

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1993-1994 8672

8063 HOUSE RESOURCES

33

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

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

January 21, 1994

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

Dear Representative Williams:

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

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

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

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

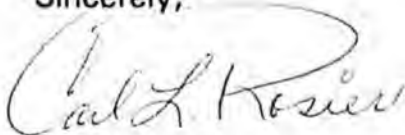
January 21, 1994

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner



RED SALMON ALERT!!

SPORTS FISHERMEN, DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS!!

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

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

ANCHORAGE
POM
Call Now!! 258-8111

KENAI PENINSULA
POM
Call Now!! 262-9364

MAT-SU VALLEY
POM
Call Now! 376-3704

JUNEAU
POM
Call Now!! 465-4648

STATEWIDE -- 800-478-4648

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speak up, sports anglers

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

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

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

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

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

— Phil Cutler

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

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

By Representative Mulder
(with eighteen co-sponsors)

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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

Section 1. AS 16.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:
Sec. 16.03.740. MANAGEMENT OF COOK INLET SOCKEYE SALMON. Subject to AS 16.03.258, it is the policy of the state that each year a number of sockeye salmon equal to at least 15 percent of the sockeye salmon from Cook Inlet stocks taken in the commercial Cook Inlet drift gill net and east side Cook Inlet set net fisheries be utilized exclusively for sport fishing purposes in the Kenai, Susitna, and other river systems draining into Cook Inlet. The in-river harvest of Cook Inlet stocks of sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet region for sport fishing purposes shall be allocated among the river systems of the region in the proportion that each river system has traditionally contributed the production of sockeye salmon in the region.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD !

Please call in your POM today!

If passed, the legislation will take effect THIS YEAR!

Remember, they're YOUR FISH !!

ANCHORAGE
POM
Call Now!! 258-8111

KENAI PENINSULA
POM
Call Now!! 262-9364

MAT-SU VALLEY
POM
Call Now! 376-3704

JUNEAU
POM
Call Now!! 465-4648

STATEWIDE -- 800-478-4648

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

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

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

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

I would like to have a committee assignment

I can help on a "phone tree"

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

*I think CISC should have
an annual meeting*

Other _____

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

Alaska State Legislature
Representative Carl E. Moses

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FISHERIES

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



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

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kay Andrew, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

FROM: Representative Carl E. Moses

DATE: February 14, 1994

SENT BY FAX TRANSMITTAL

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

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

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

Kay Andrew
Page 2
February 14, 1994

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

Thank you for your hard work.

cc. Board of Fisheries Members

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Carl E. Moses

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FISHERIES

MEMBER FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES ON
DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME
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SESSION:
CAPITAL BUILDING, ROOM 204
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
PHONE: (907) 465-4451
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716 W. 4TH AVE. #630
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PHONE (907) 258-8167
FAX: (907) 258-8468

January 27, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Penney:

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

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

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

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

Mr. Bob Penney
January 27, 1994
Page 2

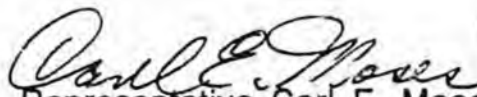
Encouraging increased sport fishing pressure on the Kenai River system, in particular, seems contradictive to the the very positions you advocate. Information from the Department of Fish & Game clearly states that the near-shore habitat is suffering extensive damage from sport fishermen and the connection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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Representative Carl E. Moses
Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Carl E. Moses

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FISHERIES

MEMBER FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES ON
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SESSION
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FAX (907) 258-8468

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

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

DATE: January 31, 1994

RE: House Bill 366

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

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

Mary McDowell

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
SUPPORTING HB 366

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

MSCVB

RESOLUTION 94-3

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

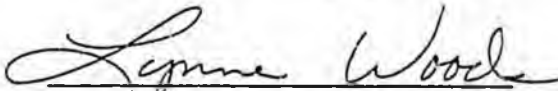
WHEREAS: The Alaska Visitor Statistics Program II study done by the McDowell Group found that visitors chose Alaska over Mexico and Canada as a destination due in part to sportfishing opportunities; and

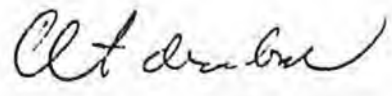
WHEREAS: The "Economic Impact Study of Sportfishing in Alaska" conducted in 1991 by the National Sportfishing Institute found that resident and nonresident anglers spent a combined 384 million dollars on sportfishing activities; and

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

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

Adopted this twenty-seventh day of January, 1994.


Lynne Woods, President


Cathy Dunbar, Executive Director

COOK INLET SPORTFISHING CAUCUS

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

March 9, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Williams:

Wake Up, Sport Fishermen

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Kevin Thomas

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

Sincerely,



Ben Ellis



ALASKA SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

FAX COVER SHEET

To: Representative Williams Fax Number: 465-3793

Attention: Rep. Williams Date: 1/20

RE: attached Time: _____

FROM: PHIL CUTLER- PRESIDENT, ALASKA SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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

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

PAGES TO FOLLOW 4 (Does Not Include Cover Sheet)



ALASKA VISITORS ASSOCIATION

3201 C Street, Suite 403 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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

1993-94

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President

Dennis Brunson

Westmark Hotels
Anchorage, Alaska

1st Vice President

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Riverbend Outfitters
Fairbanks, Alaska

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Alaska Tours

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Brad Phillips

Phallus Cruises & Tours

Tom Ingas

Ketchikan Ferry Lines

Brad Walker

Alaska Airlines

Andrew Westcott

Little's Expeditions
Gold Camp

Naren Conway

Executive Director

#93-11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the AVA Board of Directors

January 10, 1994



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

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

January 3, 1994

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

Dear Governor Hickel:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Richard H. Bishop

Richard H. Bishop
First Vice President

RHB:WJ

Official State Association of the National Rifle Association



Alaska Sportfishing Association

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

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, AK 99508

January 20, 1994

Gentlemen,

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

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

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

Phil Cutler, President

Speak up, sports anglers

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

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

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

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

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

— Phil Cutler



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



January 24, 1994

Dear Legislator:

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

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

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

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

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

Alaska State Legislators
January 24, 1993
Page Two

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Pat Carter
President, Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc.



For your files

KENAI RIVER HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED BY
KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING, INC.
1992



WHY THE CONCERN?

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

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

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

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

WHAT IS KR HABPRO?

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

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

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

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

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

REEP the benefits!

Goal

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

Objectives:

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

Dear Kenal River Landowner,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely Yours,

Ben Ellis, Executive Director

13 FEB 94

Dear Representative Williams:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

James O. Kaiser

8351 Henry Cir.
Anchorage, AK. 99507

February 2, 1994

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

Dear Representative Bill Williams :

I ask you to support HB366.

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

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

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

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

I once again ask you to support HB366.

Thank you,



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



NEWS NEWS WEST NEWS NEWS

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

HEY, BIG SPENDERS

western states boast biggest

FISH AND GAME BUDGETS

BUDGET RANKINGS of western states

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

national top ten

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

Source: Wildlife Legislative Fund

* In Millions

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

February 7, 1994

All Legislators
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear ~~Legislator~~ ^{Bill},

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

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

Sincerely,



Patrick Carter
Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus

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

THANKS AGAIN,

PAI

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

February 7, 1994

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

Dear Representative Moses,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rep. Carl Moses
February 7, 1994
Page 3

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Patrick Carter
Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus

cc. All Legislators

2/6/94

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

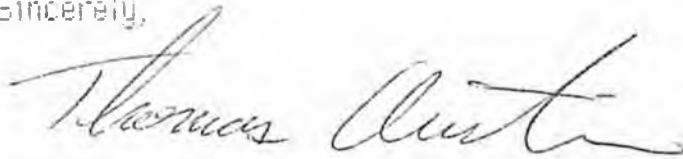
Dear Representative Williams,

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

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas Austin
Eagle River, AK

77 13 376
513 24 / Dave

Sec. 16.05.740 MANAGEMENT OF UPPER COOK INLET SOCKEYE SALMON.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sam E. McDowell

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7871 # of pages >

To	R & P WILLIAMS	From	KEN ABL
Co.		Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	376 2140
Fax #	1 465 3743	Fax #	376 2140

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

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

Historical Average Commercial Harvest = 4,175,833

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

Jan. 20, 1994

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

Dear Rep. Williams,

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

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

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

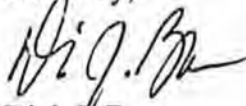
Recent figures that I have seen indicate that there are some 1300 limited entry permit holders in the Cook Inlet fishery. By contrast, some 113,000 non-commercial fishermen participate in the same fishery. By previous board action, based on pressure from commercial fishing groups, the 1300 commercial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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Dick J. Bower

Jan. 19, 1994

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

Dear Ms. Evans,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


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

✓

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

January 20, 1994

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

*Ref: SB 241
HB 366*

Dear Mr. Williams: (Hi Bill)

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

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

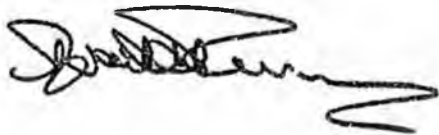
The legislature is the public's 'Court of Last Resort'. If we can't ask you, our elected officials for help, where else can we turn? If we could vote for members of the politically appointed Board of Fish, we wouldn't be bothering you. The will of the public would have settled this issue years ago. We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

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

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

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

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus

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

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

AN ALASKAN ADVENTURE

CHINOOK CHARTERS

TOM RAMISKEY

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

January 8, 1994

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

Dear Speaker Barnes,

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

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

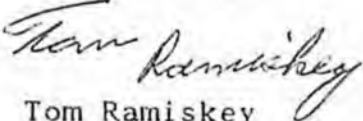
I would hope that the Legislature would step in and resolve more than the Cook Inlet red allocation issue. In my opinion, it is time to restructure the Board in such a manner to ensure that no single user group can maintain a majority position. It is time for the Legislature to ensure that the Board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

Page 2

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

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

Respectfully,



Tom Ramiskey

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

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

January 20, 1994

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

*Ref: SB 241
HB 366*

Dear Mr. Olberg:

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

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

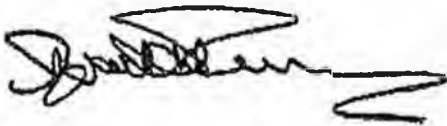
The legislature is the public's 'Court of Last Resort'. If we can't ask you, our elected officials for help, where else can we turn? If we could vote for members of the politically appointed Board of Fish, we wouldn't be bothering you. The will of the public would have settled this issue years ago. We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

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

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

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

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus



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



Alaska Sportfishing Association

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

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

December 9, 1993

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

Dear Mr. Jones,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Phil Cutler, President

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

January 4, 1994

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

Dear Representative Williams:

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

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

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

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

Thanks!



Robert C. Penney

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

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

COOK INLET SPORTFISHING CAUCUS

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

December 20, 1993

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

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

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

COOK INLET SPORTFISHING CAUCUS

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

What this bill would do:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

OPPOSING HB 366



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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

January 18, 1994

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

Dear Representative Williams:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Jerry McCune
President



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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

February 7, 1994

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

Dear Representative Williams:

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

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


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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Jerry McCune
President

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

February, 15 1994

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



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

Bill Williams,

2/14/94

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delora Garcia

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

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

February 23, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

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

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

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

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

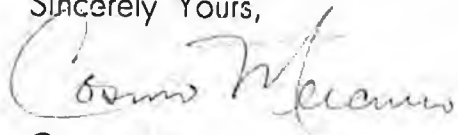
If one were to believe everything that has been printed by the sport fishing industry, they would believe that commercial fishermen are allocated "95% of Cook Inlet sockeye"! The fact is there is no allocation of the sockeye run here. It is a multiuse fishery and it has been managed very well. The numbers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

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

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

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

Sincerely Yours,

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

Cosmo Mercurio

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

February 23, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams,

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

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

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

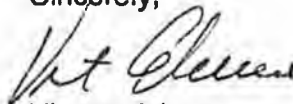
I've never been foreclosed on or gone bankrupt and I will try my best to keep this good record but do you have any idea how hard it will be to make my state payment (\$10,000) in the next few years with the low return forecast? If you pass these bills, you will most likely condemn my future in Cook Inlet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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Vincent Arbucci

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

(907) 586-1291

February 23, 1994

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

Dear Representative Williams:

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

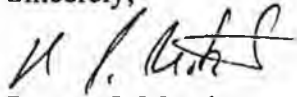
First, legislative intervention in fish or game allocation issues is just bad public policy. Such intervention will undermine the authority of the Boards of Fish and of Game and it will highly politicize sensitive resource issues.

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Roman J. Motyka

Export Limits on Sport Fisheries (CSSB 153)

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

Cook Inlet Salmon Allocations (SB 241 and HB 366)

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Ken Lancaster
President

cc: Governor Walter J. Hickel

January 31, 1994

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

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

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

Dear Legislators:

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

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

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

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

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

Board of Directors

Municipal Governments

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

Chambers of Commerce

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

February 22, 1994

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

Re: Positions on Topics Currently Under Consideration by the Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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

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

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

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

January 31, 1994

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 Opposition to HB 366 and SB 241

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

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

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

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

4 Opposition to HB 366 and SB 241

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

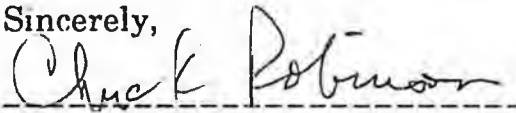
Lastly, the commercial fishery has not in any way impeded the growth of tourism in the state or on the Kenai Peninsula. The tourist industry has continued to grow at a phenomenal rate despite the continuing harvest of millions of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon by commercial fishers. Wouldn't you expect tourism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

7 Opposition to HB 366 and SB 241

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

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

Sincerely,



Chuck Robinson



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

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

February 1, 1994

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

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

Dear President Halford and Speaker Barnes:

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

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

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

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

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

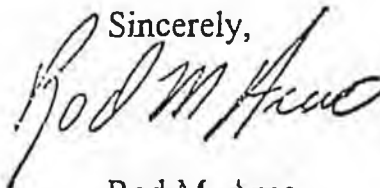
The controversy seems to center on how flexible the management plan is regarding allocation, particularly in response to large runs. Surely under such circumstances an additional sportfishing red salmon allocation is possible without threatening either the spawning escapement or the commercial fishing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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

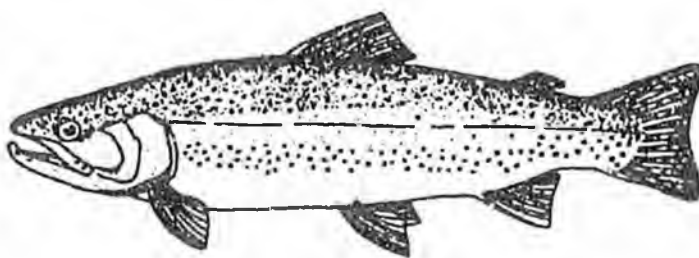
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod M. Arno". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rod M. Arno
President

RMA:RB:ltl

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

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



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



SETS A TERRIBLE PRECEDENT

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



THREATENS KEY RIVER HABITAT

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

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

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



IT'S NOT MANAGEABLE

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



UNDERMINES PUBLIC TRUST

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

PLEASE OPPOSE HB 366/SB 241!

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

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

January 21, 1994

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

Dear Senator Miller:

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

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

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

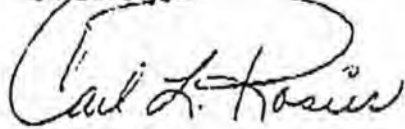
The issue currently before the legislature is the allocation of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. When the Board of Fisheries last considered this issue, many days of local advisory committee meetings led up to thirteen very long deliberative days by the Board on Cook Inlet salmon issues. Over 72 hours were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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

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

January 21, 1994

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

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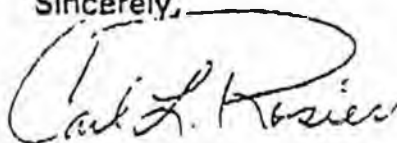
January 21, 1994

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Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

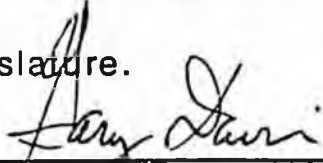
P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

POSITION PAPER ON HB366 AND SB 241

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

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

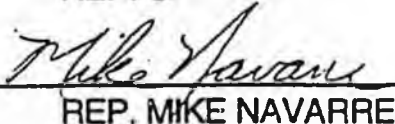
Because the legislature does not have the expertise and background on issues of allocation, the Legislators believe that any allocation request must properly go to the Boards of Fish or Game, and not directly to the legislature.



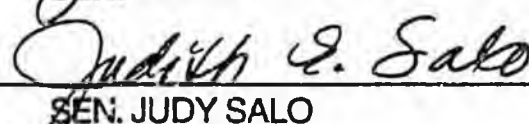
REP. GARY DAVIS



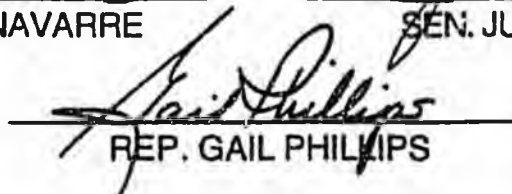
SEN. SUZANNE LITTLE



REP. MIKE NAVARRE



SEN. JUDY SALO



REP. GAIL PHILLIPS



Alaska Center for the Environment

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

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

January 17, 1994

Dear Alaska Legislator:

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

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

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

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

Why the rush?

Very sincerely,

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

Kevin Harun
Executive Director
Alaska Center for the Environment

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

RESOLUTION 94-01

A RESOLUTION IN PROTEST OF SENATE BILL 241

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

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

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

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

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

CERTIFICATION

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

Clare Swan
CLARE SWAN, CHAIRPERSON
KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, IRA

Eli Darien
ELI DARIEN, SECRETARY
KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, IRA

January 17, 1994
DATE



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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

January 18, 1994

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

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

Dear Speaker Barnes:

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

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

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

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

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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