumers served by the seafood industry, are part and parcel of the 'broad public interest'. Our fisheries provide thousands of jobs and significant economic value to the state overall; for instance, through substantial general fund assessments on seafood landings. The impacts of initiatives like this, which chronically erode commercial fishing access, are felt by ALL of the state's citizens.

ATA opposes priority status for personal use fisheries and considers such a designation to be contrary to sound resource management; potentially harmful to other Alaskan residents; and, out of sync with the true intent that underpinned establishment of personal use fisheries.

Thank you for considering ATA's point of view. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information on this or other issues of concern to the commercial fishing industry.

Best regards,



Dale Kelley
Executive Director



Cordova District Fishermen United
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web. www.cdfu.org | email. cdfu@ak.net

January 31, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton
Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: OPPOSE HB18 – Personal Use Fishing Priority

Dear Chairman Seaton and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Cordova District Fishermen United Board of Directors, our 300 members and their families to oppose HB18 – “Personal Use Fishing Priority”.

The Alaska legislature has granted the Board of Fisheries the authority to manage Alaska’s fisheries. The Board makeup includes a panel of representatives that are confirmed by legislature based on their ability to represent all fishery user groups using sound judgment. The Board of Fisheries has the authority and expertise to make decisions in the best interest of the State of Alaska to protect and preserve Alaska’s fishery resources.

HB18 attempts to undermine and intrude on that authority.

CDFU respects the importance of Personal Use fisheries, however feels it is significant to point out why this special category was originally developed. In 1982, the Alaska legislature developed language to provide a special opportunity for Alaska residents to harvest salmon *when surplus fish stocks were available*. Since this time, Personal Use fisheries have evolved into an important part of the Alaskan lifestyle affording residents reasonable opportunity to supplement food they buy at the store with locally harvested seafood.

CDFU does not believe that Personal Use fisheries should be managed with any degree of priority over Alaska’s long established and economically significant Commercial and Sport fisheries. Commercial, Personal Use & Sports fisheries need to share in the conservation burden to make sure our fisheries are sustainable into the future.

Just as overfishing is detrimental to salmon runs, overcrowding river systems with too large an escapement is equally damaging and it is important that managers have all the tools necessary to ensure a balanced system. Implementing HB18 only serves to take away one of the tools that



Cordova District Fishermen United

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managers need to do their jobs: utilizing Commercial harvest data from early season fishery openers to assess run strength and timing.

There are more than 80 personal use fisheries across Alaska. Passage of this bill will force ADFG to revise management plans on an individualized basis for each of these fisheries. This will take time. This will cost money. Who is going to foot the bill?

No user group, with the exception of Subsistence, deserves a priority listing per the Alaska Constitution. Both Commercial and Sport fisheries are economically significant to Alaska. These fisheries create jobs. They stimulate Alaska's economy. They bring small communities to life, and support thousands of families across the State.

Legislative intervention is unnecessary and only serves to disrupt well-established and effective fishery management systems that are already in place.

Sincerely,

Alexis Cooper
Executive Director



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

Phone: (907)586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

Email: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

February 1, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, 120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 18 PERSONAL USE PRIORITY, OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Seaton and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) represents 34 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations, and hundreds of individual fishermen and related businesses.

Fisheries management in Alaska is renowned throughout the world for its emphasis on sustainability. While most of the world long ago lost their historic runs of wild salmon, Alaska shows a remarkable history of restoring salmon runs throughout the state, after a long period of decline during the period before Alaska gained statehood.

Among the most important tools that have helped Alaska restore and retain healthy salmon populations are the Board of Fisheries process by which allocative actions are made on a case by case basis based on science and public input, and real time management by the Department of Fish and Game based on scientifically established escapement goal ranges.

Alaska's constitutional mandate to manage fisheries for the maximum benefit of its citizens requires careful consideration of the range of benefits that fisheries provide, including nutritional needs, history and usage by residents and non residents, importance to the economy of the state, region and local area, and recreational opportunity. These factors are considered for each regulatory proposal in the deliberative process of the Board of Fisheries, as well as management decisions of the Department of Fish and Game.

We strongly caution against creating a priority for personal use fisheries, because it will shift allocation and opportunity away from commercial fisheries that provide income to state and local governments, to fisheries that do not. It also would increase the perception of "entitlement" by Alaska residents to fisheries resources that are limited by nature. Commercial fishing provides the majority of the public with access to the resource.

Personal use fisheries are open to all Alaska residents, with only the requirement to hold a resident sport fishing license. As the population grows in one area of the state, the perceived entitlement to fisheries resources in other areas of the state that have established personal use fisheries pits one region against another.

The intent by the Board of Fisheries in establishing Personal Use fisheries is clear in 5 AAC 77.001 (4) (b): "...allowed when that taking does not jeopardize the sustained yield of a resource and either does not negatively impact an existing resource use or is in the broad public interest." Since that time in 1981, we see extreme population growth primarily in one area of the state, and we can expect this to continue. We currently have 95 personal use fisheries that have been established throughout the state that are open to all residents. If HB 18 were to pass and establish a priority for the Personal Use fisheries over other uses (besides Subsistence), the growth of one region of the state will have detrimental impacts on other regions and historical patterns of use.

We are also concerned that such a priority would handcuff the Board of Fisheries and Department of Fish and Game in the ability to allocate and manage fisheries, and leave many allocative and management decisions open to lawsuit based on a perception of interference with a Personal Use fishery.

If Alaska is going to avoid the decline of salmon runs as has occurred elsewhere, we need to avoid the pattern of fighting over the fish, pitting one region or user group against another, while industrial development and population eliminate one stream or run at a time until the fish are gone.

We strongly urge this committee, and the Alaska State Legislature, to leave the prioritization of fishery allocations within the Board of Fisheries, and the management within the Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,



Julianne Curry
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association
Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association •
North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association
Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

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February 1, 2013

Alaska State Legislature
House Fisheries Committee
Representative Paul Seaton, Chair
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Oppose HB 18

Dear Chairman Seaton and Fisheries Committee Members,

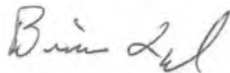
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) is a diverse group of over 100 commercial fishermen and businesses operating primarily in Southeast Alaska. Our members provide millions of meals to the public annually by participating in a variety of fisheries statewide including salmon, herring, halibut, cod, crab, black cod, shrimp, and dive fisheries. PVOA individual membership is made up of 94% Alaska residents who are also active sport, personal use, and subsistence fishermen who depend on sustainable and conservative management of Alaska's fishing resources to ensure healthy fisheries for the future. PVOA appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 18.

PVOA has always supported the importance of personal use fisheries to the residents of the State of Alaska. However, **PVOA opposes HB 18**— "*An Act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fishing restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal.*" **Personal use fisheries need to be subject to limits and share in the burden of conservation along with commercial and sport fishermen.** HB 18, as written, mandates development of a personal use priority without any qualification. The subsistence priority statute, AS 16.05.258(f), clearly states the subsistence priority is to provide for a reasonable opportunity and AS 16.05.258(c) provides language that outlines the factors that must be considered to provide for a subsistence priority designation. **HB 18, as written provides no language on how and when a personal use designation will be implemented.** As the Alaska population continues to grow, the language as written will provide for a personal use priority that will ultimately close commercial and sport fisheries, regardless of the economic harm to the state or local communities, without any express concern over conservation.

This legislation, as written, conflicts with the allocation criteria between commercial, sport and personal use fisheries and severely restricts the Alaska Board of Fisheries from fulfilling their obligations delineated in AS 16.05.251. This legislation creates an elevated, and arguably exclusive right for personal use fishermen. As such, it could be used for legal challenges to any allocation decisions the Board of Fisheries makes that they feel makes any restrictions at all in personal use fisheries which is clearly in violation of the provisions of Article VIII of the Alaska State Constitution.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If we can provide further information or answer any questions as you make this important decision, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Brian Lynch
Executive Director

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907-586-6652

Email: seafa@gci.net

Fax: 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



January 26, 2013

Alaska State Legislature
House Fisheries Committee
Representative Paul Seaton, Chair
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Oppose HB 18

Representative Paul Seaton, Chair and Fisheries Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) appreciates this opportunity to express our concerns regarding HB 18 which mandates a personal use priority after subsistence. Our association is comprised of 85% Alaskan residents, who participate in personal use and sport fisheries in addition to their commercial fishing livelihood. Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance has always supported the importance of personal use fisheries to the residents of the State of Alaska as is evidenced by our testimonies to the Board of Fish. However, personal use fisheries also need to have limits and share in the burden of conservation along with commercial and sport fishermen.

This legislation as written is flawed. The subsistence priority statute AS 16.05.258 (f) clearly states that the subsistence priority is to provide for a reasonable opportunity. This legislative language mandates development of a personal use priority without any qualification. Further, it does not provide language, as the subsistence priority does, to share the resources with other users. As the Alaska population continues to grow, the language as written will ultimately close commercial and sport fisheries, regardless of the economic harm to the state or local communities, without any express concern over conservation in order to provide a personal use priority.

This legislation as written severely ties the hands of the Board of Fish preventing their ability to fulfill the obligations listed in AS 16.05.251. This legislation contradicts with the allocation criteria between commercial, sport and

personal use fisheries. As written this legislation creates an elevated right for personal use fishermen, which can very easily be used in court to challenge any allocations that the Board of Fisheries makes in which they feel any restrictions at all during any part of the lifecycle. Clearly this violates fundamental precepts embedded in the Alaska Constitution, regarding Uniform Application, and Common Use.

Does this legislation even allow the Board of Fish to set limits or develop management plans that include the personal use fisheries?

At what point can management decisions affect the personal use fishermen and still allow commercial and sport fisheries to exist?

Would ADFG have to stand by and allow a system to fail to meet their management target because a commercial fishery had an opening so therefore the personal use fishery could not be restricted? In many fisheries it is not possible to allow a commercial fishery to wait until escapement is met and all personal use needs are met because by then the fish have swam past the point a commercial fishery can be conducted. Do we in these situations in order to provide for a personal use priority, forgo economic opportunity and close the commercial and sport fisheries? The current State of Alaska management system is considered superior to all other regions due to the public process through the board of fish and the end mandate for maximum sustained yield provided for in the State Constitution. Are we now going to ignore what has worked and take away the Board of Fish authority to allocate and ADFG flexibility to manage the resource in real time allowing for all users to share in the burden of conservation?

Commercial fishing is an important industry to the State of Alaska ranking third behind Oil & Gas and Federal Government in generating basic economic activity in Alaska with a total economic contribution of \$5.8 billion to Alaska's economic output and over 78,500 jobs. In addition, the raw fish taxes paid into the general fund and shared with the local coastal communities are critical to their economy.

For many residents of coastal Alaska, their only access to our sustainable fishery resources to provide healthy protein to their diet is through the commercial fishery. Is it fair to take away their primary access?

There are allegedly businesses being built to supply, outfit and provide transportation for personal use fisheries. This seems to be in conflict with the original intent during development of the personal use fishery. We believe the original intent of the personal use fishery was to allow Alaskans access to fishery

resources in non-subsistence areas, or access to fisheries with negative C&T findings by providing differential bag limits than non-residents, because it was acknowledged that in many cases these Alaskans were using the resource to provide for their own family consumption.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this legislation. If you have any questions about our testimony or points raised in the testimony, please contact the office, we would be glad to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Hansen" followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

Sponsored by: Mayor DeVilbiss
Adopted: 02/19/13

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 13-028**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING
HOUSE BILL 18 TO PROVIDE PRIORITY TO PERSONAL USE FISHERIES.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has a rich tradition of people living off the land from the original Matanuska colonists to the homesteaders who settled along the Susitna River Drainage; and

WHEREAS, personal use fishing is one of the means residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough depend on to provide food for their families; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Constitution states that when occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife and waters are reserved to the people for common use; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution states that fish belonging to the state shall be utilized, developed and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses such as personal use; and

WHEREAS, protecting personal use fisheries preference puts Alaskans first when Fish and Game makes management decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports the adoption of House Bill 18.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 19 day
of February, 2013.



LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Keogh, Woods, Arvin, Colligan, Salmon,
Colver, and Halter

Rep Seaton,

This message is in support of HB 18.

Legislative action is requested to provide ordinary Alaskan residents with reasonable opportunities to efficiently fulfill their personal use fish needs.

Legislative action is needed because there is a strong, systemic, culture of bias within ADF+G and the Board of Fisheries that favors the commercial fishing industry. AS 16.05.251 d requires the board to provide fair and reasonable personal use fishing opportunities. Yet, they continually give the commercial fishing industry's interests priority over regular residents trying to fulfill their personal use fishing needs.

They provide very liberal personal use fishing opportunities for both resident and non-resident commercial fishermen. *5AAC 39.010 (a) allows any commercial fisherman to take unlimited amounts for personal use. Definitions - AS16.05.940 (5) and (25).*

However; they provide very limited or no reasonable personal use fishing opportunities for ordinary residents.

For example:

Commercial fishermen in SE are allowed an unlimited personal use take of king and coho salmon. However; 5AAC 77.682 c unfairly prohibits ordinary residents from any personal use fishing in SE for king and coho salmon. That's commercial fishermen unlimited fish, ordinary residents none.

If we have enough fish to allow commercial exploitation and unlimited personal use catch by commercial fishermen, we certainly have enough to allow ordinary residents an efficient opportunity to fulfill their personal use needs.

#1-The objective is to provide an efficient means for residents to fulfill their personal use needs.

#2- Resident and Non-Resident commercial fishermen are already allowed this opportunity. They are allowed unlimited PU take and routinely catch fish for their family and friends' "home pack".

#3 –Residents deserve the same opportunity to efficiently take personal use fish as afforded commercial fishermen.

Thanks,
Mike Fox
Juneau

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: HB #18

From: Michael P McCarthy [<mailto:silkair69@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 10:48 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB #18

Representative Seaton
I am opposed to HB # 18
Michael P. McCarthy

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Karen & Richard McGahan
REPRESENTING: _____
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB 18 Personal Use Fishing Priority
COMMITTEE: House Fisheries **DATE:** March 26, 2013

Regarding HB 18: Please defeat this bill.

HB 18 is a purely political move by a representative who does not live in the are impacted by the dip net fishery on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Let the Fish and Game Department manage the fisheries. It is hard enough for them to manage all the various fisheries with their biological data, without continually having to add in the political agendas of legislators.

Thank you,

Richard and Karen Mc Gahan

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: OPPOSE HB18 Personal Use Fishing Priority

From: Lauren Padawer [<mailto:lauren.padawer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 11:50 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Re: OPPOSE HB18 Personal Use Fishing Priority

Dear Chairman Seaton and Committee Members:

I am writing as a Cordova District Fishermen United member to oppose HB18 – “Personal Use Fishing Priority”. I know that the Executive Director from CDFU, Alexis Cooper already submitted a letter on behalf of the 300+ members stating the following, but it was so well written, I’d like to echo what she said.

While the Alaska Constitution has granted the Alaska Legislature a right to affect fisheries management legislation, it is not the primary place to be making policy decisions. The legislature's role is only to serve as a check and balance on an *unbalanced* Board of Fisheries and should be considered a last line of defense to protect Alaskans interests. I believe the Governor has aptly appointed a panel of representatives on the current Board of Fisheries. These appointments are confirmed by legislature based on their ability to represent **all fishery user groups** using sound judgment. I believe the current Board of Fisheries has the authority and expertise to make decisions in the best interest of the State of Alaska to protect and preserve Alaska’s fishery resources. I do not think the Alaska Legislature should be undermining BOF authority on decisions that have already been deliberated on. I consider it a waste of legislature’s time and government spending.

HB18 attempts to undermine and intrude on BOF’s authority.

As Alexis Copper pointed out,

“CDFU respects the importance of Personal Use fisheries, however feels it is significant to point out why this special category was originally developed. In 1982, the Alaska legislature developed language to provide a special opportunity for Alaska residents to harvest salmon when surplus fish stocks were available. Since this time, Personal Use fisheries have evolved into an important part of the Alaskan lifestyle affording residents reasonable opportunity to supplement food they buy at the store with locally harvested seafood. CDFU does not believe that Personal Use fisheries should be managed with any degree of priority over Alaska’s long established and economically significant Commercial and Sport fisheries. Commercial, Personal Use & Sports fisheries need to share in the conservation burden to make sure our fisheries are sustainable into the future.

Just as overfishing is detrimental to salmon runs, overcrowding river systems with too large an escapement is equally damaging and it is important that managers have all the tools necessary to ensure a balanced system. Implementing HB18 only serves to take away one of the tools that managers need to do their jobs: utilizing Commercial harvest data from early season fishery openers to assess run strength and timing. There are more than 80 personal use fisheries across Alaska. Passage of this bill will force ADFG to revise management plans on an individualized basis for each

of these fisheries. This will take time. This will cost money. Who is going to foot the bill?

No user group, with the exception of Subsistence, deserves a priority listing per the Alaska Constitution. Both Commercial and Sport fisheries are economically significant to Alaska. These fisheries create jobs. They stimulate Alaska's economy. They bring small communities to life, and support thousands of families across the State. Legislative intervention is unnecessary and only serves to disrupt well-established and effective fishery management systems that are already in place."

As a CDFU member, commercial fisherman and Alaska resident, I couldn't agree more with these statements.

Sincerely,
Lauren Padawer
Area E Commercial Fisherman
F/V Canvasback

--

Lauren Padawer
office: PO Box 394, Cordova, AK 99574
phone/fax: 907.424.4695
cell: 314.853.8751
email: lauren.padawer@gmail.com

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: Opposition to HB 18

From: Bill Bailey [<mailto:fvshiloh@crsalaska.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 1:38 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Opposition to HB 18

Dear Representative Paul Seaton, I am writing you this letter to show my opposition to HB 18. I don't believe that Personal Use fisheries should be managed with any preference over our Subsistence, Sport, or Commercial fisheries. When there is a shortage of fish, we all need to work to sustain the resource. Personal Use fisheries, unlike Sport and Commercial fisheries, do not bring economic benefit to the State of Alaska. The only priority access to the resource, should be Subsistence Fisheries, per the Alaska Constitution. I feel that we have a well-established management plan that is working now. I am a lifelong (67 years) resident, sport, personal use, commercial, and subsistence fisherman. I also am a Co-Owner of Copper River Seafoods, in Cordova Alaska. I would hope that you will speak out in opposition of HB 18.

Thank You Sir,

Bill Bailey

Bill Bailey III

Owner / Operations

Director of Value Added Products

300 Cannery Row

Cordova, AK 99574

Ph: 907-424-3721 Fax: 907-424-7435

Cell: 907-229-7923

bbailey@CopperRiverSeafood.com

www.CopperRiverSeafood.com



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From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: House Bill No. 18

From: dblakej40@aol.com [mailto:dblakej40@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 7:06 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: House Bill No. 18

Chairman Sean and Committee Members:

I am e-mailing this to you with concern that this kind of legislation would disrupt a working system of management that is in place and working for the good of all users. All users should be held accountable to conservation of any fisheries stock and share in that conservation.

All users share in the surplus when stocks are healthy and all users (with exception of subsistence users) should share in conservation when the stocks are in troubled times. Fisheries managers do a good job of sustainability management and need not have one more burden placed upon them in what is actually an allocation issue not a stock issue.

Sincerely
David Blake
Cordova AK

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: HB 18

From: Bob Martinson [<mailto:ramphoto99654@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 6:54 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 18

Dear Rep. Seaton please share this with those concerned,

HB 18 is a cheap way for a legislator to try and satisfy his constituency and does damage to the long-established Board of Fish authority to manage all fisheries. Management of all fisheries is absolutely necessary to sustain our salmon runs. The personal use fishery was established to offer fish to the Alaskan population ONLY in times of over-escapement into the river systems. It would be a disaster to allow the massive fleet of personal use fishermen to harvest salmon in a river system that is under concern of not making established escapement goals. This bill has been introduced for several years now, by Rep. Stolze to satisfy just a few people in his constituency with no concern for the sport or commercial fishermen who live in his district and across the state.

Thank you for your time and concern of this tremendously important resource.
Bob Martinson, lifelong fisherman, and former chair of CDFU's Gillnet division.

Bob Martinson
RAM Photography
(928)537-3953
ramphoto99654@yahoo.com
<http://www.bobmartinson.photoshelter.com/>

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: HB 18

-----Original Message-----

From: William Lindow [<mailto:williamlindow@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:38 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 18

Representative Seaton

I want you to know I am opposed to HB 18 Personal Use Fishery Priority. I am a 35 year veteran commercial fisherman. I began fishing with my father in Cook Inlet in 1971, and on my own in Prince William Sound in 1978.

I see no valid justification for a priority for personal use. The category was created for residents to take advantage of times when surplus fish stocks were available. I believe that commercial, sport and personal use fisheries should share proportionally in the burden of fishery conservation.

I urge you to vote no on HB 18.

Respectfully,
William Lindow
P. O. Box 1612
Cordova, AK 99574

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Karen & Richard McGahan
REPRESENTING: _____
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB 18 Personal Use Fishing Priority
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Lauren Padawer
office: PO Box 394, Cordova, AK 99574
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Thank You Sir,

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300 Cannery Row

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bbailey@CopperRiverSeafood.com

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Subject: FW: HB 18

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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:38 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 18

Representative Seaton

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I urge you to vote no on HB 18.

Respectfully,
William Lindow
P. O. Box 1612
Cordova, AK 99574

Darrell Breese

From: RPC - Richard Person <rpc@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Mr. Stoltze, it may surprise you to know there are constituents in your area that oppose HB 18. The Board of Fisheries is the proper tool to manage the fisheries of Alaska, not politicians. You get to have your say in appointing members to the BOF, then let them do their job. Juneau needs to stay out of making fishery policy. Richard Person

Louie Flora

New Correspondence from the previous hearing

From: highflytim@gmail.com on behalf of Robert Timmins <highflytimm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:14 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fw: House Bill 18; RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8AM tomorrow!!

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

----- Forwarded message -----

From: R T <highflytimm@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 10:07 PM
Subject: Fw: House Bill 18; RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8AM tomorrow!!
To: Robert Timmins <highflytim@gmail.com>

Greetings friends and neighbors,

For all you dip netters and fishermen, please take note and support our efforts to turn the tide of fishing in Southcentral in our favor!!

Your effort and words WILL make a difference in this critical matter. Please take a moment to copy and past these comments on to Rep Stoltze or compose your own. It is that important to do. Your future fishing experience and success depends on it.

Thank you so much!
Robert Timmins
Eagle River

On Monday, March 17, 2014 7:51 PM, Bruce Morgan <sampson@acsalaska.net> wrote:
Please write a quick note to Rep Bill Stoltze;
Rep.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov

My letter is below, please do the same,
Something short and sweet works!!
Its all about numbers of responses receive.

COPY AND PASTE IT IF YOU WANT!!

From: Bruce Morgan [mailto:sampson@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 7:45 PM
To: Subject: House Bill 18

HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Representative Stolze,

My family of 5 believes it is in the best interest of the Alaskan Public to be provided "priority" in the PERSONAL USE fishery when fishing restrictions are implemented!
To be considered a participant in the Personal Use fishery, the person must be an ALASKAN resident!
NEED I SAY MORE?

Does our Political base understand that COMMERCIAL FISHING is only a TOOL to be used by the Department of Fish to STOP OVER-ESCAPEMENT of fish?
A Commercial fishing permit is not a RIGHT TO FISH.
The Commercial fishery is OWED NO FISH by owning a commercial permit.
The Commercial fishery IS JUST A TOOL available to the Dept of Fish to prevent over-escapement if needed.
THAT IS A FACT.

SO, why would we not have the personal use fishery open at ANY TIME a commercial fishery is open?

The personal use fishery should also be considered FIRST as a means of stopping over-escapement of sockeye or other species of salmon,
It should not be, commercial fishing...then personal use fishing
Anytime the personal use fishery is open, if this fishery cannot handle the abundance of fish and over-escapement is imminent,
THEN AND ONLY THEN should the commercial fleet be called on to fish!

Bruce R. Morgan and Family
Robin Childs, wife
Dependant Children; Cade, Colt, and Calie Morgan

6230 Petrified Tree Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
907 346 4855

(I am also a member of the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee, these comments above are my own)



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

--

"Our *Constitution* was made only for a *moral and religious people*. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." - *John Adams*

Louie Flora

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: Support Alaskans and their Families HB 18

-----Original Message-----

From: paul holland [<mailto:pcgholland@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 11:52 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Support Alaskans and their Families HB 18

Representative Seaton;

Please show support for Alaskans and their Families by supporting or at least allowing the progress of HB 18 out of your committee. As a Board Member of the Chitina Dipnetters I am all too aware of both the lack of Alaskans fishing commercially at Cordova and their priority over those Alaskans who dipnet at Chitina for themselves and their Families.

I ask you sir, do you favor out-state commercial fishery interests or Alaskans and their families? It is that simple. Your actions today in your committee will be answer enough for us all to hear.

Sincerely,

Paul Holland
Board Member Chitina Dipnetter
798 Capricorn
Fairbanks, Ak 99709
home 479-6624

Louie Flora

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: HB 18

From: Lori Lee [<mailto:leebrianandlori@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 8:16 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 18

Representative Seaton

I would like to express my opinion on House Bill 18. I am personally strongly against giving a favored status to personal use over commercial and sport fishing on the Copper river.

At a time when our economy is shaky at best why would we jepordize a strong and vibrant fishery like the Copper River. I have gillnetted on the Copper since 1985 and have been impressed with the degree of professionalism of our dept. of Fish and Game to manage the salmon fishery. I live in the Glacier View community where jobs are scarce and have depended on commercial fishing alone since 1972. In times of lower abundance I feel that ALL user groups should share the pain of cutbacks.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion on this matter.
Brian Lee

LIO Mat-Su

From: [REDACTED] <jepinak1959@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:17 AM
To: LIO Mat-Su
Subject: HB18

I should have the same chance at catching fish as anyone, as long as the commercial people are out there it's not possible. It takes a week after they are done for the fish to start showing up in the rivers, by then they're back in the lower 48 bragging about how they got all the fish and the personal use guys are standing on the banks with their hands in the air because the limits got cut!

Please give personal use fishermen a chance, pass HB18!

Gregory Prothero

Hello my name is Patti Barber. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on HB 18. My husband and I live in the community known as Butte. Jim Creek is a popular fishing location and is close to the major population of this state. Families used to be able to fill their freezers or can their fish with a few trips to this destination. Not anymore. Fishing in Jim Creek during the past few years has been closed especially when it used to be the best time of the season to be there. I support HB 18 because, where in our State Constitution does it say we have to feed the rest of the world before we feed our Alaskan families? Thank you for your time on this important bill before you.

Patti Barber
17367 E Melin Rd
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 745-4446



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on H.B. 18 dated 3/18/14
Bill/Subject

H.B. 18 clarifies constitutional intent to put Alaskans first. I support the bill and thank Rep. Stotz and Rep. Gottis for sponsoring this bill.

Mat Su residents by the thousands depend on this fishery (both in Kenai and Chitna) for their own freezers.

Thanks Larry DeVilbiss

Signed: Larry DeVilbiss
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

746-6593

Phone number

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: FW: HB #18

From: Michael P McCarthy [<mailto:silkair69@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 10:48 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB #18

Representative Seaton
I am opposed to HB # 18
Michael P. McCarthy

Darrell Breese

From: Charlie Franz <charlie@xyz.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:58 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal Use Fisheries - HB 18

Honorable Representative Stoltze,

Thank you very much for standing up for the rights of the average Alaskan and not bowing down to the strong political influence of the commercial fishermen and commercial guides. For some reason, these two groups seem to think that the fish belong to them rather than being a resource to be shared by all Alaskans as our constitution provides.

I fully support allocating fish to the personal use sector in preference to the commercial users in times of shortage. If needed, personal use limits can be modified a bit to make sure that the needed number of fish are left in the rivers for spawning.

Respectfully,
Charlie Franz
Homer

Darrell Breese

From: Bob Howard <bobhoward@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:22 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Dipnetting Legislation

Dip net fishing is extremely important to those of us who can participate in it. It is a food for my family. I support the legislation that puts it as a priority ahead of the other beneficial uses of the resource(HB18).

Robert Howard
629 Rangeview Ave.
Homer

Sent from my iPad

Darrell Breese

From: Tom Check <maximumak700@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:44 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: support for HB18

Dear Bill Stoltze, I am writing to express our family's strong support of your bill, HB18. Personal use salmon is a staple of our healthy Alaskan diet and dip netting for our food is an activity central to our Alaskan lifestyle. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas and Donna Check
4380 East Crane Road
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-357-3862
3/18/2014

Darrell Breese

From: O'Connors <arleta@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:37 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

Bill,
I support HB18 . We need fish in our freezer. Alaskans should come first.

Patrick O'Connor
Palmer

Darrell Breese

From: Kevin Sparrowgrove <brwng425@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:17 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: House Bill #18

This is Kevin Sparrowgrove, Anchorage resident and Secretary of the Anchorage AC for fish and game.

I am writing in support of this bill for the personal use fishery and making it a priority when restrictions are need for escapement goals.

Kevin Sparrowgrove

4318 Mars Drive

Anchorage, AK 99507

344-7974

Darrell Breese

From: Neumann_Frank <Neumann_Frank@asdk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:54 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Representative Stolze

Morning Bill, just letting you know that my family has been involved in the personal use fishery since the early 90's. I've witness this fishery growth over the years, and it's time that it have a priority over other fishery's.

Hope to see you support this House Bill 18.

Thanks for you Service.

Frank Neumann

P.O.Box 670683

Chugiak, Alaska

99567

907-688-3953

Darrell Breese

From: Bruce Carter <brucec@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 5:58 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: I support HB 18

Hello,
Just writing to let you know I support HB18. Personal use should have priority.
Thank you,
Bruce Carter
Sent from my iPhone

Darrell Breese

From: Don Dunavant <ddunavant@accg.biz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 5:58 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal use fishery priority

Dear Rep Stoltze,

Please take the time to down to ground level in the knowledge of the management of the Alaska fish runs. As we all know, continuation of fishing by anyone is not a certainty, with survival of the runs as first priority.

However, if too many fish return, it is not good for the runs either. This is well documented.

The purpose of this email is to establish the thinking on how to keep the fish returns at a level healthy to the species.

As extra fish belong to the citizens for their personal consumption, the personal use fishery should be high priority in determining what groups get to harvest these extra fish. The Department of Fish and Game should be directed to conduct openings of both commercial fishing and personal use fishing with this in mind.

In a battle between commercial fisherman and personal use fisherman who actually own the fish, the priority should be clear.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Donald R. Dunavant

300 East 54th Ave.

Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Darrell Breese

From: Bert Thomas <thomasb@mosquionet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:15 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

HB 18 should be passed, it is a small step in the right direction to afford AK residents the opportunity to put fresh fish on their table with a little effort on their own part. The commercial fishery has been allowed to run rampant far too long and is no doubt why the King return has diminished to the level we see now. If something is not done soon the Reds and Silvers will be next.

Bert Thomas

FBKS, AK

Darrell Breese

From: Wendy S Nielsen <wendys.nielsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 11:57 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Rep. Bill Stoltze,
One More e-mail backing your position on HB 18.
Thank You for your work!
Wendy S Nielsen
PO Box 81556
FBKS., AK 99708

WS

Darrell Breese

From: tparagi@alaska.net
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 11:47 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: support HB 18

Dear Representative Stoltz,

I engage in the personal use fishery for salmon and whitefish in the Tanana River and support HB 18. Thank you for sponsoring it.

Tom Paragi
1271 Lowbush Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Goldstream Valley

Darrell Breese

From: David Alan <dhalan42@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 11:26 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: support dipnetting rights

Representative Stoltze,

I am writing to thank you for your support already for dipnetting and registering my support as an Alaskan for your bill, HB 18. I'm embarrassed to admit it but this is the first time I've ever written a legislator in my life, but this issue goes to the heart of our freedom to partake in Alaska's fish and feed our families. We're watching from Fairbanks and we really support you on this!

Sincerely,
David Henry
1255 Wideview Road, Fairbanks, Alaska

Darrell Breese

From: Doug & Bruce <foam@mosquionet.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:56 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Representative Stoltze,

Thank you very much for your work on this bill concerning personal use fishing. It should be a priority for the elected representatives of the people to make sure common folks can obtain fish for their tables before the fish are allocated to sport and commercial interests. I think Representatives Kawasaki and Thompson know and agree with this and I hope you can convince the others how important it is. I've been utilizing the dipnet fishery for over 30 years and have many friends and relatives who have used it for as long and longer. This is definitely an issue to put the people before any special interests and voters are watching it closely and hoping for the best. Thank you again and good luck!

Respectfully,

Douglas Scott
P.O. Box 10220
Fairbanks, Ak 99710
907-388-2930

Darrell Breese

From: Ronald Kruckenberg <namu@alaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:51 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Representative Stolze,

My family of 5 believes it is in the best interest of the Alaskan Public to be provided "priority" in the PERSONAL USE fishery when fishing restrictions are implemented!

To be considered a participant in the Personal Use fishery, the person must be an ALASKAN resident!
NEED I SAY MORE?

Does our Political base understand that COMMERCIAL FISHING is only a TOOL to be used by the Department of Fish to STOP OVER-ESCAPEMENT of fish?

A Commercial fishing permit is not a RIGHT TO FISH.

The Commercial fishery is OWED NO FISH by owning a commercial permit.

The Commercial fishery IS JUST A TOOL available to the Dept of Fish to prevent over-escapement if needed.
THAT IS A FACT.

SO, why would we not have the personal use fishery open at ANY TIME a commercial fishery is open?

The personal use fishery should also be considered FIRST as a means of stopping over-escapement of sockeye or other species of salmon,

It should not be, commercial fishing....then personal use fishing

Anytime the personal use fishery is open, if this fishery cannot handle the abundance of fish and over-escapement is imminent,

THEN AND ONLY THEN should the commercial fleet be called on to fish!

Zhenya Ogorodnikov
9130 Shady Bay Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
907 244-4181

Darrell Breese

From: Ronald Kruckenberg <namu@alaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:47 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Representative Stolze,

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THEN AND ONLY THEN should the commercial fleet be called on to fish!

Ron Kruckenberg
9130 Shady Bay Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
907-248-7931

Darrell Breese

From: Ronald Kruckenberg <namu@alaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:12 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Alaskan Dipnetting HB 18

To Whom it may concern,

In would like to recommend the passing of HB 18. This is exactly what Alaskan Residents should be receiving from our State Natural Resources.

I have dip netted since the begging for my family and life style as my parents have done before me. I would appreciate the First Choice we deserve from our fisheries.

I have been an Alaskan resident since 1973. This has been a food source and will always be a way of life.

Ron Kruckenberg
9130 Shady Bay Circle
Anchorage, Ak 99507

Darrell Breese

From: Kateryna Kruckenberg <katrina_74@mail.ru>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:22 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

My name is Kateryna Kruckenberg. I want to have the State pass this bill to give Alaskan Residents first rights to the dipnetting fishery. This is the natural food source in Alaska for Alaskans just like the Constitution says it should do. thank you.

Po Box 220591
Anch, Ak. 99517
907-248-7931

Darrell Breese

From: Ernie Viens <akpa12@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:20 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Feeding my family

Sent from my iPhone

HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Representative Stolze,

My family of 5 believes it is in the best interest of the Alaskan Public to be provided "priority" in the PERSONAL USE fishery when fishing restrictions are implemented!

To be considered a participant in the Personal Use fishery, the person must be an ALASKAN resident!

NEED I SAY MORE?

Thank You

Ernest Viens

Eagle River Alaska

Darrell Breese

From: R T <highflytimm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:05 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Language to prioritize personal use fishing/dipnetting HB 18

Hi Representative Stoltze,

The following is a letter Bruce Morgan (Anchorage F&G Advisory Committee) wrote and sent out. I really feel the way he does and cannot improve upon his wording and message, so I am putting my name to this letter in full support. Please add prioritizing Personal Use Fishing to Section 8 of the Alaska Constitution in plain language above all else. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO in this area!!

HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Representative Stolze,

My family of 5 believes it is in the best interest of the Alaskan Public to be provided "priority" in the PERSONAL USE fishery when fishing restrictions are implemented!

To be considered a participant in the Personal Use fishery, the person must be an ALASKAN resident!
NEED I SAY MORE?

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It should not be, commercial fishing....then personal use fishing

Anytime the personal use fishery is open, if this fishery cannot handle the abundance of fish and over-escapement is imminent,

THEN AND ONLY THEN should the commercial fleet be called on to fish!

Bruce Morgan
Anchorage
Robert Timmins
Eagle River, AK

Darrell Breese

From: Roger Penrod <pharmboy@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:01 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal Use fisheries

Representative Stoltze,

You may want to consider the personal use fisheries as opposed to the commercial guys. State policies have favored the commercial use for way too long. The absolute demise of the Kenai River king fishery is a good example. Think about the residents of your state, not thye commercial interests.

Roger Penrod

10287 Halfhitch Circle

Anchorage, AK 99515

907-306-0546

Darrell Breese

From: John <sherlock@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:45 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

This is to let you know the importance of HB18 to me and my family. Utilizing fish and game in this State is how I have fed my family for over thirty years. Prioritizing dip netting above commercial fishing allows my family and me to be assured of providing for our nutritional needs first. Having raised a child with special nutritional needs, with high medical costs, it would be reassuring that personal use fishing would allow the family budget to be supplemented through our personal gathering of fish, especially knowing that we aren't being shoved to the back of the line but instead recognized as the first user in times of lean as well as times of plenty Sent from my iPhone

Darrell Breese

From: peter linn <msp2ak@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:32 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal use priority over commercial users

Rep Stoltze:

I would like to let you know that I would appreciate your support regarding a personal use priority over commercial interests. Those who Dipnetting for personal use generally do so to feed our families. Commercial take of this resource far outstrip the take of personal users and it is important that we recognize this and preserve personal access to our fish resources.

R/

Pete Linn
Eagle River, AK
907 854-7383

"Never ascribe to malice that which can be explained by incompetence, but don't rule out malice"
Robert Hanlon

Darrell Breese

From: Mike Potter <pottermik@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:23 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

IR

I just sent an email and forgot to include my address & phone.

Mike Potter
PO Box 80293
Fairbanks, AK 99708

907-479-3523

Darrell Breese

From: Mike Potter <pottermik@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:19 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

I support HB 18. I have lived in Alaska for 71 years and I fish at Chitina every summer. I think that Alaska residents should have priority over all of our resources. Thanks.

Mike Potter

Darrell Breese

From: brian bohman <bohmanbd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:56 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: I Support HB18 Personal Use Fishery

brian bohman
8474 e new hope St
palmer ak 99645
9077459038

Darrell Breese

From: Paula & Robert Caywood <cmmgen@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:52 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

Sounds like a great bill for Alaskans, if we can fix our access issues next that would be really great.

Robert Caywood

CMM General Contractors, LLC

907-317-0231

Darrell Breese

From: Kelly Gordon <sksgordon@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:37 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18 support

Representative Stoltze,

Thank you for your support of HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

We are members of AOC and AOAA and are fully in support of the intent of the bill.

Thank you,

Kelly and Steve Gordon

1942 Commodore Drive

Anchorage, AK 99507

907-349-6625

Darrell Breese

From: Bartelli <bartelli@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:36 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Bill,
I strongly support HB 18. Thanks for sticking up for the vast majority of the fish-harvesting state.
Regards,
Stephen Bartelli

Sent from my iPhone

Darrell Breese

From: Steve Gordon <sksgordon@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:25 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

Sir,

I thank you and appreciate your support of HB 18; Alaskan residents to obtain a publicly owned wildfood resource (fish) over the harvest taken by the commercial fisheries industry in Alaska.

Thank you,

Stephen Gordon

1942 Commodore Drive

Anchorage, AK 99507

907-349-6625

Sent from my iPad

Darrell Breese

From: Paul <pacalaska@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:17 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Memo:

Paul Carnicelli, 40 year resident of Anchorage Alaska..I rely on subsistence fish. Go Get Em Bill.

Darrell Breese

From: Sherry Corle <nanny.corle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Bill HB18

I am a Chitina Dipnetter. Fish should be allocated first to dip netters for use. I use the salmon I harvest for feeding my family. Winter subsistence. With the cost of energy sky rocketing I must depend on these fish to survive. These fish are an Alaskan resource & are being used improperly for commercial and guided use in out of state interests. Thank you Gary L. Corle

Gary L. Corle
2614 Gordon Rd.
North Pole AK 99705

907-488-0819

nanny.corle@gmail.com

Darrell Breese

From: jake sprankle <jakesprankle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:58 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

Once again Bill, Thank you for looking out for Alaska residents and putting them above the commercial fishing industry. I fully appreciate and support your HB18. I wish we had more Representatives like you.

Best,
Jake Sprankle
2665 Monteverde RD
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-590-3462

--

"Malo periculosam, libertatem quam quietam servitutem." - Thomas Jefferson

Darrell Breese

From: paul holland <pcgholland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:50 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Thanks on HB 18!

Hi

Thank you for your work on HB 18! I know you've been working on this for some time. A few years ago I was at a hearing or first reading? where you had a bill introduced that would of made the Priority for harvest to be; Subsistence, Personal use, and then Commercial. Anything I can do to help with your Bill's progress please let me know.

I am a Board Member of Chitina Dipnetters and we strongly support the priority for Copper River Salmon to Alaskan's and their families before that of Commercial Fishers, many of who are not even Alaskan Residents.

Again thanks for your efforts,

Paul Holland

Board Member Chitina Dipnetters

Darrell Breese

From: Andrew Couch <fishing@fish4salmon.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:19 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Support for House Bill 18

Representative Stoltze,

I support passage of House Bill 18 which would allow all Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest a limited amount of the the state's abundant salmon resource for personal consumption in personal use fisheries. Subsistence fishing for the same purpose already has such a priority --- however, subsistence fisheries are not always located in close proximity to where many Alaskans live. Without a personal use priority we currently have fisheries where Alaskan residents have at times been excluded all opportunity for limited personal use harvest of specific salmon stocks in order to provide much larger commercial harvests --- some of which goes to nonresident commercial fishers. Two examples of where this has occurred are at Fish Creek (the only personal use fishery in the Mat- Su Valley) and the Chitna personal use fishery for king salmon. In times of resource shortage it only makes sense to provide for a limited harvest by all Alaskans before allowing larger commercial harvests -- a portion of which is by nonresidents.

Sincerely,

Andrew N. Couch
14660 E. Gunnysack Rd.
Palmer, AK 99645

9097-746-2199

Darrell Breese

From: Hull, Ben <Ben.Hull@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:23 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal Use Fishery-HB 18

Dear Rep. Stoltz,

Please advocate for a priority for personal use fishermen and women over the commercial, guided sport, and sport fisheries. I support HB 18 and your efforts in this regard.

Ben Hull

Anchorage, AK 99504

Darrell Breese

From: Henry Springer <oksun@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:30 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Dear Representative Stoltze: My wife and I are longtime residents and have been longtime participants in the personal use fisheries, tipnetting for salmon. Just like subsistence preferences for native and rural residents, this should be the highest priority for this renewable resource for all Alaskan residents. As far as we are concerned this is one of the most important pieces of legislation in this session. We THANK YOU for your initiative and support. Heinrich and Oksun Springer, PO Box 232114, Anchorage, AK 99523, Tel. 346-2121

Darrell Breese

From: Whitehead, Richard G. <WhiteheadRG@ci.anchorage.ak.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:49 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Representative Stolze,

RE: HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

My family and I have been dipnetting at the mouth of the Kenai for over 25 yrs. We rely on that resource heavily for filling our freezer.

Please consider this on behalf of myself and thousands of others like me who live here.

I have commercial fished in the past. I understand how the system works but many of the commercial fishermen now do not live in Alaska.

Personal use fisheries go directly to Alaskans. Please consider this when proceeding with HB18.

Thanks for your hard work in representing Alaskans in our Legislative process.

Richard G. Whitehead
Eagle River Alaska

Darrell Breese

From: tecraig <tecraig@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:15 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: support for bill HB 18

Dear Representative Stoltze,

I am writing in support of HB18, which would "provide priority to personal use fisheries when fishing restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal". Thousands of Alaskans, including our family, rely on these personal use fisheries for their food every year. Alaskan fisheries are a publicly owned wildlife resource in the state and I believe that Alaskan residents should be given precedence over the commercial fisheries industry in Alaska.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Erica Craig
Fairbanks, Alaska

Darrell Breese

From: Kyle.Wilson20@ch2m.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:11 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: FW: HB 18 Personal Use Fisheries Bill - Very important

Good Morning Representative Stoltze,

I am a married/father of three hard working Alaskan. I brought my family to this wonderful place because of the abundance of what Alaska has to offer. In short I am a personal use fisherman and hope to pass this along tradition down to my children for years to come. Hope to see your support for House Bill 18. Thanks for your service.

Kyle E Wilson
4651 S. Canter Circle
Wasilla, 99654
373-4850

Darrell Breese

From: John & Carolyn Miller <jcm@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:45 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

50

Rep. Stoltze:

Thank you for advancing this proposal. It's about time!

The vast majority of the harvestable surplus of our Alaska fish are taken by commercial operators - a great many of whom are not even Alaska residents. It is simply not right that resident Alaskans are restricted in taking fish for personal and family consumption to enhance the profits of commercial fishers.

There should be a commercial fishery IF, AND ONLY IF the personal consumption needs of resident Alaskans are first satisfied!

John Miller
1260 March Dr.
Fairbanks 99709

Darrell Breese

From: Paul HARRELL <harrellp1@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:46 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Support HB 18

Representative Stoltze,

Thank you for the work done on HB 18. As a member of the Chitina Dipnetter's Board, I, along with 7 others represent over 10,000 dipnetter's who feed their families, in part, with this form of fishing.

Thank you!

Paul Harrell
388-7227

Darrell Breese

From: Rick Hammond <akrhammond@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:24 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze

Representative Stolze,

My family of 5 believes it is in the best interest of the Alaskan Public to be provided "priority" in the PERSONAL USE fishery when fishing restrictions are implemented!

To be considered a participant in the Personal Use fishery, the person must be an ALASKAN resident!

NEED I SAY MORE?

Does our Political base understand that COMMERCIAL FISHING is only a TOOL to be used by the Department of Fish to STOP OVER-ESCAPEMENT of fish?

A Commercial fishing permit is not a RIGHT TO FISH.

The Commercial fishery is OWED NO FISH by owning a commercial permit.

The Commercial fishery IS JUST A TOOL available to the Dept of Fish to prevent over-escapement if needed.

THAT IS A FACT.

SO, why would we not have the personal use fishery open at ANY TIME a commercial fishery is open?

The personal use fishery should also be considered FIRST as a means of stopping over-escapement of sockeye or other species of salmon,

It should not be, commercial fishing....then personal use fishing

Anytime the personal use fishery is open, if this fishery cannot handle the abundance of fish and over-escapement is imminent,

THEN AND ONLY THEN should the commercial fleet be called on to fish!

Rick and Julie Hammond
Dependent: Kraig Hammond
Daughters: Lindsey and Kaitlin Hammond
--
Rick Hammond

Darrell Breese

From: Neumann, Richard (Anchorage) <Richard.Neumann@WorleyParsons.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:55 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Representative Stolze

Morning Bill,

Just letting you know, my family has been involved in the personal use fishery since the early 90's. It has become a traditional pastime in our family(working on the third generation) and a mainstay in our freezers. I've witnessed this fishery grow tremendously over the years and believe it's time that the personal use fishery has priority over other fishery's.

Hope to see your support for House Bill 18.

Thanks for your service.

Richard Neumann

4895 N.Edenfield Rd.

Wasilla, AK. 99623

907-229-2132

Richard Neumann

Electrical & Instrumentation Designer | NANA WorleyParsons LLC

Tel: +19073752538

3700 Centerpoint Drive | Anchorage | Alaska | 99503 | United States of America

Richard.Neumann@nanaworleyparsons.com | www.nanaworleyparsons.com

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Darrell Breese

From: Reed, William <William.Reed@CGG.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:41 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Support of HB18

Dear Representative Stoltze,

Yes! I want my voice heard and that of my family, and I support you in pushing forward HB18 giving a voice to those of us who rely on the personal use fisheries for the support of our families and our future.

Thank you!



Wm. "Randy" Reed

Permits & Regulatory Compliance

Alaska

CGG

2450 Cinnabar Loop

Anchorage, Alaska

99507

United States of America

UTC/GMT -9

T 907-346-5306

M 907-351-7144

F 907-276-6034

www.cgg.com

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Darrell Breese

From: Ken's Gmail <kmears5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:15 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: AS 16.05.251(personal Use)

Dear Sir. Please help this personal use fishery bill's passage! It's what our .constitution specifies for AK's permanent residents.

I've been in AK for 52 years & have seen fish traps replaced by outside guides & commercial fishermen that take nearly all our salmon. We need to have justice for Alaska's majority! Thank you very much. Ken Mears 1941 Wickersham Dr. Anchorage,AK 99507 tel: 907-563-7616 Sent from Ken's iPod

Darrell Breese

From: Rick Moore <auroralightsllc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:06 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: hb18

Mr Bill My name is Rick Moore. I live at 36663 Marcia Ln in Soldotna on the Kenai river. My phone number is 252-6282 I would request you to help push through Hb18. As a Alaska resident, The residents of Alaska should have priority to obtain fish in the river, Over the commercial fisheries. It is unfair that we can get shut down, but they can put in nets an take large amounts of fish, that we need to feed our families. Thank you for your time Rick Moore on the Kenai

Darrell Breese

From: bill hanson <billbonh@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Dip netting

I think it is very important for residents of Alaska to have a priority over commercial fisheries.
I support bill HB18
Thanks William Hanson

Darrell Breese

From: Ron Somerville <somerville@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:56 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Bill:

I wanted to let you know that I support the objectives of HB 18. There is some opposition from “sport, recreational and other fishermen. Saying that the taking of fish for personal or family food by Alaskan residents has a higher priority after subsistence uses, would solve that problem.

Thanks for your support.

Ron Somerville

Darrell Breese

From: Harry E. "Budd" Goodyear, MSM, MLA <bg@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 12:26 PM
To: Membership; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: Opinion HB 18

AOC quote:

If dip netters want to be elevated above sport, quided sport, and commercial fisheries...

I am opposed to elevating dip netters above sport and quided sport uses. But please DO put them ahead of commercial use.

Budd Goodyear
Wasilla Area
Registered Voter

Darrell Breese

From: lkunderwood13@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 11:31 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Sir,
I support HB 18 and believe that Alaskans should have priority over the commercial fisheries as well as guided sports fisherman Thanks, Lee Underwood

Sent from my iPhone

Darrell Breese

From: Randy Bjorgan <bjorgan@alaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:53 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Representative Stoltze,

My wife and I support HB 18.

Until last year we never participated in the dip net fishery. Because of physical limitations, resulting from health issues limiting outdoor activities, I was invited by a couple of friends to utilize the dip net fishing method to obtain enough fish to fill the home freezer for this winter's meals. Without the dip netting activity we would have run out of fish before Christmas as the days of river fishing were few and the number of fish caught was even fewer. Normally my wife and I have been able to catch enough for the winter from the river on rod and reel, which we don't consider "Sports Fishing". We are out there to fill the freezer, not to kill fish for "sport" with catch and release activity.

We believe that if you catch a fish or shoot an animal, you eat it, not sell it.

As long as the commercial fisheries are allowed to rape Alaska resources and deprive Alaskans food for their table, measures need to be implemented to enable us to fill our freezer, and HB 18 is one of these measures.

Thank you for your efforts.

Bjorgan

Randy & Margaret Bjorgan

3038 Donington Drive

Anchorage AK 99504-3847

(907) 952-4353

Darrell Breese

From: Rome Gilman <rome@wsiak.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:02 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rome Gilman
Subject: Dip netting is a priority.

Bill,

How are you doing? I wanted to add my support for priority of personnel use fishing over commercial use. I think we have long had the cart before the horse on this issue. I feel the list should be as follows:

Priority 1. Sport fishing which should have a different name like "most sustainable with the highest dollar return per pound of fish".

Priority 2. Personnel use fishing/dip netting. I think this should be the same as Priority 1 but that is not how we have chosen to word our rules and regulations. If they were one in the same it would be a much cleaner process.

Priority 3. Commercial fishing should be a harvest of all excess fish that are not needed by the residents for sustenance.

This is my take on the issue's on fishing. The State Constitution sets a priority for Citizens first. We all own the resource and as such should have first opportunity to harvest the surplus.

Due to the nature of Salmon returns the commercial guys hit the fish first and so we simply need to control that a little better to preserve stocks. I was watching a show on salmon fishing last night and it was obvious to me that the drifters were hitting the Cook inlet Westside fishery pretty hard. This would most likely explain the low returns to the Susitna drainage. I know from years of living here that these fish travel the North west side of the inlet. Fish that side, catch those fish. I am not against commercial fishing and do not want to see this industry damaged as we need every bit of economy boosting activity that we can get here in Alaska. However I have come to realize from the years of living I have done that commercial fishing in Alaska has become a far higher boon to Southern States and Foreign countries than our own citizens. I would not be against a Local fisherman preference to keep some of the money in our state.

Thanks for the time

Orville "Rome" Gilman III

Darrell Breese

From: Vern Aiton <v8n@wildak.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:43 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB-18

Representative Stoltze,

The members of Delta Sportsmens Assn feel very strongly that subsistence fisheries should have priority over commercial and sport fisheries.

Thank you

Vern Aiton
DSA, Director

Darrell Breese

From: Wayne Heimer <weheimer@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:41 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Steve Thompson
Subject: HB 18

Rep. Stoltze, et al.

I support HB 18. The "personal use" classification has always been a way of prioritizing commercial interests in salmon above the use of Chitina red salmon for food by Alaskans. In any rational world, such use would be considered subsistence. I infer that's what HB 18 would do, and I'm for it.

Wayne Heimer
1098 Chena Pump Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Darrell Breese

From: Gene and Chris Kissee <gkissee@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 7:28 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Dear Rep Stoltz. I want to go on record as being in favor of HB18 so that the fish resources of Alaska will be more fairly accessible to all Alaska residents instead of just commercial interests and want to encourage its passage. Thank you , Eugene Kissee 17916 tedrow drive Eagle River,99577 ,907-694-9719, gkissee@mtaonline.net

Darrell Breese

From: Thomas Wadzinski <twadzin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 7:26 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal Fisheries

I believe Personal Fisheries should have priority over Commercial Fisheries.
Personal Fisheries do not decimate fish supplies as Commercial Fisheries tend to do. All over the world!

This is fish for Alaskans. Not fish for Seattle Fisherman. (I don't understand why Seattle has the bulk of the licenses to catch fish!)

The money from their fishing goes to Seattle, not Alaska.

It is in our interests to protect Alaska interests and resources.

Thanks for listening (Reading)

Tom Wadzinski
Anchorage

Darrell Breese

From: Dennis Hamann <66mustang@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 6:16 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Hello Rep.Stoltze,

Just a quick note to say I support providing for Alaskans to fill their freezers before we give the rest to Commercial interests.

Thanks,
Denny Hamann

Darrell Breese

From: Terry Boyle <tcbhunter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 5:23 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Dipnet Fisheries

Terry C Boyle

I think Alaskan residents need this personal use resource. We need to reel in the Commercial Fisheries , there's too much By Catch going on !

Darrell Breese

From: Larry Kappel <lkappel@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 5:23 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal Use Fisheries

Most Honorable Representative Stoltze:

I have been dipnetting for Kings and Reds on the Copper River for over 19 years. Dipnetting for Salmon on the Copper River is a valuable source of food for my family. I have always believed that when the Copper River fishery was declared a Personal use fishery, we should have a higher priority for taking salmon than commercial fishing, sport fishing, and chartered sport fishing. I am really enthused and happy that you are representing us in such a great way.

Many thanks

Larry Kappel
2251 Peede Rd
North Pole, AK 99705
907-488-5861

Darrell Breese

From: Clemens M. Clooten <cmclooten@ci.fairbanks.ak.us>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:50 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Rep. Bill Stoltze,

Thank you for your effort regarding HB 18. I support this bill! There should be a priority for personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal

Thank you again,

Clem Clooten

Darrell Breese

From: linjim@mtaonline.net
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:44 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal Use Fisheries Bill

Hi Rep. Stoltze,

I read a short note on HB 18 and I believe this is a bill that is needed for families to help with food during the winter. This is not a sport fishery. I do believe that the numbers of fish allowed could be reduced per family. And, more control over how many fish are actually being taken by people. The rules/laws need to be adhered to for numbers taken, fish marked and permit marked before leaving the fishing location.

Thank you,

Linda Page

P O Box 872912

Wasilla, AK 99687-2912

email: linjim@mtaonline.net

Darrell Breese

From: Dennis Wheeler <fishwheeler101@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:31 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

We support HB 18, Dennis and Dora Wheeler, 13001 E Norman Ave. Palmer, 99645, 745-4932

Darrell Breese

From: Bing <hap@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:11 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: SUPPORT US

PLEASE STAND UP FOR US THE DIPNETTERS, THIS HELP FEED FAMILYS

Darrell Breese

From: Burt Myers <ibbuffalo@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:11 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Dear Representative Stoltze,
I am not in favor of HB 18. While I am in favor of Alaskan residents to harvest fish with priority over commercial fisheries, I do not feel dipnetters should be elevated above sport and guided sport fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration,

Burt Myers

PO Box 671689
Chugiak, AK 99567

907-688-0737

ibbuffalo@gci.net

Darrell Breese

From: Carol & Norma Christiansen <ccnpchris@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:10 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Sarah Page
Subject: Ref HB18

Hi Rep. Bill Stoltze.;

We (me and my family) are definitely favor of HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal." .

We have used depnetting for as long as it has been available.

Carol Chrisrtiansen

Darrell Breese

From: Byron Haley <bwhaley4@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:07 PM
To: Sen. John Coghill; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Mike Kelly; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: BYRON W. HALEY 12 13
Subject: HB#18

THAT SHOULD BE HB #18 INSTEAD OF HB 16
BYRON W HALEY
1002 PIONEER RD
FAIRBANKS, AK. 99701-2818
CDA TREASURER

Darrell Breese

From: Mark Vallarino <mpvallarino@alaska.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:01 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Hello Bill

We need to make sure that dipnetters have a priority for personal use fishing.

Thanks

Mark

--

Mark Vallarino
Systems Analyst
School of Fish and Ocean Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks
905 Koyukuk, 239 O'Neill Bldg
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

Darrell Breese

From: Brian <kiwiak@ak.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:36 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Re HB 18 Personal Use Fisheries Bill - Very important

I have always found it interesting that big business had first call on making a profit over subsistence fisheries catching their staples.

Fish is a major staple in much of Alaska's diet. And we deserve the right to enjoy it without being starved out by the commercial interests.

Brian Kemp

7601 Pleasure View Cir

Anchorage AK 99507

In Alaska

Darrell Breese

From: Byron Haley <bwhaley4@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:35 PM
To: Sen. John Coghill; Rep. David Guttenberg
Cc: BYRON W. HALEY 12 13
Subject: HB 18

I am very much in support of HB#16 we have every right to feed are family.

Byron W Haley
1002 Pioneer Rd
Fairbanks, AK. 99701-2818
CDA Treasurer

Darrell Breese

From: Willy <fishtales@alaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:33 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

This bill needs to be passed it is long overdue Wilfred Blais Delta Jct Alaska 1165 James road

Darrell Breese

From: John Macgirvin <jmacgirvin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:17 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

Please allow person use fishing, dip netting, as a priority of commercial uses. My food supply relies upon it. I really need it to get by.

Warmest Regards,

John D Macgirvin
PO Box 436
2925 Pirates LN
Kenai, AK 99611-0436
907-717-9973.

Sent from my iPhone

Darrell Breese

From: Melvin Grove <mbgrove@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:01 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

Representative Stoltze,

I strongly support HB18. It's long overdue that Alaskan residents have a priority over the commercial exploration of our food resources. Aside from subsistence, personnel use should have a higher priority over commercial use.

Thanks for fighting for Alaskans. After all, gathering our own personal food resources is one of the reasons most Alaskan's live in our great state.

Best Regards,

Mel Grove
907-440-9148/907-200-2202
2877 South Knollwood Drive, Big Lake, AK 99652

Darrell Breese

From: O'Regan & Kahlenbeck <orka@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:59 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

Rep. Stoltze-

Please support HB18. Personal use should be valued ahead of commercial use of Alaska's fish resources.

Ron Kahlenbeck
Anchorage, AK
907-333-1252

Darrell Breese

From: cderrickak@aim.com
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:47 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18 Support

I have participated in the Chitina Dipnet Fishery since the 1970's. During that time I have seen the bag limit reduced from 45 salmon plus 15 additional fish per household member to today's 15 salmon for a household of one and 30 salmon for a household of two or more with a couple of supplemental periods added each summer allowing for 10 extra fish. The dipnet season has gone from being open June 1 to September 1 to the current emergency openings based on unreliable sonar counts. The king salmon part of the bag limit has gone from 5 per permit down to 1 and since 2009 the retention of the 1 king has either been totally eliminated or limited to the first 2 weeks of the season. In 5AAC 77.591 (f) the Alaska Board of Fisheries even saw fit to put in language that if the Cordova Copper River Commercial fleet were not allowed to fish for 13 consecutive days, then the 100,000-150,000 salmon allocation to the Chitina Dipnet Fishery would be reduced to 50,000 for the remainder of the season. Over the years I have even seen several attempts by commercial fish interests to eliminate the dipnet fishery altogether.

Keep in mind that between 2003 and 2012 out of the average yearly total during that period of 1,549,548 sockeye and king salmon harvested by all users in the Copper River salmon fisheries (commercial, personal use, subsistence and sport) the Chitina Dipnet Fishery average annual harvest during that period was 115,210 sockeye and king salmon or 7% of the total harvest of all users. During that same period the average annual commercial harvest of sockeye and king salmon was 1,304,272 or 84% of the 1,549,548 total.

The Board of Fisheries is always heavily weighted with commercial fishing interests. This current Board I'm told has 5 of the 7 members holding commercial fishing licenses (permits). This makeup has made it nearly impossible to get proposals beneficial to the dipnet fishery passed. For this reason personal use dipnetters have turned to the legislature to correct this commercial bias and place Alaska residents feeding their families as the highest priority. Dipnetting, as born out by the sheer number of permit holders statewide, is the method by choice of Alaska residents to supply salmon to their families.

Chuck Derrick
President Chitina Dipnetters Assn.
1002 Pioneer Rd.
Fairbanks, Ak. 9970
Ph. 907-488-3093

Darrell Breese

From: Gary Stevens <garyatsls@cs.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:44 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB18

Rep. Bill Stoltze,

As one of your constituents, I want to thank you for HB18. I support it because I believe that Alaskans putting food on their tables should have a higher priority than commercial fisheries. The bottom line is that letting more fish into our rivers increases opportunity for subsistence, personal use, and sport/recreational fisheries. Plus, it improves the health of the resources and helps ensure their sustainability. Please feel free to contact me if any questions or to discuss further.

Sincerely,
Gary A. Stevens
Chugiak
garyatsls@cs.com
907-229-4710

Darrell Breese

From: Kenneth Raby <salchapoacher@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:27 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HR 18

I strongly endorse this bill HB 18. It puts the people of Alaska first. This year I did not find a moose but limited out on salmon from dip netting, it would have been a rough winter without it. Many families I know depend on salmon for meat during these high heat fuel prices lately.

Thank you,

Kenneth Raby
Salcha, Ak

Sent from my iPhone

Darrell Breese

From: Bruce Morgan <sampson@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 7:45 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: House Bill 18

HB 18, "An act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fish restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."

Representative Stolze,

My family of 5 believes it is in the best interest of the Alaskan Public to be provided "priority" in the PERSONAL USE fishery when fishing restrictions are implemented!

To be considered a participant in the Personal Use fishery, the person must be an ALASKAN resident!

NEED I SAY MORE?

Does our Political base understand that COMMERCIAL FISHING is only a TOOL to be used by the Department of Fish to STOP OVER-ESCAPEMENT of fish?

A Commercial fishing permit is not a RIGHT TO FISH.

The Commercial fishery is OWED NO FISH by owning a commercial permit.

The Commercial fishery IS JUST A TOOL available to the Dept of Fish to prevent over-escapement if needed.

THAT IS A FACT.

SO, why would we not have the personal use fishery open at ANY TIME a commercial fishery is open?

The personal use fishery should also be considered FIRST as a means of stopping over-escapement of sockeye or other species of salmon,

It should not be, commercial fishing....then personal use fishing

Anytime the personal use fishery is open, if this fishery cannot handle the abundance of fish and over-escapement is imminent,

THEN AND ONLY THEN should the commercial fleet be called on to fish!

Bruce R. Morgan and Family

Robin Childs, wife

Dependant Children; Cade, Colt, and Calie Morgan

6230 Petrified Tree Circle

Anchorage, Alaska 99507

907 346 4855

(I am also a member of the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee, these comments above are my own)



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Darrell Breese

From: Bob Howard <bobhoward@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 7:49 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Re: Dipnetting Legislation

You understand as well as I that Paul doesn't mind taking food from my table so he can put food on his table. He makes his living in this business and his position is very self serving- as is mine but mine is keeping with the intent of our constitution.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 17, 2014, at 7:38 PM, "Rep. Bill Stoltze" <Rep.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your email supporting House Bill 18, Personal Use Fishing Priority. This legislation is important to me and is something that I have been working to make a reality for since 2007, but have been faced with strong opposition from commercial fishing interest and legislators who are sympathetic to the industry.

Despite widespread support of people from all around Alaska, HB 18 which is designed to put Alaskan's first when it comes to having opportunities to catch fish to fill their freezers and feed their families, my efforts continue to meet with opposition.

I hopeful, but not optimistic, that House Bill 18 will move out of the House Special Committee on Fisheries during the hearing in the morning. The committee chairman, Rep. Paul Seaton of Homer, is among the legislators who have not been supportive of our Alaska resident only personal use fisheries.

No matter the outcome in tomorrow's committee hearing, I am committed to continuing to fight for the rights of Alaska's to benefit from Alaska's salmon over the interest of commercial fishing. I, and my family, are among the tens of thousands of Alaskans who fill our freezers or pantries (cans and jars) with wild Alaska salmon.

Thanks again for your support and continued efforts toward the passage of this bill.

Best Regards,

Bill Stoltze

State Representative

On Mar 17, 2014, at 2:21 PM, "Bob Howard" <bobhoward@gci.net> wrote:

Dip net fishing is extremely important to those of us who can participate in it. It is a food for my family. I support the legislation that puts it as a priority ahead of the other beneficial uses of the resource(HB18).

Robert Howard
629 Rangeview Ave.
Homer

Sent from my iPad

Darrell Breese

From: Susan Coyner <rc2ak@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18 Personal use fisheries

Mr. Stoltze,

I wanted to let you know that I appreciate your support of dipnetters. As a member of the Chitina Dipnetters ASSN and the Alaska Outdoor Council, this issue is very important to me and my family. Dipnetting is certainly the mainstay of my family's fish consumed throughout the year. Please contact me if there are any further public comments needed about support for your HB 18. Thanks.

V/r

Robert Coyner

19838 Driftwood Bay Drive

Eagle River, AK 99577

907-622-4476

Darrell Breese

From: James Roach <jroach@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:14 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Dipnetting & AS 16.05.251.(e)

>> Representative Stolze,
>>
>> Thank you for your support of elevating dip netting above sport,
>> guided sport, and commercial fisheries, AS 16.05.251.(e).
>
>> My family has been participating in the Chitna Dipnetting fisheries
>> for our annual food harvest since 1989.
>>
>> Thank you,
>>
>> James Roach
>>
>> Wasilla, Alaska
>>
>>
>>

Darrell Breese

From: dburfoot@aptalaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:00 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18

I support HB 18.
I am a subsistence fisherman who uses Copper River red salmon.

Dan L Burfoot
Tok, AK.

Darrell Breese

From: Mary Silvey <maryannsilvey@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:53 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Personal Use Fisheries HB 18

My family has been dipnetting in Chitina since I was a child. Salmon was a staple of our diet, as was the moose, caribou and birds and rabbits we hunted or the garden vegetables. I fully appreciate the value of the Copper River salmon to the fishing industry, but Alaskan residents who are willing to take the risks and spend the time required to dipnet salmon should not have to take the leftovers, if any, after every other group is provided an allotment. Dipnetting salmon is not a fishing vacation--it is hard work. We call it a "freezer haul." It is a vital part of our diet--frozen, canned and smoked. We always hope to get enough to last us to the next fishing season.

Even now, my family rarely buys fish we don't fish ourselves. When we don't get enough salmon to last the year, we do not buy it at the grocery store. Although out-of-state sales may rise, commercial fishermen are not going to increase their sales by selling to dipnetters who are not allotted enough fish to provide for their families. As someone who depends upon this diet staple, I am very concerned that it be well-managed and I realize that in some years no one is going to get everything they want. But a better priority needs to be considered for Alaskan residents who depend on this resource and I believe this bill will improve that allocation.

Mary W Silvey
PO Box 71350 Fairbanks AK 99707 479-0320

Darrell Breese

From: Carlos Gonzales <mayacadd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:50 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 18 Personal Use Fisheries Bill

Representative Stolze

Good morning Bill,


Just letting you know, my family has been involved in the personal use fishery since the 2005. It has become a traditional pastime in our family and an important support to our household. I've witnessed fishies grow tremendously over the years and believe it's time that the personal use fishery has priority over other fishery's.

Hope to see your support for House Bill 18.

Thanks for your service.

Regards,

Carlos F. Gonzales
Maya CADD Services

907-317-5604 

Darrell Breese

From: Me <kickn@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:30 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Dipnetter

Bill,

My family has lived in alaska 25+ years and really enjoy dipnetting as a family. It supplies us with not only fish for the year, but memories for a lifetime.

Please make us a priority when it comes to making the states fishery goals.

Thanks for your time in reading this email.

Craig Edmundson

Sent from my Alaska Communications Android

Darrell Breese

From: hoagie <hoagie@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: dipnetting

Hello Bill H B 18 needs to be passed for us dipnetters . Thank You Kent Kendrick , Fox Alaska