

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1993-1994 8672

8064

HOUSE RESOURCES

329

The Honorable Ramona L. Barnes
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 this bill, 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

January 18, 1994

RECEIVED JAN 19 1994

The Honorable Mike Miller
Alaska State Senate
The Capitol Building, Room 423
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Miller:

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) opposes SB 241 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 Senate passes SB 241, 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 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

The Honorable Mike Miller
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 SB 241, 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
Resident

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JUNEAU EMPIRE, THURSDAY JANUARY 20, 1994

Let the pros do their jobs

Wildlife issues not for Legislature

When it comes to managing Alaska's vast fish and wildlife resources, we'll leave it to the trained biologists, scientists and other professionals on the state payroll.

Legislators should butt out, at least when it comes to allocation and management issues. Few of them are experts on fish and game matters, except to know that the right political position at the right time can reap lots of votes.

Which is probably why there's so much interest by legislators in wildlife issues – and exactly why such important matters should be handled instead by the experts.

It's also why we have a Board of Fisheries, a Board of Game and a state Department of Fish and Game. It's why the state hires biologists, researchers, scientists, fish and wildlife enforcement officers and other well-trained experts.

Yet lawmakers recently have meddled in several complex and controversial wildlife and fisheries matters:

- Attempts by the Game Board last year to allow the first-ever elk hunting season in Southeast Alaska were met by rancor and threats from a lawmaker promoting elk transplant bills. The proposed hunting season – suggested because of fears that already transplanted elk were hurting native deer populations – was stopped. But the elk transplant legislation is still pending – even though the Game Board and the Department of Fish and Game oppose it.

- This year, legislators say they want to tinker with the allocation of red salmon in Cook Inlet. They hope to take away some salmon from commercial fishers and give them instead to sport anglers. It's considered unusual that the Legislature wants to tackle a fisheries allocation issue, but legislation to rearrange the Cook Inlet catch has been promised. It goes against quotas already set by the Board of Fisheries.

- A measure to allow moose ranching in Alaska is also still alive in the Legislature, even though state biologists oppose the idea. They say the risk of disease spreading to native moose populations outweighs the financial aspirations of would-be moose ranchers. Nevertheless, action by the Legislature is still very possible. The bill passed the Senate last year and is now under review in the House.

Look, it's understandable that some legislators want to get involved in fish and wildlife issues. After all, this is Alaska – land of big fish and bigger game.

But the role of lawmakers should be limited to confirming appointees to the boards of fisheries and game and the commissioner of Fish and Game, and major policy issues such as subsistence and salmon farming. Those are the times to address concerns about fisheries allocations or wildlife management.

Instead, there's an alarming willingness by some lawmakers to meddle in very specific fish and game issues. Often, they are working on behalf of special-interest groups that don't like the way the experts have divvied up catch quotas. At other times, they are pushing proposals that already have been turned down by state wildlife managers.

It's dangerous territory. Science, not politics, should steer management of Alaska's fish and game resources.

In addition, once lawmakers embroil themselves in such complex and often controversial matters, they'll have much less time to address the many other important issues facing Alaska.

C P E N I N S U L A CLARION

Vol. 24, Issue 71

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994 Soldotna/Kenai, Alaska

Fish allocation not Legislature's job

The fight over fish allocation that darkens just about every fishing season in Cook Inlet has now moved to the halls of the Capitol.

The proposal being pushed by some key Anchorage-area legislators would set the sport-fishing catch of sockeye salmon at 15 percent of the commercial red catch. Under the current policy, sport fishers catch about 5 percent.

The issue we're most concerned with — and the one that should concern other Alaskans — is not whether sport or commercial fishers should get more fish but whether it's the Legislature's job to get in the fish allocation business.

We've said it before and we don't mind repeating it: Fish management is no job for legislators. It's tough enough for the Board of Fish, which has been appointed to make those difficult decisions based on sound biological information.

It's interesting that in an election year a bunch of legislators want to make a lot of their sport-fishing constituents feel good by promising to get them more fish to catch on the Kenai River. (It should be noted that the allocation bill also applies to the Susitna and all other river systems draining into Cook Inlet.)

We can't help wonder if these legislators are just casting for votes, hoping to snag them with a popular issue. Consider the tactic, if someone were to ask almost anyone who sport fishes in the Cook Inlet area if they'd like to catch more reds, the answer, it's a safe bet, would be "yes."

But, ask the same people if they want the Legislature to be making fish allocation decisions, and we're sure "no" would be the overwhelming response.

The Legislature has enough important jobs to do — getting the budget under control should be No. 1 — without meddling in fish allocation.

In the event, however, the Legislature chooses to do what should be left to the Board of Fish, then it must also address what it's going to do about the added people pressure to the Kenai River and other Cook Inlet drainages.

How much more people pressure can the Kenai River take? Certainly, those legislators pushing for more reds for sport fishers know that such a change will mean more people coming to fish on a river where, on most fishing days, it's hard to imagine squeezing in even one more person with a rod and reel.

Most people realize people pressure is damaging the precious fish habitat which ultimately will mean disaster to the Cook Inlet fish runs if something isn't done to check it. Inviting more people to come and fish — as the proposal giving sport fishers a greater portion of the red catch will do — is not exactly taking care of the habitat.

Is the Legislature prepared to come up with some system to reduce the pressure on the Kenai while increasing the number of fish for sport fishers? Maybe it could consider a proposal where half the sport fishers can fish only on odd-numbered days and the other half on even-numbered days? Maybe only out-of-state people could fish on even-numbered days and Alaskans could fish on odd-numbered days? Maybe the Legislature wants to put what days people can fish on individual fishing permits? Maybe it could place more limitations on sport-fishing guides? Or restrict access to popular areas?

We can understand that promising sport fishers a bigger share of the red catch would be a popular thing for legislators to do, but fish allocation is best left to the Board of Fish. Forgive the pun, but the Legislature has other fish to fry.



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389

(907) 283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306

**KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE ALLOCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEMO #1**

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Legislator,

I'm writing to inform you of our strong opposition to Cook Inlet allocation legislation to amend AS 16.05, Management of Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon, being proposed by Representative Mulder which has been requested by Mr. Bob Penny and some heretofore unknown "organization" calling itself Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus (CISC).

Sockeye salmon harvests represent 90-95% of the income for the commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet. Therefore, when dealing with sockeye salmon allocation issues, United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) represents the 3,500 harvesters, 3,000 processing workers and all those who work in the many other industries that support ours. Our industry represents 40% of the work force in the Kenai Peninsula Borough during the fishing season. Furthermore, 79% of the commercial salmon permit holders in Cook Inlet are Alaskan residents - this is one of the highest residency rates for any of Alaska's major commercial fisheries.

Rep. Mulder and CISC propose to have the legislature enter into the realm of fish and game allocation which is properly reserved to the Boards of Fisheries and Game. Alaska's fish and game resources and local communities dependent on resources desired by others with more political clout or votes on any given day will not survive "management and allocation" by politics.

Consideration of this legislation will set a precedent for all controversial fish and game issues to come before the legislature. No one should be under the illusion that this is just

an isolated Cook Inlet allocation issue. Once the legislature enters into the realm of fisheries allocation between sport and commercial users in Cook Inlet the next step will be to take up sport/commercial disputes in all other areas of the state. Following that, the legislature will undoubtedly be asked to take up issues within commercial and sport user groups - e.g. bait vs. fly sportsfishermen, guided vs. non-guided sportsfishermen, and the obvious allocation issues within the commercial fishing community. It must also be noted that Game issues (wolves, caribou, etc.) will not be immune from this precedent.

Rep. Mulder's proposal presents all of the negative aspects of political allocation just noted:

- 1) The habitat destruction already acknowledged as being caused by the sockeye fishery from the river banks will be increased dramatically and on a permanent annual basis. It should be noted also that, ironically, the habitat and the fishery resources most at risk are the king and coho salmon which have made the Kenai River a truly renowned "sport fishery".
- 2) The current proposal requests an "allocation" far beyond the capacity of the "sport" fishery to harvest in the Kenai River during large returns. The dipnet solution to this little flaw in logic being proposed by Rep. Mulder would only dramatically increase boat traffic on a river that is universally acknowledged as being currently over utilized. Furthermore, crowding problems in the Kasilof and Susitna systems will likewise be compounded.
- 3) Further, the "sport" harvests mandated in the Susitna and Kasilof systems, in and of themselves, would assure major reductions or elimination of harvest opportunities for commercial fishermen in order to assure enough sockeye enter those systems. The commercial fishery in Cook Inlet would simply not remain a viable industry.

UCIDA is preparing an information packet to address the multitude of misrepresentations being presented by Mr. Penny and CISC. We will have representatives in Juneau soon to discuss this issue with you. In the meantime, we hope you will resist Representative Mulder's request for the

Legislative Memo #1

Page 3 of 3

legislature to open up the pandora's box of fish and game "allocation by legislation". Once opened, all fish and game issues statewide - even those within the sportfishing community - will be fair game and before future legislatures.

Please feel free to contact the UCIDA office for further information.

Sincerely,



Theo Matthews
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure: Homer News article, Some like spokane bill, others don't



HOMER NEWS

LUCIDA
P.O. BOX
KENAI

Homer, Alaska, Vol 21, No. 1

Thursday, January 6, 1984

Some like sockeye bill, others don't

by Doug Loshbaugh
Staff Writer

An Anchorage legislator says he expects 21 representatives and 11 senators to sign onto his bill to allocate 15 percent of the Cook Inlet red salmon catch to sport fishermen.

But Homer-area sport fishermen contacted by the Homer News expressed little support for the bill, which Rep. Eldon Mulder, R-Anch., said he'll file next week.

"I wouldn't even be in favor of it," said Meryl Wolford, an Anchor Point sport-fishing guide. "In my mind, reds aren't real sport fish."

He said sportsmen should focus efforts on kings and silvers.

"I'd give commercial fishermen every red salmon in the state of Alaska if they'd be a little more sympathetic on our kings and silvers," Wolford said.

Homer sport-fishing guide Frank Libal, vice president of the South Peninsula Sportsman's Association, doubted hook-and-line fishermen could even take 15 percent of a big Cook Inlet run.

"You can't do it in salt water," he said. "In fresh water, only a small percentage of fishermen are legitimately taking those fish. The rest are snagging. That's not sport fishing to me."

Homer commercial drift fisherman Bill Choate said allocating 15 percent to sport fishermen could ruin the commercial fleet.

"They're talking a price of 60 cents a pound next year. That's pushing an average season to \$10,000 or \$15,000. Fifteen percent would be a lot of people's insurance payments. How much blood can you squeeze

from a turnip?"

He said the more Anchorage grows, the more sacrifices its residents demand from commercial fishermen. Theo Matthews, administrative assistant for the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, said commercial fishermen have already given up the early reds and kings and face increasing restrictions to protect Kenai River silvers.

Choate said he could imagine being driven out of commercial fishing. But he's fished so long, he can't imagine leaving.

"My lifestyle — the essence of who I am — is being gnawed away," he said. "It's real scary when you're middle-aged. Say I owned a gas station and they re-routed the highway."

Matthews said new allocations to sport fishermen would increase damage to the banks of the Kenai River.

Libal and Homer charter operator Jack Montgomery said they feared sport fishermen couldn't keep up if managers let too many reds past commercial fishermen. There might be too many spawners in the Kenai River. Biologists already predict a series of poor runs because excess spawners overloaded the river in the late 1980s.

Biologist Steve Hammarstrom of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Soldotna said that if 1.5 million reds entered the Kenai, as happened in 1987, rod-and-reel fishermen probably couldn't reduce them to the maximum of 700,000 spawners sought by biologists. Dipnetters might do it, he said. But Libal said he doesn't believe dipnetting is sport fishing.

"That's personal use or subsistence to me," Libal said. "If you're going to allocate to sport fishing, that's hook-and-line."



UCIDA

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(907) 283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306

**KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE ALLOCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEMO #2
January 12, 1994**

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Legislator,

United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) strongly opposes SB 241 introduced by Senator Halford. As we noted in our first legislative memo on January 14, 1994, any attempt to politically allocate our fish or game resources would set a terrible precedent and start us down the road to putting our resources at risk. SB 241 does just that!

This bill strikes a fatal blow to our fishery habitats which are already at risk with current levels of use. Our resources and all users of our resources will suffer. SB 241 is not a simple reallocation of sockeye salmon to sport fishermen that can be easily accomplished as its supporters represent.

SB 241 will turn what is currently, at times, a three ring circus of activity on the Kenai, Kaallaf and Susitna Rivers into a Habitat House of Horrors.

Please consider the following:

- "The river can't support all of the use it is currently receiving." (Mr. Phil Cutler, President, Alaska Sportfishing Association, Letter to Gov. Hickel, 2/17/93, Please see enclosure)

- "The most obvious problem is the annual trampling of the banks, when anglers flock to the Kenai by the thousands to fish for red (sockeye) salmon - All up and down the river, they walk on the fragile banks, caving them into the water and killing the streamside vegetation." "Rearing king and coho salmon prefer areas where natural cover - long grasses, willows and the like - hang over the water. Take away the cover, and you take away the fish." (Emphasis ours) "(Les Palmer, The One Thing More Important Than Fishing, Alaska Sportfishing Newsletter, Volume IX, Letter 4, April 1993, Please see enclosure)

- "There are times and places on the Kenai River when users report some of the highest perceived crowding levels of any resource studied." (Kenai River Carrying Capacity Study, ADNR report, Oct. 1993, pg. 13)
- "There are no examples of major streams, producing streams, in the United States or anywhere else in the world, that have ever had extensive development along their banks, that still continue to produce salmon" (Lance Trasky, ADF&G, Oral Report to Board of Fisheries, Nov. 1992, Tape #14A)
- "I am addressing proposal #49, which asks for 320,000 allocations of sockeyes for the sport fishery . . . But we don't want you to do any of this, give us any more fish, unless you can help us stop degradation of the habitat." (Mr. Bob Penny, Chairman of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association, Oral Testimony, to Alaska Board of Fisheries, Nov. 1992, Tape #19B @ 424)

We urge all legislators to consider the comments above and read the enclosures attached while considering the merits of SB 241. The primary responsibility of the State and all user groups is to ensure the conservation of our fishery resources. SB 241 and its eventual companion bill in the House put not only our sockeye at risk, but also our king and coho resources.

As an industry whose harvest opportunities for other species of salmon has been restricted or completely eliminated by the Board of Fisheries to provide increased sport fishing opportunities, we are, of course, concerned with allocation issues dealing with sockeye salmon - whatever the forum. This will be the subject of another memo in the near future.

Please feel free to contact the UCIDA office for further information.

Sincerely,



Theo Matthews
Administrative Assistant

Enclosures:

- Cover Sheet, Loving A River To Death, ADF&G May/June 1993
- Letter to Governor Hickel, ASA, Feb. 17, 1993
- The One Thing More Important Than Fishing, ASA Newsletter, Volume IX, letter 4, April 1993
- Habitat Damage No.1 Threat to Salmon Run, Jeff Barnard, Peninsula Clarion, April 23, 1993



Alaska Sportfishing Association

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

February 17, 1993

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

Dear Governor Hickel:

When you were running for Governor, sport fishermen were among your strongest supporters. Now we need your support on an issue of great importance to our members and the general public. A permit for a boat harbor/wetland fill has been reviewed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (known as Moose River 8). In their review, ADF&G strongly rejected permitting this project and we wholeheartedly support their action. The Office of Governmental Coordination rejected ADF&G's rejection of the permit application. Now the permit review has been elevated.

As the largest sportfishing association in Alaska, we support facilities that provide access to fishermen and boaters. However, this interest has to take a back seat to concern for the Kenai River. The river can't support all of the use it is currently receiving. Development of new projects, such as the one being reviewed, will only add to the existing problems of crowding. More importantly, the proposed project will have a significantly damaging impact on the river. This type of project is exactly why the Kenai River Special Management Area Plan was developed. Without protection, the productivity of the river will be lost to us all. The type of facility being proposed is the most damaging there is to the critical habitat the fisheries resource depends upon. There are less damaging modes the applicant could pursue, but he is apparently unwilling to change his project.

We have all seen damage along the Kenai from recreational use. This summer, the City of Kenai will be starting a project to rehabilitate a short length damaged river bank, at a cost of over \$500,000. It is clear that we cannot afford to fix all the damage that has occurred or will occur on the Kenai. If we want it to provide recreational opportunity and be the cornerstone for the recreational/tourist industry in the area, we need to focus on prevention of damage. Rejecting this permit is a good start on prevention. Sport fishermen and the public don't need another dock and boat harbor. What we need is a viable and healthy Kenai River now and in the future.

Please support the action of ADF&G in their rejection of this project and instruct the Office of Governmental Coordination to withdraw their objection.

Thank you for your action on this issue.

Regards,


The Alaska Sportfishing Association
Phil Cutler, President

cc. Senator Ted Stevens
cc. Senator Frank Murkowski
cc. Congressman Don Young

Alaska Sportfishing Association

3605 Arctic Blvd., Suite 800
Anchorage, Alaska
(907) 561-1461



PISCATORIAL PATTERN

April 1993

Volume IX Letter 4

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The One Thing More Important Than Fishing

by Les Palmer

If fishing is the main reason many of us live in Alaska—and it is—then it follows that we should take very seriously any threat to fishing—but we don't.

The most insidious threat to fishing is the degradation and loss of habitat, the food, water and cover that fish need in order to

survive and thrive. You might think we'd put more importance on such a threat than we would on, say, Watching sports on television, but I often wonder.

In an essay, "Population Growth Versus Fisheries Resources" (*Fisheries*, Sept.-Oct. 1992), C. Dale Becker wrote in brutal terms what habitat loss means:

"The ultimate effect of human activity is extinction. During the past 100 years, 40 known taxa (species) of North American fish have become extinct from activities related to occupation and development by humans, and their extinction rates are expected to increase."

Scary stuff, that. But what does it mean to you and me? That happened Outside. This is Alaska, where we do things right. Right? Right. Just look what's happening to our favorite fishing hole, the Kenai River.

The situation on the Kenai—or more correctly, *beside* the Kenai— isn't good. The most obvious problem is the annual Trampling of the Banks, when anglers flock to the Kenai by the thousands to fish for red (sockeye) salmon. All up and down the river, they walk on the fragile banks, caving them into the water and killing the streamside vegetation. In the more popular fishing areas, the results are obvious: barren, rapidly eroding banks.

Rearing king and coho salmon prefer areas where natural cover—long grasses, willows and the like—hang over the water. Take away the cover, and you take away the fish.

Anglers aren't the only culprits. Some property owners clear-cut everything growing near the river for a "view." Others like neatly mown lawns, right to the river's edge. Still others fill in wetlands for a dry spot to build, anything to fulfill their Alaskan dream.

Ironically, both anglers and property owners are slowly but surely destroying their reason for being on the Kenai, the good fishing.

Terry Bendock, a fisheries biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is one of several scientists concerned about the health of Kenai River habitat.

"Something like one out of every five or six fish caught by anglers in Alaskan waters comes from the Kenai River," Bendock says, "but we still don't have adequate protection for its fish habitat."

He cites the disastrous salmon runs of recent years in the Pacific Northwest as what we'll see here, if we aren't careful. Dams, urbanization, exploitation and forestry practices, to name but a few, have taken a heartbreaking toll on salmon, their fisheries, once thought to be a solution, have turned out to be just another problem. Entire stocks have been lost from streams that were, less than a century ago,

DATES TO REMEMBER
General Membership Meeting
April 13, 1993 - 7:30 Tuesday
(Remember: Always the 2nd Tuesday)

Program details below:

Board of Directors Meeting

April 21, 1993 - Wednesday

Begins at 6:30 P.M.

(Agenda Items - 561-1461)

General Membership Meeting

Scheduled Program:

- ★ Free Fish Fry
- ★ How, where and when to catch Halibut with Pete 'Halibut Guru' Hardy
- ★ Selecting the winners for the membership contest
- ★ Contest and Kid's Fish Bowl drawings from the Great Alaskan Sportsman's Show
- ★ Election of Officers
- ★ Raffle

See Ya' At The West Coast International Inn!!!

(Continued - page 4)

Calendar of Events

April 2nd - Trout Unlimited, Anchorage Chapter's Annual Banquet and Auction
Captain Cook Hotel

April 8th - 11th - The 10th Annual Great Alaskan Sportsman Show
Sullivan Arena

April 13th - General Membership Meeting:
"Halibate" with Pete Hardy. General elections to be held for the Board of Directors. (see page 6 for details and mail in ballot)

April 21st - Board of Directors Meeting

May 13th - General Membership Meeting:
Kelley Hepler from ADF&G will talk about Prince William Sound Fishing, Doug Ogden will show his video on his fishing trip in San Diego, Dick Freisinger will have a presentation on Cold Water Near Drowning

The One Thing More Important Than Fishing (continued from page 1)

with fish.

is anything being done to save the banks of the Kenai?

"I'm encouraged by the grass-roots, shotgun-type approach that's being taken by several agencies and organizations now," he says.

For the first time that he remembers, habitat problems were discussed by the Board of Fisheries at its meeting last fall.

The Habitat Division is conducting a formal inventory of structures and physical changes in the river.

The Kenai River King Salmon Fund (a non-profit organization funded mainly by the sale of kings caught in east-side commercial setnets) is installing educational displays at visitor centers in Kenai and Soldotna.

State Parks is revegetating portions of heavily damaged riverbank and steering anglers away from severely impacted parts of Blig's Landing and Morgan's Landing.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has some habitat studies in the works.

The Soil Conservation Service just released a manual that should help property owners.

The City of Soldotna is revegetating the banks near Soldotna Creek.

Kenai River Sportfishing, through its Habitat Protection Program, is actively helping property owners to both use and protect their riverbanks.

But are we gaining against the loss of fish habitat?

Not according to Bendock. He says we're not really stemming loss, and that there's no end in sight. Riverfront wetlands are still being filled. More structures are being put in the river each year. More vegetation is being destroyed.

"The Kenai Peninsula Borough hasn't done anything since the comprehensive management plan for the river was finished," he

says. "That's where land-use controls should come from. Nothing is likely to happen until people start pounding on the borough door."

"The quality of fishing for future generations depends on what we do now," he says.

Anglers and property owners obviously don't know they're damaging streamside vegetation needed by rearing king and coho salmon. They don't know that their one, small action, when multiplied 10,000 times, seriously damages fish habitat. They don't know that a donkey can only stand so many bricks being loaded on its back before it falls down.

At least I hope they don't know. I'd hate to think they didn't care.

LES PALMER is an outdoor writer who lives in Sterling, Alaska.

CONCERNED ABOUT HABITAT?

Property owners can help save the Kenai River by following the Soil Conservation Service's Habitat Management Plan.

Call Ben Ellis at Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. for information on the Kenai River Habitat Project. Call 907-335-5555.

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA

Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc.

Habitat damage No. 1 threat to salmon runs

By JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press Writer

MAPLETON, Ore. — Charlie Dewberry used to hate to come to Knowles Creek.

A century of Paul Bunyan-style logging had practically wiped out the salmon and steelhead that had survived for 10,000 years in the Northwest.

Now he is all smiles as he shows off the way he has tossed huge logs and root wads in the water to create pools, capture floating leaves and twigs and restore the web of life in this Coast Range tributary of the Siuslaw River.

"You want it to get messy like this," said Dewberry, stream ecologist for the Pacific Rivers Council, an environmental group dedicated to restoring the dwindling salmon runs of the Northwest. "You want it complex with stuff sticking out all over the place."

In recent years, fishing authorities have steadily cut back ocean fishing in a vain attempt to stem the decline of salmon runs.

But the future of coho, chinook and steelhead runs depends on what is happening in little creeks like this.

Salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout are known as anadromous fish. That means they are born and start growing up in freshwater, migrate to the ocean to mature, then return to their native streams to spawn.

In recent years, natural cycles have made life tough on salmon in the ocean. Meanwhile, freshwater habitat has been severely damaged by dams, heavy logging, agriculture, drought, urban development and pollution.

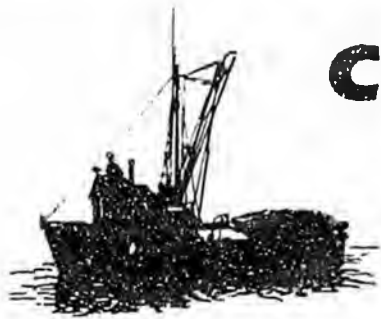
Since no one can do anything to change the cycles of the ocean, the people fighting for the survival of salmon in the Northwest are focusing on getting back to nature in the forests where salmon cycle begins.

"Any of the stuff we do is just a Band-Aid until that is a 200-year-old tree," Dewberry said, pointing to a cedar seedling. "That is what it is going to take to restore the streams. All we are doing is we're just buying time."

The Siuslaw River once produced enough salmon to keep three canneries busy in Florence. In the 1890s, scientists estimate, the annual run was 218,000 fish. That's nearly as much as the entire commercial catch from the Columbia River to Mexico last year. Knowles Creek contributes about 120 adult fish.

The American Fisheries Society has identified 214 runs of salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout in the West that are in danger of extinction.

"The most pervasive factor causing these declines is habitat damage caused by human activities," said Willa Nehlsen, lead author of the report.



Cook Inlet Seiners Association

P.O. Box 4311
Homer, Alaska 99603
235-2656

January 19, 1994

Senator Suzanne Little
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1182


Re: HB 241

Dear Senator Little:

The Cook Inlet Seiners Association is writing to thank you for your opposition to HB 241. Because the Legislature established the Board of Fish to deal with and settle fish related issues including allocation of the resource, it would be contrary to the Legislative intent for it to become involved. Also, such involvement would set a precedent whereby every fish related concern could be brought to the Legislature for resolution. Not only does the Legislature not have the time to take on additional tasks let alone the time and expertise involved in reviewing biological data to make an informed and intelligent decision, it is not a responsible and reasonable use of their time considering the many issues they are mandated to resolve.

Again, thank you Representative Phillips for your opposition to HB 241. We look forward to working with you and your staff this session.

Sincerely,


AlRay Carroll, President

Cook Inlet Seiners Association

cc: United Cook Inlet Drift Association
Kenai Peninsula Fishmen's Association



Cordova District Fishermen United

P.O. Box 939
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-3447 FAX (907) 424-3430

1/14/94

FROM; Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)
Box 939
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-3447

TO: Senate Rules Committee

RE: Senate Bill 241

Dear Senator Little,

Recently a bill was introduced by Rep. Eldon Mulder, R-Anchorage, to the State Legislature in Juneau. This bill if passed into law would allocate 15% of the Cook Inlet Sockeye salmon run to sport fishermen. Traditionally all fishery and allocation issues have been decided by the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Board of Fisheries and the regional Fish and Game Advisory Boards were set up as part of the original Limited Entry legislation over twenty ago. The process for public input and comment is already in place. The system works and it should be left alone. If the state legislature takes on fish-allocation issues it would set a dangerous precedent. The state legislature would be entangled in endless appeals of Board of Fisheries decisions.

The members of the Board of Fisheries are appointed by the governor to represent all the different resource users in the state and have the knowledge and expertise to handle these issues. The state legislators have neither the time nor the background to address complicated resource allocation issues. Along with the dangerous precedent this piece of legislation would set, there is also the very real concern of the implications to management of an allocation of this type.

The commercial fishing industry employs 40% of the seasonal work force on the Kenai Peninsula. Shutting down the commercial fishing industry in years of weak runs could be especially harmful. Managing for a 15% sport fish catch during a large run could lead to harmful overescapement and greatly stress already weakened spawning habitats. The suggestion by the sport fish interest to alleviate this problem by creating a new upriver dipnet fishery would not

Cook Inlet Sockeye Allocation

Would you like to deal with the controversy of SE Chinook allocation? False Pass? Bristol Bay - Egegik? Well, if this Cook Inlet bill gets serious consideration and action, you will be up to your eyebrows in a swamp of Fish and Game controversies. I do not exaggerate.

This is a precedent setting bill that would undermine the foundation of the Board of Fisheries. While the Board of Fish may not be popular, it still works to regulate allocation in an open and democratic process. . .a process that emphasizes science and stability over politics. This bill would do just the reverse.

Even though the bill deals with Cook Inlet and not Southeast, SEAS recognizes the greater statewide implications and actively opposes this legislation. I respectfully request you to do likewise.

If you have questions on the enclosed information or desire more information please feel free to call me.

Sincerley,



Kathryn Troll
Executive Director

Distribution List:
Southeast Legis...ors
Representative Carl Moses, Chair of House Fisheries



Cordova District Fishermen United

P.O. Box 939
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-3447 FAX (907) 424-3430

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only remove these fish from the processing industry but could be very damaging to fragile riverbanks.

The commercial fishing industry is the largest employer in the state of Alaska and the second largest generator of income. CDFU urges the representatives of both urban and rural areas to realize this and not take an active roll in allocation of natural resources, but support the Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game.

CDFU believes this legislation is very inappropriate and presents a real threat to the traditonal means of allocating all the natural resources in the state.

Sincerely,
Cordova District Fishermen United
Board of Directors

Cook Inlet Sockeye Allocation

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Kathryn Troll
Executive Director

Distribution List:
Southeast Legislators
Representative Carl Moses, Chair of House Fisheries

Ketchikan Office
P.O. Box 9579
Ketchikan, AK. 99901
phone: (907) 225-5156
fax: (907) 225-5258



Juneau Office
9226 Long Run Dr.
Juneau, AK. 99801
phone: (907) 789-5117
fax: (907) 789-5117

Representative Bill Williams
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Bill,

I see the second session of the Eighteenth Legislature is getting off to a rousing start. I am writing in regards to two controversies: 1) Royalty Fish Tax and 2) Cook Inlet Sockeye Allocation.

Royalty Fish Tax

At the risk of sounding like a conservative Republican, I don't understand the Hickel administration's proposal to tax and spend. Instead of taxing the commercial fishing industry *again* (last year 2 additional taxes were placed on the seafood industry) the Hickel administration should be investing in the state's largest private sector employer. Depressed salmon prices are hurting the state as well as fishermen and processors. If the total value of salmon remained the same at 1989 levels, the state would have collected over \$19 million ^{more} in fish revenues for the 1990-1993 period. To recapture this lost revenue, Governor Hickel should follow the advice of his own task force and invest in domestic marketing of salmon. But instead of investing, instead of developing Alaska's most ubiquitous resource - salmon, Governor Hickel wants to tax again.

Given the price structures within the industry and the global competition for salmon, a tax can not be passed onto the consumers; it'll be a direct and hard hit on the industry. With bankruptcies circling around the processors, with fishermen seeking all forms of financial relief, *another* tax will have devastating impacts throughout Alaska.

Why does Governor Hickel propose such economic foolishness? Is it because Shelby Stastny, Director of Management and Budget, say the commercial fishing industry does not pay it's way? Well, he is dead wrong. We do pay our way as documented by the enclosed analysis. Please read the enclosure.

Why is this highly discriminatory tax even being considered? Certainly, the \$15 million that was to be raised could be saved through a cost conscious review of last year's \$1 billion capital budget. In any event, you can't squeeze blood out of turnip and that is what another fish tax would be attempting to do. . .the salmon industry is hurting and there is no more to give. For all these reasons, I implore you to do whatever you can to kill this tax proposal.

3. Borough Funding. The Borough Assembly should continue to appropriate a sufficient budget for the implementation of marketing plans to promote the Kenai Peninsula Borough as a visitor destination in joint venture with the Borough Economic Development District and its Tourism Marketing Council, local chambers of commerce and municipalities.

4. Cruise Ship Marketing. The Caucus encourages the Borough and State to encourage cross gulf cruise ship solicitations.

5. Alaska Sea Life Center. The Caucus supports funding of the Alaska Sea Life Center at Seward from funds received from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

C. TIMBER

1. Land Use Plans. A strong commitment must be made to timber management as a prime use in state and national forests and on property owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Viable State and Borough timber sale programs should be developed with firm five year sale schedules to encourage and facilitate commercial timber harvest.

2. Spruce Bark Beetle. The Spruce Bark Beetle disease is threatening timber and creating serious fire hazards throughout the Kenai Peninsula. Federal, State and Borough natural resource agencies are encouraged to schedule timber sale and management programs specifically designed to eradicate this disease.

D. FISH & GAME

1. Onshore Processors. The State of Alaska is encouraged to develop allocations, tax structures and regulations that would make onshore processors more profitable than those that operate at sea in order to create and retain employment opportunities for resident Alaskans.

2. Fish Traps. The Caucus opposes use of fish traps as a device for resolving conflicts between Kenai commercial and sport fishing interests.

3. Subsistence. The State Legislature is urged to resolve subsistence issues where they are conflicting with Federal law and the State constitution.

4. Export Limits. The Caucus will oppose proposals to establish limits on fish and game which a sport angler may export out of Alaska.

5. Board of Fisheries. 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.

E. COAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Tax Increment Financing. The State Legislature should amend tax increment financing statutes to enable Second Class Boroughs to sell revenue bonds for financing of public owned infrastructure necessary to coal development.

2. Strategic Plan. The State is encouraged to adopt a strategic plan which would make Alaska coal competitive with coal from other world markets.

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: 262-9107

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

Joanne Collins, 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

1994

STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

The Kenai Peninsula Caucus is a nonprofit corporation organized under laws of the State of Alaska. The Caucus was organized in 1987 for the general purpose of promoting the physical, social and economic well being of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Its specific purposes may include, but shall not be limited to: charitable; benevolent; educational; civic; patriotic; political; social; and cultural activities.

Voting members of the organization are representatives of Municipal Governments and Chambers of Commerce of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

An objective of the Caucus is to secure legislation at the local, state and federal levels which will be beneficial to inhabitants of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and to oppose legislation injurious thereto; but to remain non-partisan in the conduct of its affairs. The Caucus does not endorse candidates for elected or appointed positions at any level of government.

Two weeks written notice must be given to each voting member of the Caucus before it may consider a legislative position or resolution. An act of the Board of Directors must 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.

This brochure provides a synopsis of the legislative positions developed by the Caucus through input from municipal officials and directors of the local Chamber of Commerce organizations. Each position represents legislative recommendations of the Caucus. These positions will be actively lobbied for by the Board of Directors on behalf of its membership to the Alaska Municipal League, the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, the Local, State and Federal governments.



Photo # 1

Bank damage due to sport fishing access -- Kenai River, Soldotna Creek Park Area



Photo # 2

Bank erosion and vegetation trampling -- Confluence of Kenai and Moose River

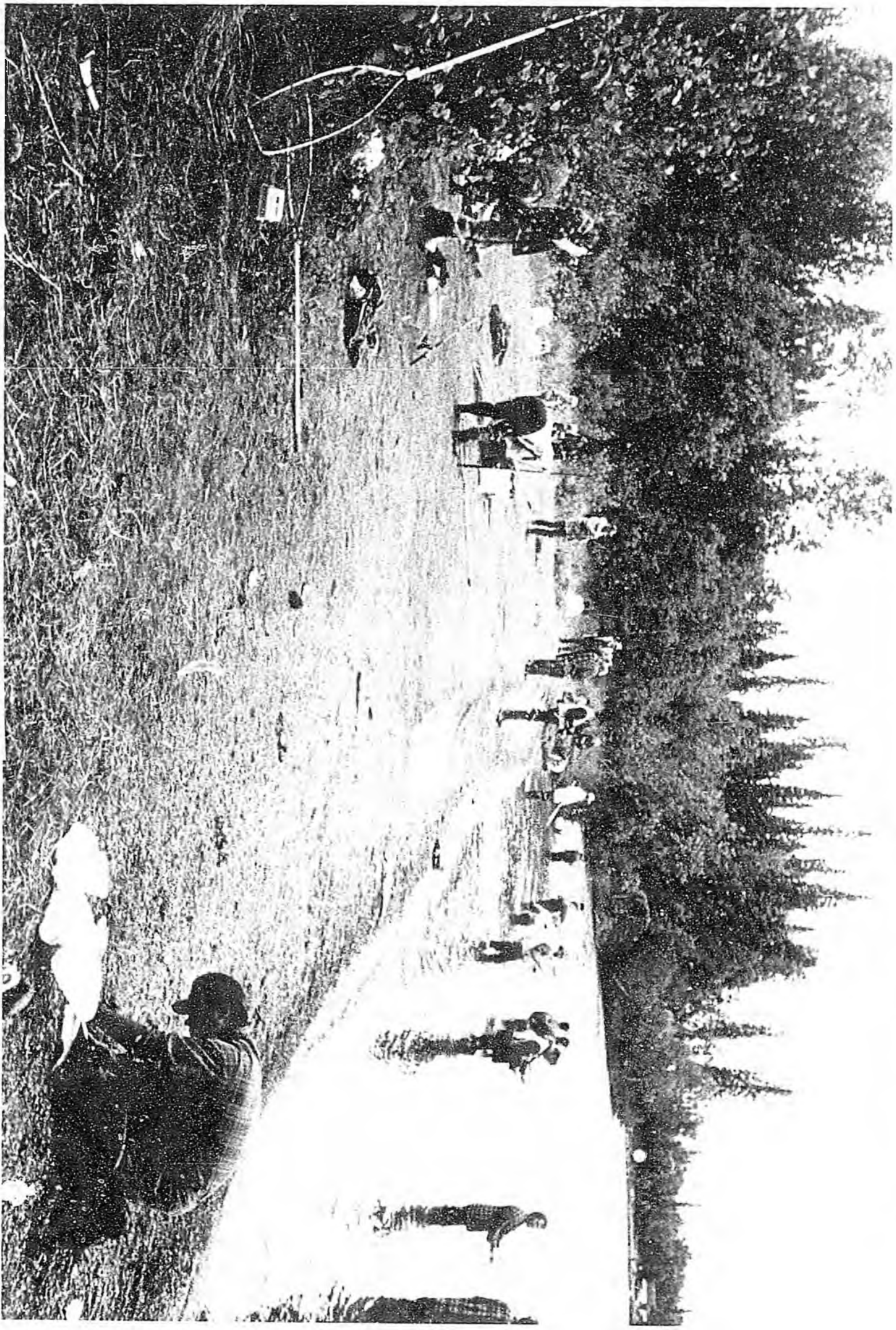


Photo # 3 Vegetation trampling from sport fishing access -- Kenai River



Photo # 4 Bank damage -- Kenai River Sportsman's Lodge/Russian River Ferry Crossing



Photo # 5 Kenai River bank damage from sport fishing access

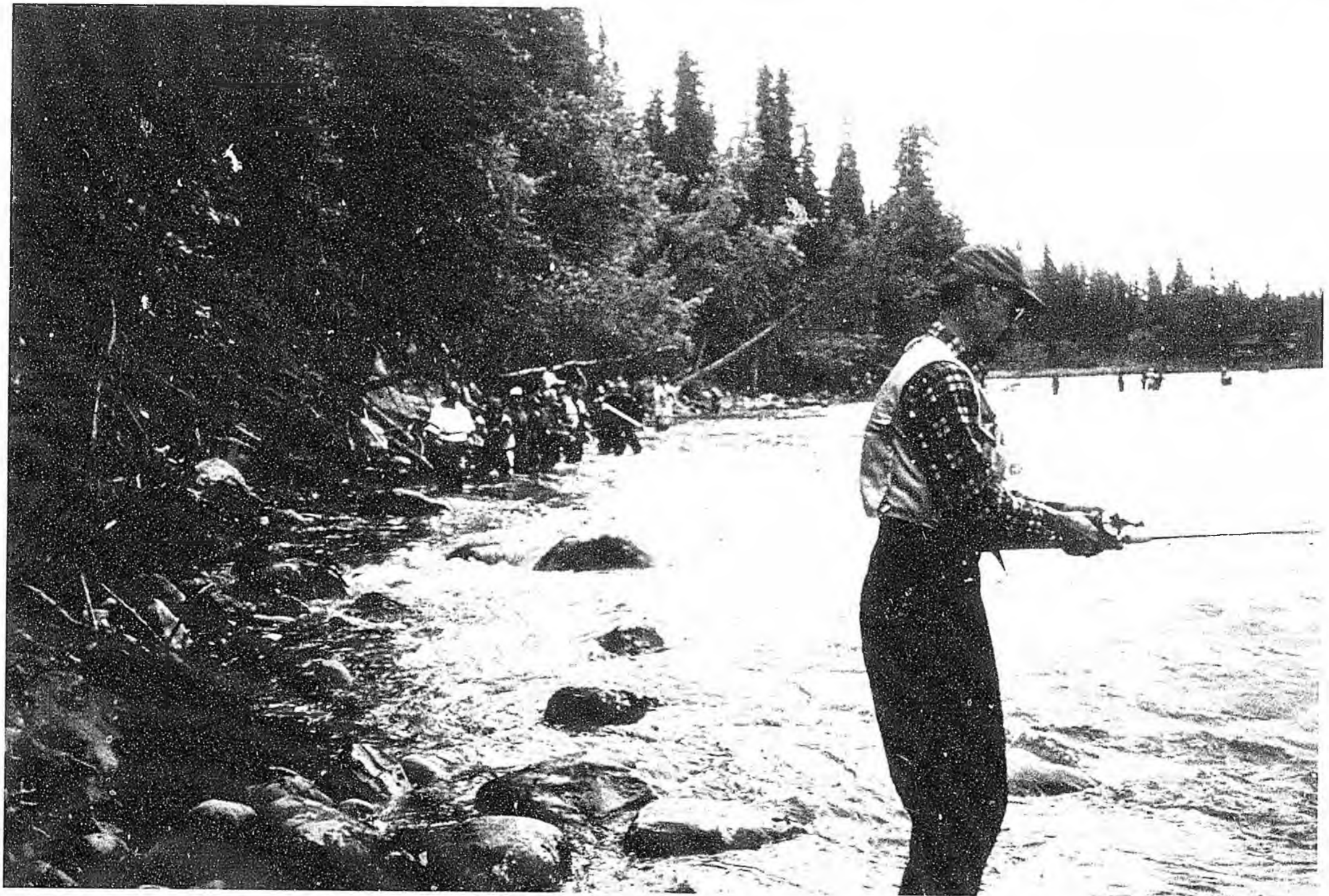


Photo # 6 Bank erosion and vegetation trampling -- Kenai River



Photo # 7 Sport fishing access and erosion of undercut banks -- Kenai River



Photo # 8 Erosion of undercut banks -- Kenai River

Loving A River To Death

Human Changes On The Kenai River

by Terry Bendock and Jon Lyman



©Russ Dixon/ADF&G



The survival of the Kenai River's world famous king salmon depends upon water flows of less than one foot per second. Although the adult fish have little trouble swimming against swift flows, the young require the reduced velocity and cover provided by naturally vegetated banks to survive. Each spring, young chinook and coho salmon migrate from upriver areas where they were hatched to the rich feeding grounds along the mainstem. Each fall they return to

Users Impact on Fish Habitat

Private and commercial developments eliminate riparian vegetation. This weakens the streambank and reduces cover and food for juvenile salmon.

Land clearing increases subsurface drainage rates and streambank erosion.

Structures along the shoreline alter water velocity and decrease useable habitat for juvenile salmon.

Draining wetlands reduces subsurface flow and nutrients for juvenile salmon.

Boat wakes increase erosion along banks where the vegetation has been damaged.

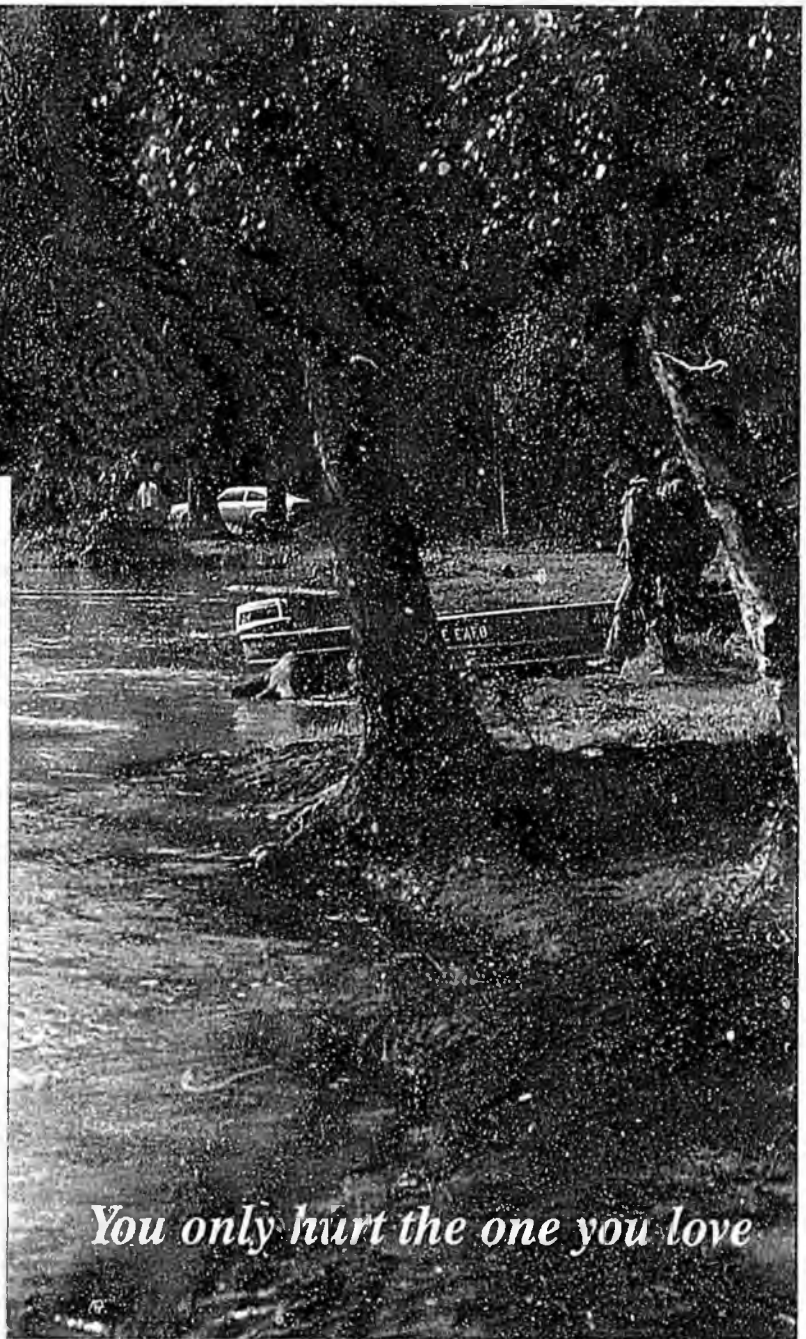
Foot trails damage vegetation and root systems increasing the risk of erosion.

Removing log jams and woody debris eliminates important rearing habitat for young salmon.

Parking riverboats along the shoreline often results in damaged vegetation and increased erosion.

Steep banks and water-saturated soils are subject to erosion and are easily damaged by **foot traffic**.

Unfiltered runoff from city and state highways and parking lots is discharged directly into the Kenai River-- lowering water quality.

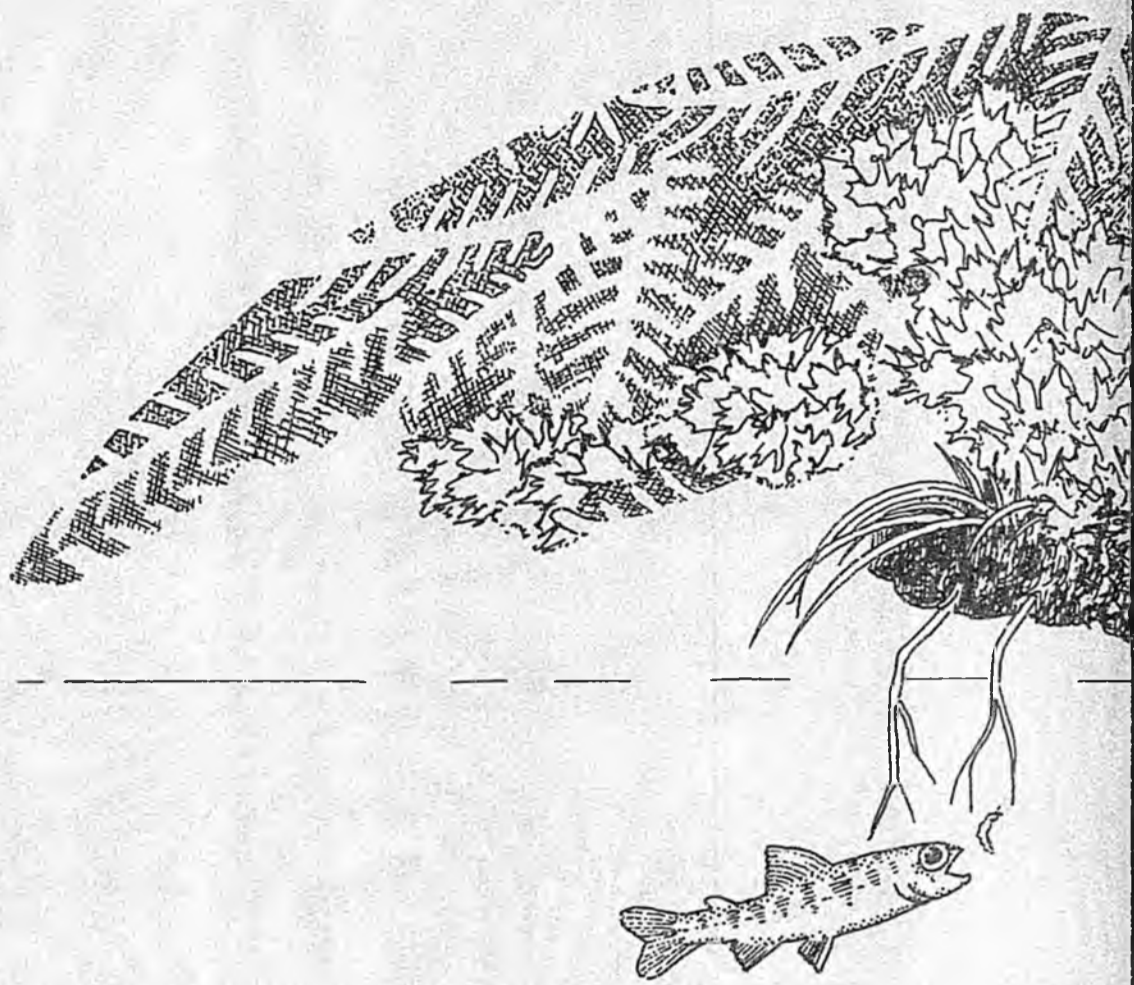


You only hurt the one you love

Flooding on Kenai, Bing's Landing, August 1984.

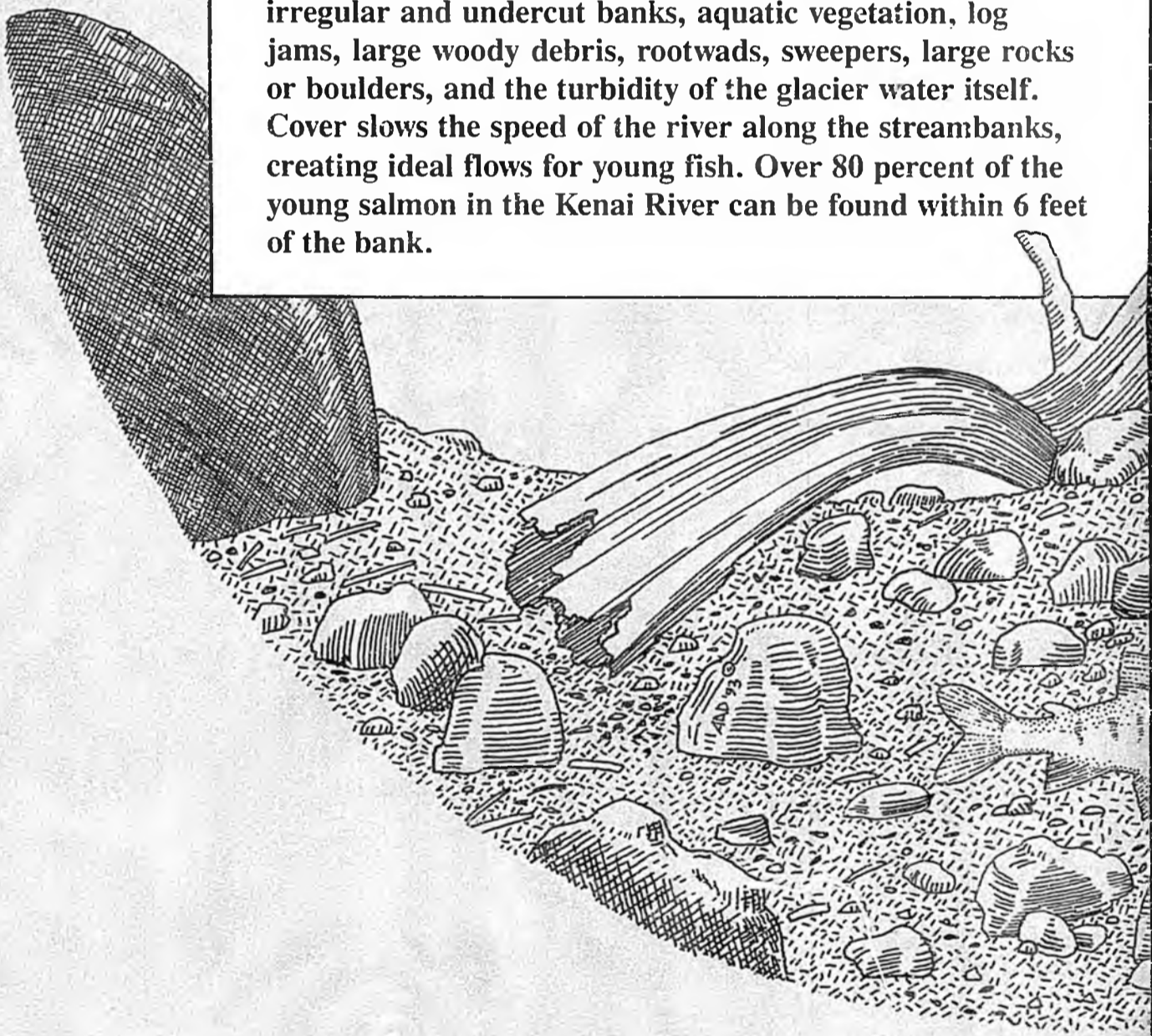
overwinter in Skilak, Kenai, and other lakes. The role of streambank vegetation in modulating flow speed and providing cover is essential to the successful upriver journey of the young fish.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has long focused on managing the Kenai River's returning populations of adult salmon to ensure adequate numbers of spawners to reproduce the runs. Given good returns from the Pacific Ocean, management plans and modern technology assure us that sufficient salmon will survive to spawn. This, however, is only part of the picture. We must also be concerned with the young fish rearing in the river and the continuing degradation of their habitat.



Natural vegetation that overhangs the banks or trails in the water provides food for aquatic organisms which juvenile salmon eat. Natural vegetation also stabilizes banks and helps prevent erosion.

Cover is the woody vegetation along the shoreline, irregular and undercut banks, aquatic vegetation, log jams, large woody debris, rootwads, sweepers, large rocks or boulders, and the turbidity of the glacier water itself. Cover slows the speed of the river along the streambanks, creating ideal flows for young fish. Over 80 percent of the young salmon in the Kenai River can be found within 6 feet of the bank.



Paid for by Division of Sport Fish
Produced by Public Communications Section





The one you shouldn't hurt at all

Riverbank erosion at Bing's landing, July 1992.

Anglers cannot influence most of the forces that affect the return of salmon to the Kenai River. High seas interception, harvests in mixed stock commercial fisheries, the use or misuse of private and public property along the river, natural mortality due to forces we do not understand—all have a great impact on the numbers of returning salmon. The one place where anglers can have the greatest long term impact on these fish is on the banks of the river.

Anglers and landowners need to participate in local land use planning efforts to develop public solutions to the continued degradation of river habitat. The key to maintaining the long term health of the Kenai River is the development of land use

regulations to control incompatible uses along the river. While the Division of Parks and the city of Soldotna are attempting to regulate bank use on their lands, other landowners, public and private, have yet to take action to protect the habitat necessary for fish. By working with the following organizations, individuals can begin to shape the future of the river and its salmon resources. (See list of on the next page.)



Anglers Can Reduce Impacts

Use developed trails, ladders, and boardwalks, when available, to access the river.

Always launch and retrieve boats at a developed launch site.

Select either an exposed or protected site when beaching your boat to avoid crushing bank vegetation.

Minimize damage from boat wakes whenever possible by lowering speed and traveling in mid-channel.

Fuel your boat at a site that does not discharge into the river should an accident occur.

Avoid trampling and damaging vegetation along the waters edge.

Move away from the waters edge when walking up and downstream.

Use hip boots or chest waders to avoid standing on the bank while fishing.

Avoid steep banks and water-saturated soils when bank fishing.

Remember that fish habitat and bank stability are often determined by the amount and quality of streamside vegetation.

Participate in local discussions on land use regulations and the need to protect fish habitat.

Tell friends and visitors of the importance of maintaining riverbanks.

Be a role model!

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board
c/o Chris Titus, Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 1247
Soldotna, AK 99669

In 1984 the Legislature recognized the importance of the Kenai River to all Alaskans and created the Kenai River Special Management Area. An advisory board was formed to help the Division of Parks and Recreation implement a management plan for the river. The board members represent user groups, property owners, municipalities, state and federal agencies, and other interested groups. The board continues to serve in its advisory capacity and holds monthly meetings except during the summer months.

City of Soldotna
177 North Birch
Soldotna, AK 99669

The city of Soldotna has zoned the banks of the Kenai within the city limits and has the authority to regulate land use to protect the river. The city has begun work on a Kenai River erosion control and habitat restoration demonstration project. Funded with grants from the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation and the Coastal America Program, the city is attempting to apply bioremediation technology to damaged river habitat at two city parks along the Kenai River. These sites have seen intense bank fishing which has degraded vegetation and accelerated bank erosion. The project is intended to demonstrate ways to control riverbank erosion and enhance fish habitat while continuing to allow anglers access to the river.

Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc.
c/o Ben Ellis, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1228
Soldotna, AK 99669

Kenai River Sportfishing, Inc. (KRSI) is a non-profit association dedicated to protecting the greatest salmon sport fishing in the world. The organization represents the thousands of sport anglers who fish the Kenai each year. KRSI members have long been involved with conservation measures on the river. This group launched the Kenai River Habitat Protection Program during the past year. The program awards certificates to private property owners who protect or restore fish habitat. It also works to educate the public and encourage other property owners to protect and restore river habitat.

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
P.O. Box 1247
Soldotna, AK 99669

The Kenai River became a unit of the state parks system in 1984. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has the

responsibility for providing for the public's recreation as well as for protecting and preserving the river's fish and wildlife habitats. Serious riverbank degradation has occurred as a result of intensive bank fishing at most of the public access areas along the river. Many areas are devoid of vegetation, their banks trampled into mud. The challenge is to protect the fragile riparian habitat and rehabilitate the existing sites, yet continue to provide public access.

Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 400
Homer, AK 99603

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil and Conservation Service has published the Kenai River Landowner's Guide. This reference guide is written to help Kenai River landowners understand and manage plants, soils, and riverbanks and to protect the Kenai River's resources. The SCS collects resource information and provides technical assistance to help both public and private land managers conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources.

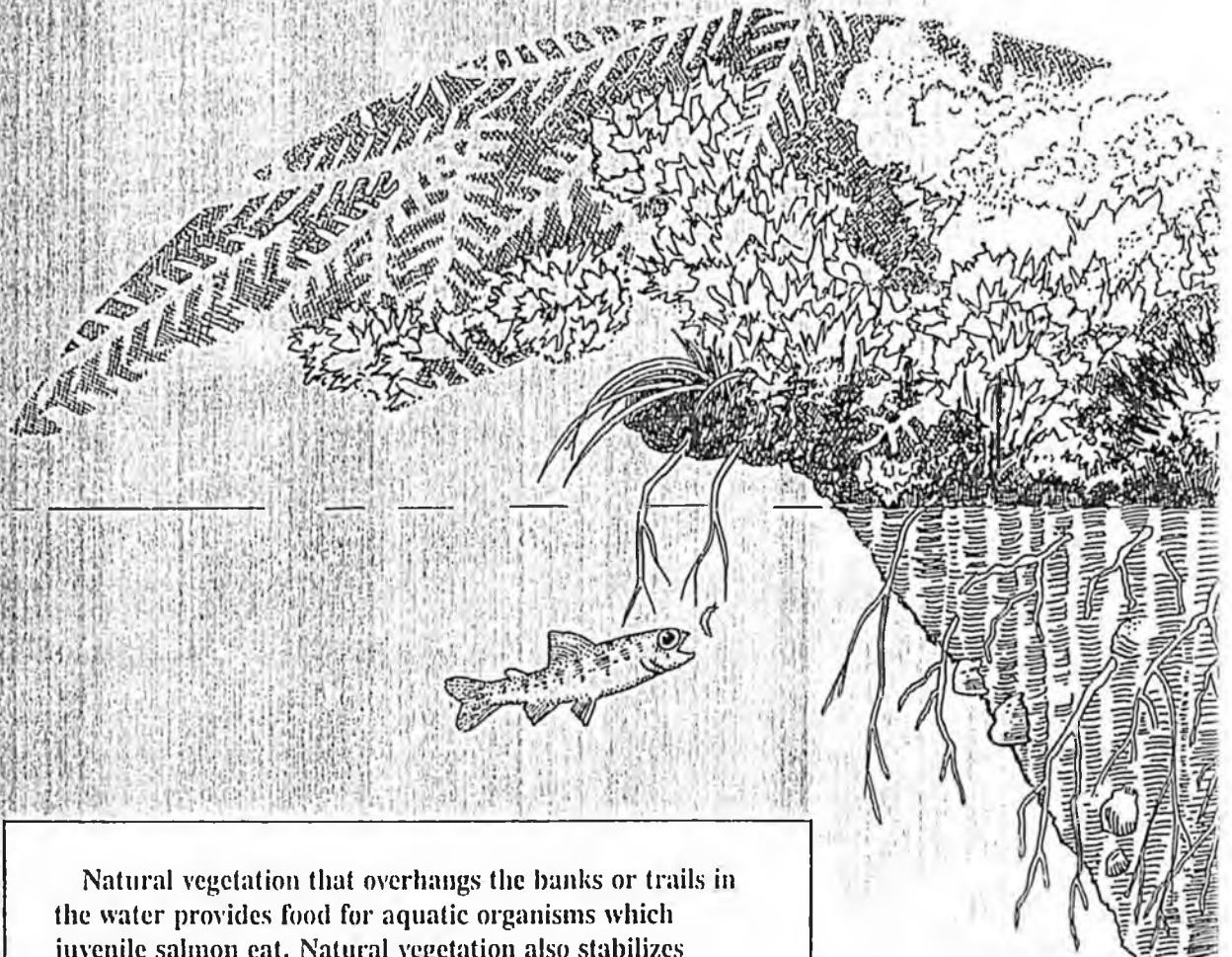
Kenai River King Salmon Fund
34824 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite E
Soldotna, AK 99669

The Kenai River King Salmon Fund (KRKSF) has a number of projects underway. KRKSF members are involved in the Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School's Adopt-A-Stream program for Slikok Creek, bank restoration efforts, education through local organizations and events, and the development of a display for the Kenai River Visitor Center on the river's importance and how habitat protection is crucial to its long term health.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries
34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite B
Soldotna, AK 99669 or
Habitat Division
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has a statutory mandate to protect fisheries habitat in the Kenai River. Any persons or agency wishing to construct a project below ordinary high water must submit plans and specifications to the department and obtain a permit before proceeding.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducts all programs and activities free from discrimination on the basis of sex, color, race, religion, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. For information on alternative formats available for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-4120, (TDD) 1-800-478-3648 or (fax) 907-586-6595. Any person who believes s/he has been discriminated against should write to: ADF&G, PO Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



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**Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
& United Cook Inlet Drift Association**

Present

**A Plan For Upper Cook Inlet
Sockeye Allocation**



**In Lieu Of
HB 366/SB 241**

**In the Legislature of the State of Alaska
Eighteenth Legislature - Second Session**

KPFA & UCIDA recognize there is a perception by some legislators that the opportunity for sport fishermen in the Upper Cook Inlet area to harvest salmon is unfairly limited.

**We believe that to fully address the issue of fairness
with respect to salmon allocation in Upper Cook Inlet,
the use of *all* Cook Inlet stocks must be examined.**

KPFA & UICDA, therefore, present the following plan for your review. Please review the plan carefully and see if *you* think it presents a reasonable and *fair* opportunity for sport fishermen to harvest salmon in Upper Cook Inlet.

January 1994



KPFA & UCIDA

A. UPPER COOK INLET SPORT FISHERY

1. All early run salmon (May - June) including Susitna king, early Kenai king, and early Russian River sockeye will be managed *for a recreational priority*. Bag limits as recommended by ADF&G. Open 7 days per week, seasons and areas as recommended by ADF&G.

2. Mid-run sockeye salmon (July 1 - August 15) will be managed according to the following regulations:
 - a. Cook Inlet Saltwater - 6 sockeye per day, no size limit, open entire year, open 7 days per week, no season limit, no closed waters.

 - b. Susitna River & West Cook Inlet Area - 3 sockeye salmon per day, no season limit, open 7 days per week, season and areas as recommended by ADF&G.

 - c. Kenai Peninsula Fresh Water - 3 sockeye per day, no season limit, open 7 days per week, season and areas as recommended by ADF&G.

 - d. Kenai River - ADF&G sets bag limit of 1 - 6 sockeye per day dependent on escapement. Below sonar counter at mile 19, no guideline harvest level applies to fishery. Above sonar site, sport harvest level is 10% of projected escapement to assure spawning goal is met. No season limit, open 7 days per week, bag limit increased to 6 sockeye after 700,000 fish escapement.

 - e. Russian River - Sockeye bag limit 3 per day, no season limit. Sockeye harvested in Russian River are in addition to Kenai River guideline harvest level.

3. Late run salmon (after August 15) - All salmon stocks moving to Kenai Peninsula drainages will be managed *for a recreational priority*. Seasons, areas, and bag limits as recommended by ADF&G.

B. UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE FISHERY (Residents Only)

1. Kasilof River Gill Net - Opens June 21 for sockeye to set gill nets, 12 hours per day, with bag limit of 25 salmon for head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent. Close by E.O.

2. Kasilof River Dip Net - Opens by E.O. for sockeye when ADF&G is assured 150,000 sockeye salmon (minimum escapement goal) will enter the river. Daily bag limit is 6 salmon, no season limit.

3. Kenai River Dip Net - Opens by E.O. for sockeye when ADF&G projects that 400,000 sockeye salmon (minimum escapement goal) will enter the river. Open in lower 5 miles of river where conflict with intense upper river sport fishery can be avoided. Daily bag limit is 6 salmon, no season limit.

4. Central and Northern District Fall Setnet - Opens the last three weekends of September for silver salmon. 2500 fish quota. 60 feet of set net gear allowed. Bag limit is 25 salmon per head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent.



's Plan Outlined

C. UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHERY

1. Early run stocks (May and June) of sockeye and king salmon on the eastside of Cook Inlet are no longer fished by commercial fishermen. These stocks are for exclusive use of the sport fishery.
2. Mid-run sockeye (July 1 - August 15) - Regular fishing time in the commercial fishery will be *restricted* to two twelve hour periods per week, Mondays and Fridays. Fishing periods may be modified by E.O. at the discretion of ADF&G. Commercial fishermen observe closed waters areas around all salmon rivers and streams.
3. Late run salmon (after August 15) - Commercial fishermen will no longer fish these stocks along the eastside of Cook Inlet. These stocks will be for the exclusive use of the sport fishery.

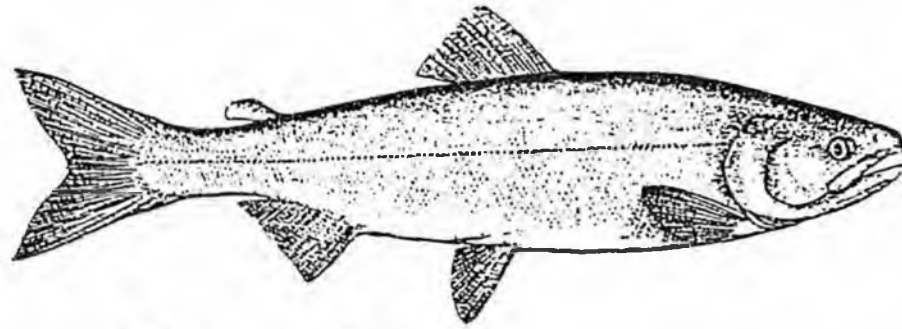
Cook Inlet Salmon Management Priorities

May	June	July	August	September
Recreational Priority	Recreational Priority	Commercial Priority *	Commercial Priority	Recreational Priority

* Commercial priority July 1 - August 15, however, commercial fishing is restricted until minimum escapement goals for sockeye and king salmon in the Kenai River are assured. For Example: Under the Late Run Kenai River King Salmon Management Plan, the commercial fishery along the eastside of Cook Inlet is closed if the projected spawning escapement level is less than 15,500 king salmon.

The preceding regulation summary for the Cook Inlet sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries have already been adopted by the Board of Fisheries. KPFA and UCIDA bring this plan to you to illustrate that the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan provides a reasonable and fair opportunity for sport fishermen to harvest an abundance of salmon, including sockeye.





No plan will ensure harvest.

Management plans can only ensure opportunity.

*The Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan
ensures fair opportunities for multiple users to
harvest salmon in Cook Inlet.*



Some sportsmen have led many legislators to believe that the legislature is their court of last resort. Legislators have been asked to believe that sportsmen are allocated only 5% of Cook Inlet sockeye. Not so! *There is no limit to the number of salmon that may be harvested in Cook Inlet by sport fishermen.* Sport fishermen have liberal access to salmon in Cook Inlet as demonstrated by this overview of current regulations.

If you signed on to this bill prior to having a good understanding of the true picture in Cook Inlet, then we hope you would reconsider your support for this legislation.

The Board of Fisheries reviews the *whole* story before decisions are made. The public participates vigorously in this forum. Biological data and socioeconomic factors are examined with respect to the allocation criteria mandated by the Alaska State Legislature. We hope that you agree that allocation issues should be addressed in the Board of Fisheries forum.

Thank you for taking the time to hear the *rest* of the story!



February 8, 1994



Representative Bill Williams
House Resources Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Rep. Williams:

House Bill No. 366, if passed, would direct the Alaska Board of Fisheries to allocate 15% of all upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon to the sport fisheries on an annual basis. This bill is undoubtedly generating a lot of response from individuals and groups who believe strongly that these resources should be allocated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, based on the best biological and management information available from the scientific staff of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Yesterday, the Executive Committee of the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation's Board of Directors voted to request that the legislature not pass House Bill No. 366 and/or its companion Senate Bill. We at PWSAC are not opposed to the sharing of fisheries resources among user groups. In fact, we are expending funds on the development of sport fisheries at Whittier, Chenega Bay, Valdez, Cordova, and our hatchery sites. The PWSAC Board has solidly stood behind these projects even though we have experienced funding problems in recent years.

The sport fishermen of upper Cook Inlet should be allowed to share the sockeye resources of the region, and perhaps would be able to do that more easily if the upper Cook Inlet salmon program was placed under the direction of one program leader rather than under the direction of two fisheries divisions with opposing constituencies. There must be positive solutions to the question of resource allocation. So please, do not set a precedent with House Bill No. 366 that will haunt us forever.

I wish you success in your deliberations. Yours is a difficult job.

Best regards,

John McMullen
President

copies:

Governor Walter J. Hickel
Senator Mike Miller, Chair, Senate Resources
Rep. Carl Moses, Chair, Special Committee on Fisheries
Commissioner Carl Rosier, ADF&G

Corporate Office • Post Office Box 1110 • Cordova, Alaska 99574-1110
phone: 907/424-7511 * fax: 907/424-7514

George Eliason

102 Kuhnle Dr.
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-6817

February 6, 1994

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

Dear Senator Miller,

I am writing to inform you that I oppose Senate Bill 241 and House Bill 366 relating to the management of Cook Inlet salmon.

I understand that there is not a conservation problem with the sockeye resource in Cook Inlet but that the Board of Fish has made an allocation decision to the disappointment of sport fishermen and they now wish to coerce satisfaction through the legislature.

The problem I and many others have with HB 366 and SB 241 is that they were in fact introduced to the legislature. Why in the world would the legislature want to start dealing with fishery proposals? Would any legislator desire to remove the buffer (a.k.a. Boards of Fish and Game) between their constituents and themselves? Many of us have used the Board of Fish process to address fishery issues in the past and have not always been satisfied with their decisions. This does not denote a complete breakdown of the Board of Fish process so why eliminate it? As I have written to Chairman Tom Elias about this very same subject, "I would never change the process". This would be the outcome of SB 241 and HB 366, a change of the process.

The Board of Fish during the 1993-94 meeting cycle has over 500 proposals to deal with. The Board of Game has 142 proposals to address during the March 26-April 8 meeting alone. Each proposal has people who support or oppose it. Will the legislature have time to deal with all the public who were not satisfied with the Boards decisions? I trust this legislature, or any other, will not set this precedence. I urge you not to open this pandora box.

To bring politics into fishery management is bad enough, but to bring fishery management into the political arena would be disastrous.

Sincerely,

George Eliason

cc: Representative William K. "Bill" Williams
Chair, House Resources Committee



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

Putting Resources to Work For People

3300 Arctic Blvd., Suite 203 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 562-7380 • FAX (907) 562-0438

RESOLUTION 94-12

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISH FISHERY ALLOCATION PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature created the Alaska Board of Fish under Section 16.05.221 for the purposes of conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature granted the Alaska Board of Fish under Section 16.05.241 the powers to adopt regulation-making decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish is bound under the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) when adopting regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish has the power to make decisions affecting the utilization of fishery resources; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish has the power to establish the priorities of use and users; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish has established criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among subsistence, personal use, sport, and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish decision-making process includes equal access and opportunity to all user groups through the State of Alaska advisory committee process or on an individual basis; and

WHEREAS, fisheries management throughout the state is best left to the Alaska Board of Fish whose body is made up of seven members of diverse fish resource backgrounds, who can review the technical data provided by the Department of Fish and Game and can review different proposals submitted by various user groups of that resource.

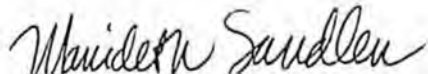
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) encourages the Governor and Legislature to support the Alaska Board of Fish fishery allocation process.

Representing the Bristol Bay, Pribilof, Kodiak Island and Aleutian Island areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
THIS 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1994.



Jack McFarland, President



Marideth Sandler, Executive Director

Judy A. Johnson
HCR 2 Box 508
Clam Gulch, AK 99568
907-262-4763

I am opposed to Representative Mulder's bill reallocating Cook Inlet sockeye of amending AS 16.05. These issues should be addressed by the Board of Fish who look into the different areas of Alaska and spend 120 days each year doing so. They find this job so complex that they had to divide the areas up and deal with the areas every three years. The Legislature who also meet for 120 days cannot possibly determine the biological impacts resulting from such legislation in the short amount of time they have to address this issue. Soon the Legislature will find itself debating statewide fishing and gaming issues. We already have the Board of Fish and the Board of Game in place. Let them do their job and you do yours. Vote NO on house bill #366.

Representative Bill Williams,

David Horne
H.C. 2 Box 543
Kasilof, AK 99610

January 25, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams,

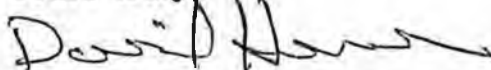
I was in Juneau last week with my fellow commercial fishing representative, Drew Sparlin. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you personally thanking you for your receptive attitude. We were trying very diligently to stay away from the allocation issue and emphasize our perception of the habitat destruction which would occur if the pending legislation were to pass. As a long time Alaskan who obviously wants to preserve some semblance of the Alaska we love for future generations, I think you are particularly aware of the issues we were trying to address.

Commercial users and recreational users have long been at odds over the allocation of all the Cook Inlet salmon stocks. We have been joined in recent years by personal use, subsistence, and dipnet interests. Drew and I are both sports fishermen who love to enjoy the river with our friends and family. We both have a vested interest in preservation of the habitat as it has been a contributing part of our livelihood for several decades. The Board of Fisheries has been a satisfactory forum.

I hope and trust that the legislature does not want to become the echoing chamber for the state's fish and game allocation disputes. The fate of the Kenai River is another matter. Please consider our position as it will be possible to shift the emphasis and preserve the habitat only by convincing reasonable persons, like yourself, that At some point in time it will become necessary to protect the interests of the state by further managing people numbers rather than fish numbers. I think that time is now. I know you will consider the alternatives and draw your own conclusions. All I ask is that you do so with the resource and the habitat as the basic concern underlying all decisions.

Thank you again for your consideration concerning these important issues.

Yours truly



David Horne

HCR-2 Box 508
Clam Gulch AK 99568
January 28, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 128
Juneau AK 99801-1182

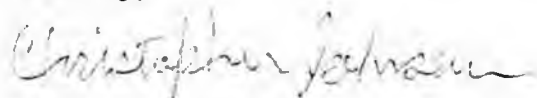
Representative Bill Williams:

I have found fault with and strongly oppose House Bill 366. The legislature can not afford their precious time to deal with many of the petty problems usually dealt with by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, nor can they deal with many of the complex biological considerations. The Board of Fisheries is the proper place to determine allocations of the State's fishery resources. Members of the Board and their staff have the legal authority and technical expertise to properly address allocation issues.

My beliefs are based on facts of history. This bill would give the legislature much more economical control. That is not what the legislature of this country is to do. They are the law making body, and they should make any laws they feel necessary to establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, however, House Bill 366 is stepping beyond guide lines for the legislature. A plumber doesn't repair damaged blood vessels, and the legislator shouldn't repair fish management institution--Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As my Representative I hope you consider my beliefs and vote **NO** on House Bill 366. The collapse of sockeye runs due to over escapement is now being documented. This is the appropriate step in the procedure that the Alaska Board of Fisheries has set up. The problem will soon be corrected as will all future problems that the fishing industry faces. Alaska Board of Fisheries is a just, intelligent institution whose expertise is fishing management; therefore, they are the best people for the job.

Sincerely,



Christopher Johnson
Student of Skyview High School

H. Daniel Hull
6541 Bridget Circle
Anchorage, AK. 99502

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

February 6, 1994

Dear Representative Williams,

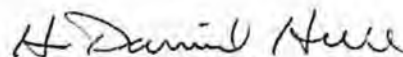
I am writing to state my opposition to Senate Bill 241 and House Bill 366, both of which relate to management of Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

I oppose these bills because they undermine the Board of Fisheries process which has successfully guided management and allocation of fisheries resources in the state of Alaska. If the Alaska legislature usurps the authority of, and public participation in the Board of Fisheries' process, there will be no end to the requests for legislative intervention in the Board of Fish, the Board of Game, and perhaps other boards with responsibility over allocation and management of the State's resources.

The Board of Fisheries process, despite its imperfections, is still the best way to make decisions about fisheries management and allocation. The legislature in general does not understand or have the time to learn about the complexity of these issues. Please support the decision making process in its current form, and defer to the Board of Fisheries in all allocation and management issues.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



H. Daniel Hull

cc: Senator Drue Pearce
Representative Jim Nordlund

Editor, Ketchikan Daily News,

Feb. 3, 1994

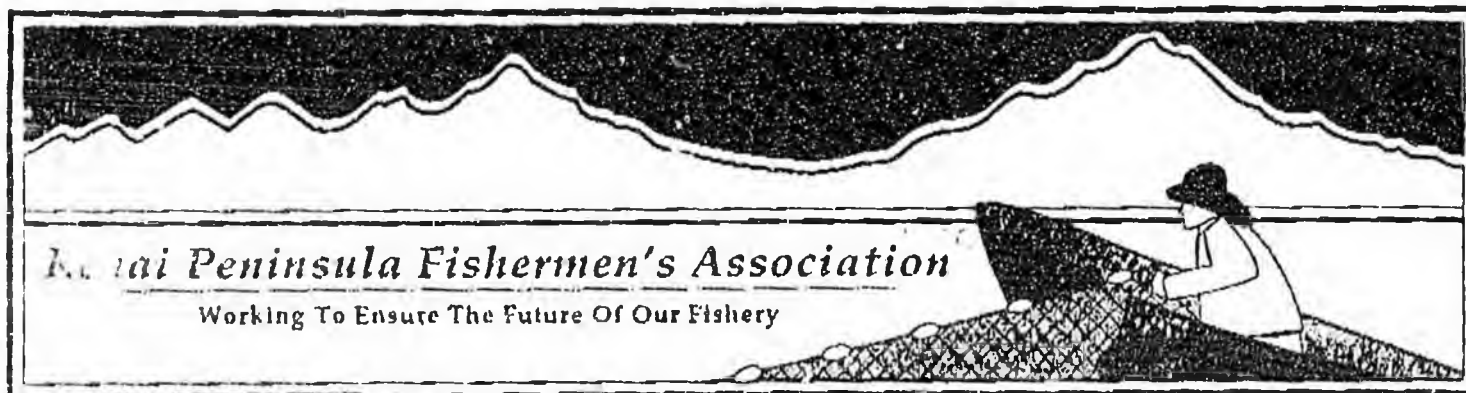
Senator Fred Zharoff, D. Kodiak wrote to the Point of View editorial on January 28th in regard to keeping Management where it belongs. This article is in reference to SB241 and HB366, the allocation of Red Salmon in Cook Inlet.

It is our organizations stand to Support Senator Zharoffs view towards Fish Management within Alaska. The Board of Fish must remain in control of this issue due to the nature of management of Alaskas resources. If these Bills are allowed to be settled in the Political arena of our Legislature, the flood gates would be wide open to the Lobbying efforts of special interest groups. With the current system, we, as residents of Alaska, have a say in the way our Fisheries are Managed. Therefore we encourage that Management of Fish remain in control of the appointed Members of the Board of Fish.

Sincerely,

Bob DeWitt mp

Bob DeWitt
President
Ketchikan Sports and
Wildlife Club



34824 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite E • Soldotna • Alaska • 99669 • (907) 262-2492

January 7, 1994

Representative Bill Williams, Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

**Sent By FAX Transmission
Hard Copy Follows By Mail**

Dear Representative Williams:

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA), a group of over 400 commercial fishermen operating in the Cook Inlet area, would like to go on record early as being opposed to Representative Mulder's proposed legislation to allocate additional sockeye away from the Cook Inlet commercial fishery to the the Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery. At the time of writing this letter, the bill had not been prefiled and so I cannot reference a specific bill number, but I am enclosing a copy of the draft bill.

The specific issues addressed in Rep. Mulder's bill have been addressed many times before the Alaska Board of Fisheries - a forum where the public participates vigorously and where biological and other scientific data are presented and examined. A significant record has been built as to why the Board of Fisheries has not already reallocated this fishery further. The actions taken were not based on social debate alone but on substantial biological data coupled with socio-economic information. All of the information was examined with respect to the allocation criteria mandated by the legislature.

The Board of Fisheries is the forum where these issues should be debated and decided. The Board is functioning in the manner for which it was designed. By making or Cook Inlet allocation issues, the legislature will soon find itself in the position of doing nothing except debating statewide fisheries' allocation issues.

Representative Bill Williams
January 7, 1994
Page 2

I would also like to point out that all of the Kenai Peninsula legislators, Senator Suzanne Little, Senator Judy Salo, Rep. Gary Davis, Rep. Mike Navarre, and Rep. Gail Phillips, are opposed to this legislation. This legislation would create fisheries management based on politics without biological consideration.

KPFA is preparing a detailed analysis and critique of this proposal which we will be forwarding to you soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments please contact our office. We will be happy to provide any information you require as this debate unfolds.

Sincerely,



Ken Coleman
President

cc: Rep. Carl Moses, House Fisheries Committee
Senator Suzanne Little
Senator Judy Salo
Representative Gary Davis
Representative Mike Navarre
Representative Gail Phillips

January 11, 1994

Bill Williams
House of Representatives-Resource Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(Interdepartmental Mail Stop: 3100)

Dear Mr. Williams:

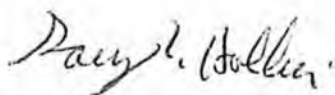
I oppose the Alaska legislature becoming involved with fisheries allocation in the state of Alaska. Once the legislature passes one bill regarding fish allocation it will be setting a precedent to having to address allocation issues across the entire state. I do not believe that the legislature has the time or the expertise to address fish allocation issues.

I would like to see allocation issues continue to be addressed by the Alaska Board of Fish.

I support Tom Elias and Irv Carlisle for renomination to the Alaska Board of Fish. I have attended Board of Fish meetings since 1986. I believe these two men have the knowledge and expertise to give the Board of Fish much needed credibility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Hoilier
Box 2965
Soldotna, AK 99669



Cordova District Fishermen United

P.O. Box 939

Cordova, Alaska 99574

(907) 424-3447 FAX (907) 424-3430

1/14/94

FROM; Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)
Box 939
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-3447

TO: House Resource Committee

RE: House Bill 366

Dear Representative Williams,

Recently a bill was introduced by Rep. Eldon Mulder, R-Anchorage, to the State Legislature in Juneau. This bill if passed into law would allocate 15% of the Cook Inlet Sockeye salmon run to sport fishermen. Traditionally all fishery and allocation issues have been decided by the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Board of Fisheries and the regional Fish and Game Advisory Boards were set up as part of the original Limited Entry legislation over twenty ago. The process for public input and comment is already in place. The system works and it should be left alone. If the state legislature takes on fish-allocation issues it would set a dangerous precedent. The state legislature would be entangled in endless appeals of Board of Fisheries decisions.

The members of the Board of Fisheries are appointed by the governor to represent all the different resource users in the state and have the knowledge and expertise to handle these issues. The state legislators have neither the time nor the background to address complicated resource allocation issues. Along with the dangerous precedent this piece of legislation would set, there is also the very real concern of the implications to management of an allocation of this type.

The commercial fishing industry employs 40% of the seasonal work force on the Kenai Peninsula. Shutting down the commercial fishing industry in years of weak runs could be especially harmful. Managing for a 15% sport fish catch during a large run could lead to harmful overescapement and greatly stress already weakened spawning habitats. The suggestion by the sport fish interest to alleviate this problem by creating a new upriver dipnet fishery would not

only remove these fish from the processing industry but could be very damaging to fragile riverbanks.

The commercial fishing industry is the largest employer in the state of Alaska and the second largest generator of income. CDFU urges the representatives of both urban and rural areas to realize this and not take an active roll in allocation of natural resources, but support the Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game.

CDFU believes this legislation is very inappropriate and presents a real threat to the traditonal means of allocatíng all the natural resources in the state.

Sincerely,
Cordova District Fishermen United
Board of Directors

Representative Bill Williams
House Resource Committee
Room 128
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska

Jan. 14, 1994

Robert J. Kopchak
P.O. Box 1126
Cordova, Alaska
99574

Dear Representative Williams;

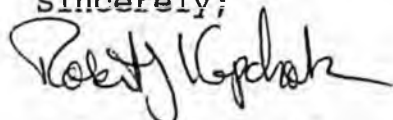
I am distressed at the implications of Senate Bill No. 241 on the traditional process for the allocation of fish and game resources in the state. The creation of the boards of fish and game was one of the most important steps taken in the history of the legislative process in the state. By removing the allocation issues from the political arena and placing them in the hands of independent, appointed boardmembers the legislature set up a process that assured that all users would have an equal opportunity to participate in the decision making. The local public forums, the local advisory process, and the independent decision making process have contributed to fair and impartial allocation of these resources.

To say that a population center with the most votes in the state legislature has the most control over who has access to these resources is an unheard of aberration of the intent of the legislation that created the process. It will make possible the displacement of traditional resource users at the pleasure of the elected majority from the urban areas.

If the members of the legislature are unhappy with the decisions that are being made by the boards of fish and game then they should use the confirmation process to change the make up of the boards.

Please consider this fair and administratively consistent option when you vote for this bill. A no vote is the only fair vote for this bill.

Sincerely;



Robert J. Kopchak

Jody Rullman
117 Wooded Glenn
Kenai, Alaska 99611
(907) 283-4075

January 11, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol, Rm. #128
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Bill Williams:

I am writing to express my opposition to the bill Representative Mulder intends to introduce concerning the allocation of sockeye salmon in Cook Inlet.

The Legislature has already addressed this particular allocation issue as well as all allocation issues by mandating specific allocation criteria for the Alaska Board of Fisheries to use in all allocation decisions. It would be redundant for the legislature to reevaluate the allocation decisions previously made by the Board of Fisheries, for they would surely use the same allocation criteria they mandated. This seems like a lot of extra work for an already too busy Legislature.

Although I don't always agree with the decisions of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, I feel that they are doing the job of managing the fisheries resource as they were set up to do. The Board of Fisheries is the agency that should deal with allocation issues, not the Legislature.

Please vote against this bill. The repercussions would be endless.

Sincerely,

Jody C. Rullman

Jody Rullman

January 11, 1994

Dear Representative Williams,

It has come to my attention that an act relating to the management of Cook Inlet salmon AS 16.05 Section 16.05.740 is about to be introduced for legislative consideration.

As a concerned citizen, Sport Fisherman on the Kenai Peninsula for over 20 years and the elected Sport fishing representative of the Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory committee it is my opinion that fisheries allocation issues should not be addressed or voted on by the legislature.

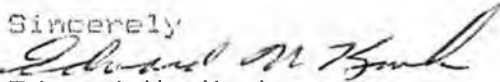
The State of Alaska already has a procedure in place to address all fisheries issues and act on them. This procedure is through local advisory committees for local public input and local biologists input and then sent to the State Boards of Fish and Game for making into regulations as necessary.

As well as local involvement the State has a highly paid an expert staff of biologists to manage its fisheries.

These biologists and Fisheries Board personnel are far better equipped and more knowledgeable to handle the complex issues of fisheries management than any group of elected officials.

The legislature should NOT become involved in fisheries management at this time or any time in the future.

Sincerely



Edward N. Krohn

P.O. Box 587

Soldotna Alaska 99669



"Looking for a few GOOD fishermen"

LAWRENCE D. RORRISON JR.

P.O. Box 250

KENAI, ALASKA 99611

(907) 283-3873

(907)283-6220 FAX

**Cook Inlet Set Net
Commercial Fisherman**

1/17/94

Dear Rep. Bill Williams,

I am a commercial setnet fishermen, fishing only salmon in Cook Inlet. You are in the process of putting me out of business.

Representative Williams, please give careful consideration when you address SB 241 and HB 366. Without addressing the technicalities of the bill, the over riding idea that the legislature will be involved in the allocation of a fisheries resource will lead to the death of my fishery and then many others within the state. It takes many long hours for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to present their annual fisheries reports. Their documents reach many hundreds of pages. They make detailed studies of many aspects of biological issues and some political questions. Many members of the public have suggestions (proposals) about how they would like to see a fishery operate and there are others that have sincere comments on these and other issues (public testimony).

The Alaska Board of Fisheries was designed as the mechanism to handle all this information. The Board has come a long ways from the days past, it insists that a *proper* public record be built. Most if not all members expend a huge amount of energy and time digesting all the information presented by the ADF&G staff and hundreds from the general public and the fishing industry.

With this intervention of the legislature, the Board of Fisheries process will stop! Every issue that is not settled as one group see fit will be brought before each body of the state legislature for resolution. This will quickly go way past the "allocation" question as almost all conflicts could become expressed as an "allocation" problem if given enough time with an attorney.

I feel that I have and can in the future personally contribute to the Board of Fisheries as they have resolved some of their sticky issues. The Board addresses discrete state regions on a three year revolving basis, using a set meeting schedule that can be somewhat depended upon and planned around and for. This allows the public to provide meaningful input on specific issues, without getting lost in another region's problems. I also only have to find a week or two to attend these hearings and they are usually in a centrally located city or town.

I personally do not feel that as a citizen of the state of Alaska, I have much influence with you or your colleagues with the possible exception of my representatives. I can't travel to Juneau and stay three months to provide the quality, in-depth and in person input that is required for each question.

Representative Williams, for these reasons and many more I would urge you to please vote against SB 241 and/or HB 366 in the best interests of the economic, social and biological health of the State of Alaska's best natural resources, its fisheries.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence D. Rorrison Jr.", written in dark ink.

Lawrence D. Rorrison Jr.

Owner

January 19, 1994
Kasilof, AK 99610

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

I, as a sports fisherman, subsistence fisherman and a commercial crew person oppose the Cook Inlet Fish Allocation Issues being taken from the Board of Fisheries and made a political issue by Representative Mulder's Bill.

Sports fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula have all the early Kings and Reds, priority over the Silvers and late Kings, 5% of the late Reds and all of the Silvers after August 15th.

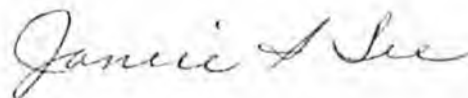
Subsistence fishermen have special openings and an early Kasilof River Opening.

Cook Inlet commercial fishermen have July and two weeks in August to make their actual annual catch.

Biologically, these seasons are controlled so that the runs are not overfished or underfished with special openings or closings for all users.

This is the most sensible use of the resource and should not become a political football.

Sincerely yours,



Janice I. See

John Bocci
Box 1312
Cordova, Ak.
99574

18 January, 1994

House Resource Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital (ms 3100)
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182

re: House Bill # 366


Rep. Williams.

In regard to H.B. 366, I think a dangerous precedent is being set here and perhaps with much further reaching ramifications than you may have envisioned. Just the idea of legislation such as this indicates to me that the sponsors don't have a firm grasp of exactly what they may be getting into. The legislature should stick to the areas of its expertise and allow the Board of Fisheries to do likewise, it is, after all, designed to do exactly what you're toying with, make educated decisions concerning fish and game resources.

If the railbelt is allowed to make all the decisions for the entire state, then those of us who choose not to live there may as well go somewhere else. Turning resource management into a political weapon is a tremendous injustice to all Alaskans. Once you start such a process, where does it end? If you think you can make one decision and then revert back to the original system, I think you're mistaken. To allocate resource's away from rural Alaska to satisfy urban voters is bad politics. I realize you have a debt to pay to your constituents, but I like to think of the legislature as working in the best interest of the State as a whole.

There are enough fish for everyone, contrary to what some may have you believe. Please leave the decision making process in the proper hands.

Sincerely,


John Bocci

jwb



: House Members

um: Rep. Lyman
Hoffman

FYI

**RESOLUTION 94-03
COUNCIL OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF TYONEK
AN INDIAN CHARTERED TRIBE**

WHEREAS; This Tribe is an Indian Chartered Tribe, as defined by the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of June 14, 1934, and the Act of May 1, 1936 extending certain provisions of the former Act of Alaska, and under its Charter, Constitution and By-Laws, has full authority to act in the following, and,

WHEREAS; the Native Village of Tyonek has established long range goals which relate to the collective and individual, social and economical concerns of its population base and,

WHEREAS; the very life of the Native Village of Tyonek Tribe will be culturally and economically will be devastated if "Allocation by Legislation" becomes a reality, if all Fish and Game issue are to be brought before future legislatures; and,

WHEREAS; SB 241 demonstrates no concern for the future resources and ignores fact that the Board of Fisheries process is designed to take all biological information into consideration and,

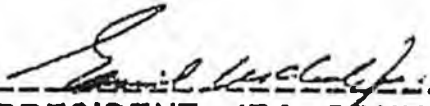
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Native Village of Tyonek's IRA Council opposes SB 241 and urges the Legislature to support the Board of Fisheries Policy, which continues to manage all Alaskan Rivers on a biological sustained yield

basis.

CERTIFICATION

DATED THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY, 1994

NATIVE VILLAGE OF TYONEK



PRESIDENT, IRA COUNCIL



SECRETARY, IRA COUNCIL

VOTED FOR:	<u>7</u>
VOTED AGAINST:	<u>6</u>
ABSTAINED:	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	<u>1</u>
PRESENT:	<u>7</u>

Editor, Ketchikan Daily News,

Feb. 3, 1994

Senator Fred Zharoff, D. Kodiak wrote to the Point of View editorial on January 28th in regard to keeping Management where it belongs. This article is in reference to SB241 and HB366, the allocation of Red Salmon in Cook Inlet.

It is our organizations stand to Support Senator Zharoffs view towards Fish Management within Alaska. The Board of Fish must remain in control of this issue due to the nature of management of Alaskas resources. If these Bills are allowed to be settled in the Political arena of our Legislature, the flood gates would be wide open to the Lobbying efforts of special interest groups. With the current system, we, as residents of Alaska, have a say in the way our Fisheries are Managed. Therefore we encourage that Management of Fish remain in control of the appointed Members of the Board of Fish.

Sincerely,

Bob DeWitt
Bob DeWitt
President
Ketchikan Sports and
Wildlife Club

January 14, 1994

Let's Keep Fish and Game Management Where It Belongs

By State Senator Fred Zharoff

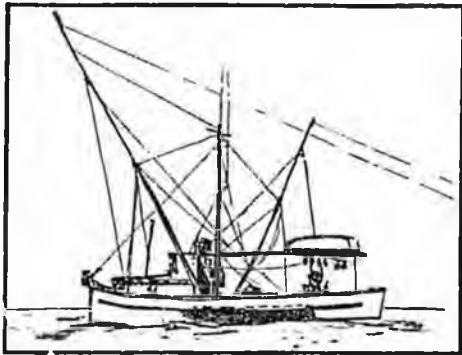
Legislation has recently been introduced in both houses of the Alaska State Legislature regarding fisheries allocation in the Cook Inlet area. These measures, SB 241 in the Senate and its companion bill, HB 366, in the House, would preempt management through the normal regulatory process by mandating management of sockeye salmon in Cook Inlet by statute. This effort is a blatant attempt by special interests to circumvent Alaska's established, effective, and proven system of management through our board process.

Managing our valuable fish or game resources by statute is simply bad public policy. The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game provide the proper forum for determining the management and allocation of our resources. The Board forum allows for a very high level of both public and management agency input that gives the Board members access to crucial historical and biological information. The legislature is not set up to function in this manner.

In my tenure in the legislature, this type of an issue has come up on several occasions. In almost every instance, the legislature has recognized that this is not the arena for making these complex decisions. We simply cannot have a situation where every person or group who feels that they did not get all that they want through our

Board process comes to the legislature and asks us to make special laws on their behalf. Fish and Game regulations are just that - regulations - and it is the job of the Boards and the Department of Fish and Game to make and implement these regulations and review them on a regular basis. If we start managing through the legislature, we will end up with a real mess on our hands. Managing by statute just doesn't leave the flexibility that is needed for our resources. Both the public and the resource will ultimately be the loser if this happens.

I know that allocation of fish in Cook Inlet has been contentious for quite some time. However, the Board of Fisheries, which is made up of persons representing commercial, subsistence, sport, and personal uses, after hearing extensive public testimony and reviewing all the pertinent data, recently voted 7-0 to implement the current management regime. This unanimous vote by the Board after a long hearing on all the issues shows how complex this matter is. What is being presented to the legislature now would lead one to believe that this is a simple, black and white issue, and that is not the case at all. I will be working hard in opposition to this legislation in order to protect the public process and keep fish and game management where it belongs.



Alaska Trollers Association

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

February 2, 1994

Alaska State Legislator
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Legislator,

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) strongly opposes SB 241 and HB 366, which pertain to the management of sockeye salmon in Cook Inlet. ATA believes that decisions governing the management of Alaska's fisheries should remain the purview of the Board of Fisheries. The role of legislators in regard to Alaska fisheries is best limited to confirming qualified, unbiased Board members and developing broad state fisheries policy.

Alaska's fisheries are vast and complex. Allocative decisions between user groups are best addressed in the Board of Fisheries forum, not in the Legislature chambers. This will ensure not only public input, but the consideration of important biological and management information provided by ADF&G's fisheries scientists.

The members of the Board of Fisheries bring years of fishing experience and regional knowledge to the Board process. They are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislative body.

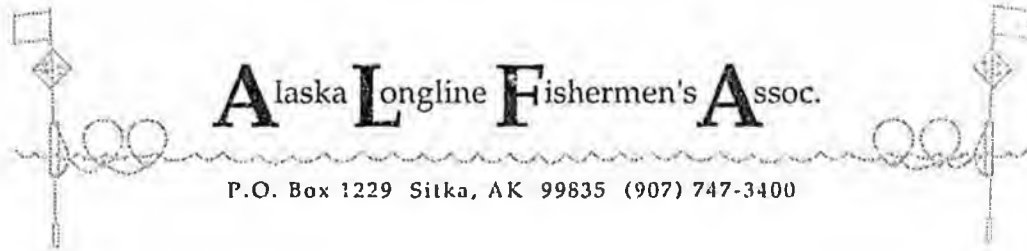
Should the Legislature choose to implement the terms of SB 241 and HB 366, it will question the Board of Fisheries' process and anyone unhappy with an allocation decision will bring their issue to the Legislature. This will set a grim precedent for the management of Alaska's fish and game, as political muscle will become the deciding factor in allocative disputes.

ATA encourages you to oppose SB 241 and HB 366.

Sincerely,

Michelle Buehler for OK.

Dale A. Kelley
Executive Director



Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SB 241
HB 366

January 18, 1994

Dear Legislator,

On behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association's (ALFA) membership, I would like to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 241. ALFA opposes S.B. 241, and any legislation introduced to amend Board of Fisheries and Game legislation, for the following reasons:

1. Alaska has maintained healthy, productive natural resources by basing management decisions on science rather than politics. Fish and Game management is the responsibility of the Board of Fisheries and Game, a body that works closely with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to ensure that best available science is used in the decision making process. Any legislation that preempts this process jeopardizes the health of Alaska's fish and game resources by politicizing decisions, subverting science to the persuasiveness of lobbyist. The same subversion destroyed the fisheries off the East coast.
2. In making decisions on the Cook Inlet sockeye salmon allocation, the Board had available biological information as well as socioeconomic information. S.B. 241 threatens streamside habitat by increasing the sport fishery; S.B. 241 also threatens the socioeconomic health of the Cook Inlet area, where sockeye harvests represent 90-95% of the income for 3,500 commercial fishermen and 3,000 processing sector workers. The economy of the Kenai Peninsula depends on a healthy, productive commercial Cook Inlet Sockeye fishery. Legislative action to reverse the Board's decision would undermine both the biological and socioeconomic health of the Kenai/Cook Inlet region.

In sum, S.B. 241 presents an immediate threat to the Cook Inlet area, as well as a long-term threat to Alaska's fish and game resources by subverting science to politics. In the future, Alaska's economic health will become increasingly dependent on its renewable resources; maintaining abundant, sustainable fish stocks is critical to that future. Interjecting politics through legislative action into the management of fish and game will set a disastrous precedent. On behalf of ALFA's membership, I urge you to protect Alaska's resources, uphold the Board process, and oppose S.B. 241.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Linda Behnken (Exec. Director, ALFA)

January 19, 1994

Alaska Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

SUBJECT: Future of Commercial Fishing in Cook Inlet

Dear Legislator,

The Legislature has been asked to intervene in the management of Cook Inlet salmon resources in areas formerly handled by the Board of Fisheries. This intervention is demanded by special interest groups. How the Legislature handles these demands will forever affect the future of Cook Inlet. Is commercial fishing in that future?

The commercial fishing industry cannot continue to remain healthy and viable within this increasingly complicated political atmosphere. We are able to compete with our votes and lobbyist but, we cannot challenge the notion that from powers on high, birthright, constitutional right, etc., that all Alaskans, tourists, relatives, or any one else who happens to be here when the salmon run comes in, has the God given right that they be guaranteed, by the State, enough fish to consume, send to their relatives, feed the dogs, and take to the dump when Spring arrives, then it is time to do it again.

The numbers of people here who exercise these "rights" is uncontrolled and will increase, as will the pressure to take more salmon from the commercial fishing industry, eventually starving it to death. This is what was done in Washington, Oregon, and California, and as we know, resulted in the annihilation of their salmon resources. These states failed to realize, that in order to maintain their commercial salmon fisheries, they had to take into account all other user groups and control them too.

It is important to note: If there are sufficient numbers of salmon to have a controlled commercial harvest, it follows that the area has a healthy run. If not, decades of salmon management experience has documented that the run is stressed or, worse, endangered. I am saying that all Pacific salmon runs were commercially viable at one time.

Please remember this when you vote on the future of Alaska's salmon- A healthy commercial harvest means an equally healthy sport and subsistence harvest.

You, in the Legislature have always had a method whereby all user groups will remain economically viable. Reduce the amount of commercial fishing gear by buying permits back. The current bills before you seek to reduce the entire fishery collectively whereby, eventually, as ever more demands are made, no commercial fisherman will make enough to continue and the State will lose yet another industry.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R E Merchant".

I am a 21 year resident and a 19 year Cook Inlet commercial fisherman.

Robert E. Merchant
P.O. Box 705
Soldotna, AK 99689
(907) 283-9447

January 19, 1994

Alaska Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative,

I want to express my opposition to HB 366.

Alaskan's are supposed to manage its resource on a biologically, not a political manner.

Have you also considered that your bill, HB 366 may cause more harm to the resource and as an end result, you will create a monster that you can not repair?

The Board of Fish process considers all aspects of the resource, not one special group over another.

Let the Board of Fish handle fish allocation and you handle legislative problems and our government will work. HB 366 is not a good bill.

*Thank you for your time
Emmet Heidemann
PO Box 770661
Eagle River, Alaska, 99577
Telephone 694-4497*

1-19-94

Dear Representative:

I strongly oppose HB 366
Resources should be managed
biologically not politically.

The Fish Board does an excellent
job in all aspects of the resource, does
not show favoritism over any special
group. Let them continue to handle
fish allocation and the House take care
of legislation like it is supposed to.

HB 366 is a bill that will cause
harm to the resource.

Thank you for your attention

Cavine Heidemann

PO Box 770061

Eagle River, Ak 99577

Telephone# 694-4497

Teague Vanek
931 W. 71st Ave.
Anchorage, Ak 99518
(907)349-7523

JAN. 20, 1994

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, Ak

Dear Legislators,

Please be aware that I vehemently oppose House Bill No. 366 and Senate Bill No. 241. This bill should never have been introduced in the first place because it undermines the highly democratic processes already in place with the Board of Fisheries. It is nothing more than a left-handed attempt by Rep. Mulder and his friends to circumvent the Board of Fisheries with their own political agenda.

It is imperative that this bill not pass, because using the legislature as a tool for allocation and re-allocation of the fisheries resource is not useful or practical. The Board of Fisheries process is one that accepts and uses input from the fishing industry, sport fishing interests, expert biologists, law enforcement officials, and many others. Local advisory groups also participate. Pre-emption of this process would only serve to degrade its viability. It would also shift a great burden upon the legislature, because there will always be someone dissatisfied with what "they" got out of the Board of Fisheries.

Other reasons for failing this bill include the increased habitat destruction it would cause, increased challenges for fisheries managers, and the simple fact that it is unfair. There is already controversy over what to do about the habitat destruction committed by the current level of sport sockeye fishermen's hip boots. Adding more can only increase the salmon habitat loss. Don't let that happen!

Failure of this bill will send a strong message to those who would like to belittle the public process already in place in the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Teague Vanek

Teague Vanek

Dear Legislator Williams

I vehemently oppose Mulders bill reallocating Cook Inlet sockeye by amending AS16.05. The Board of Fisheries works! They need to be left alone so they CAN do their job, besides; pertaining to this issue there are plenty of sportsman on the Board. Politicians don't belong in fish management; do you consider yourself a fair judge of biological issues? The Legislature can't possibly due justice to the runs, you can't debate fish management politically. The Board of Fish is the tool by which all parties have their say; Legislators are not on par with the professionals at ADF & G.

To top it off; it's stealing! That's what God calls it, all the way from the Exodus. You can't take part of one user groups share and simply give it to another user group, who happens to be a squeakier part (and is every year). It would be a criminal act in my book, and personally I believe the privilege to provide a livelihood for my family comes before the privilege to recreate- anyday! Please leave fisheries to the professionals.

Furthermore; this idea of a 40 mile long dip net fishery demonstrates quite clearly my whole point here. That's twice as assinine as Pennys Project US was; purly ludicrous! I'm convinced that some of you politicians really don't have a clue about fisheries; and this idea just enforces that thinking. Consider the destruction of the habitat.

Also, this minimum percentage to be reallocated; exactly what part of the run is that? Please tell me?

This is Pandoras Box you're playing with, think of the far reaching effects- on the fish, and yes even politically. You're literally going to have absolutely EVERY fishery organization in the entire state out on this one. The precedent of this could make the Boldt decision look like peanuts.

STOP this terrible piece of legislation is my hope. Please respond to me with how you feel on the situation, thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

Rick Jewell

Rick Jewell

Distributed by Rep. Phillips

January 21, 1994

RE: Senate Bill to Allocate Commercial Fish to Sport Fish # 241
HB 366

Dear Legislator:

We are six Southcentral Alaska commercial fishermen who adamantly oppose the legislature's weakening the Board of Fisheries regulatory process by passing laws allocating fishery resources. If that were to occur, every rule made by the Board would be subjected to pleas for legislative change.

The Board listens to hours of public testimony and scientific data on which to base their decision. The legislature makes primarily political decisions. Please, maintain the integrity of the Board of Fisheries process by defeating this Senate Bill. and House Bill.

Sincerely,

Beaver Nelson *Beaver Nelson*

Joccie Nelson *Joccie Nelson* 235-0115

Rob Nelson *Rob Nelson*

Kerry Nelson *Kerry Nelson*

Tom Nelson *Tom Nelson*

Sonja Nelson *Sonja Nelson*

*Kenia - Please distribute to all legislators.
Thanks.
Joccie*

For your files

1/24/94

From: Christine Holmes
Box 2676
Cordova, AK 99574

To. Representative William K. Williams
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Room 128-C

Re. House Bill 366

Dear Representative Williams,

I am a commercial fisherman in Alaska and I am opposed to House bill 366 because I feel it is wrong to manage a fishery resource politically rather than biologically. Just say NO! Please vote no on H3 366.

Sincerely,

Christine Holmes