

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2001-2002 86/2

10364 HOUSE RESOURCES

209

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone (907) 772-9323 Fax (907) 772-4495

April 23, 2001

Re: PVOA Opposes Confirmation of Dr. White to Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Taylor and Representative Wilson,

On behalf of Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, I urge you to oppose the confirmation of Dr. John White (Bethel) for his third term on the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). PVOA believes that two terms are enough and a time for a change is long overdue. We also believe that commercial fishing is underrepresented in the membership of the BOF particularly in regards to "bluewater" ocean fisheries (as opposed to terminal or in-river fisheries). The legal and dental communities have disproportionately more representation on the BOF than the commercial fishing fleet.

We also believe that geographic balance of the BOF is skewed. Currently the make-up of the BOF has three representatives from Western Alaska (Bethel, Dillingham, and the upper Yukon). Western Alaska is over represented with three seats, therefore not re-appointing Dr. White may help correct the imbalance. Western Alaska should be adequately represented with two seats. After all, Southeast has had but one seat for ten years while Kodiak and Prince William Sound have held no seats for about the same duration. Alaska Peninsula has also not had a seat on the BOF in six years.

There are other viable candidates to choose from including Art Nelson and Paul Shadura that would bring a fresh view point to the BOF. In the regard, PVOA asks that the Alaska Legislature not re-confirm Dr. White to the BOF.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,



Gerry Merrigan
Director, PVOA

Post-It® Fax Note	7071	Date	# of pages 3
To	SCALZI / STEVENS	From	PVOA
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

Close Hold: Not for Circulation

Specifically PVOA's opposition to reconfirmation of Dr. White is based on:

- Two terms is enough. One of the telling signs that individuals have served too long on any public board is when those individuals decide they do not need the public anymore. This is evident in the recent turn of events in which the BOF came to a position on an issue (halibut charter IFQs) without the benefit of a public meeting or public input or public notice (3/28/01 letter from Dan Coffey, chairman BOF to NPFMC). Since Dr. White has not publicly stated any dissent to this BOF position prior to the NPFMC meeting, we can only interpret that he concurs with this position which was devoid of public process.
- Dr. White was one of the principal architects at the BOF in keeping the hatchery chum issue tabled indefinitely at the BOF (from 1997) even though it was repeatedly stated that the BOF did not have the authority to regulate and reduce hatchery chum releases in SE Alaska and Prince William Sound. The appropriate action would have been take no action rather than tabling from year to year. The BOF Standing Rules (finding 91-128-FB) states, *"Take no action: Has the effect of killing a proposal or issue upon adjournment. There are two reasons for taking no action: 1) It is found that the proposal is beyond the board's authority; or 2) due to board action on a previous proposal(s)."* Tabling is primarily done to gather more information, however if the BOF lacks authority the appropriate course of action is to take no action. The BOF finally took this course of no action in regards to this issue at the January, 2001 BOF meeting.
- An other BOF Standing Rule is, *"Do not change or reverse the intent of a proposal/issue."* At the January BOF meeting, Dr. White took a proposal for establishing a gillnet herring fishery in Dutch Harbor, and at the meeting (with no public notice or analysis), added a section for a punitive overage payback policy in regards to the seine fishery. This is now the only herring fishery in the state with such a provision even though the harvest rate is well below the maximum in this fishery.
- Dr. White's interpretation of what constitutes "practical public notice" seems to change one hundred and eighty degrees depending on what the the issue and his interest level. The normal practical public notice process is that proposals are due April 10, the proposal book is published in the summer, reviewed by the public and advisory committees, and public meetings are held in the winter and spring on those proposals. At the March 2000 meeting in Anchorage, Dr. White held the position that the BOF could drastically change and modify a proposal in the book and that was well within practical public notice. In this case, it was a proposal regarding Adak and banning trawling for cod in state waters. At the meeting, the BOF allowed this proposal to be modified to banning all gear for all groundfish species by vessels over 60 feet. The BOF held unanimously that these changes did not violate public notice. In contrast, at the January 2001 BOF meeting, Dr. White refused to allow proposals

(as written, unchanged and unmodified) to be moved from the latter half of the meeting to the front half of the meeting, as this would violate practical public notice. In this case, the proposals in question concerned Area M, an area of particular interest of Dr. White.

- Prior to the January 2001 BOF meeting, Dr. White made an extensive three page data request to ADF&G which concluded with, "Finally, I do not want my request for information forwarded to the public, simply put. These are my request (sic) as a board member and I don't want them shared, period." So much for the public.

[Fwd: Oppose confirmation of John White for Board of Fisheries!]

Subject: [Fwd: Oppose confirmation of John White for Board of Fisheries!]

Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2001 09:47:56 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: Oppose confirmation of John White for Board of Fisheries!

Date: Sun, 22 Apr 2001 11:28:28 -0700

From: "Bob and Janice Martinson" <danse@mtaonline.net>

To: "Drew Scalzi" <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Hugh Fate" <RepresentativeHughFate@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Mike Chenault" <Representative_Mike_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Joe Green" <Representative_Joe_Green@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Lesil McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Gary Stevens" <Representative_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Mary Kapsner" <Representative_Mary_Kapsner@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Beth Kertula" <Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Beverly Masck" <Representative_Beverly_Masck@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear members of the Legislature:


I serve on the Board for Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU), Copper River Salmon Producers Association (CRSPA), and the Mat-Su Borough Mayor's "Blue Ribbon Fisheries Committee". I strongly oppose the appointment of John White for another term on the Board of Fish.

Governor Knowles has not appointed any commercial fishermen to the Board of Fisheries for the last seven years and this has resulted in a serious imbalance on the Board, resulting in jeopardy and detriment to a one billion dollar industry and communities throughout Alaska. This is the time to act!

Dr. White was a supporter of the subsistence priority for the Chitina Dipnetters and voted to support their ACR, as well. I do not believe that John is capable of listening to the users, the issues, or the scientific professionals without bias any longer, and MUST be replaced. You are certainly aware of the costs we incur when we have to defend our historical right to fish each and every year as these ACR's have done. Please try to balance the BOF with interests from ALL users.

Thank you,

ROBERT A. MARTINSON
900 IROQUOIS DRIVE
WASILLA, AK 99654
PHONE: 907-373-2627
E-MAIL: danse@mtaonline.net

 winmail.dat	Name: winmail.dat Type: application/ms-tnef Encoding: base64
---	---



testimony
in
Support

April 25, 2001

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Honored Legislators:

Orutsararmiut Native Council would like to express their endorsement and urge your vote of support to confirm Dr. John White's re-appointment to the State Board of Fisheries. Dr. White's knowledge and experience in this area is simply too valuable. Without individuals of such integrity in positions of this nature, our state loses in the long run.

You have heard severe criticism of some of his decisions from some specific area fisheries representatives. These mostly regarding actions on sharing the burden for conservation and sustainability of fisheries resources throughout their migratory range. He has taken a strong stance on this issue, and it is a stance that is necessary for everyone who has an interest in maintaining the long-term future viability of our fisheries resource and related industries. Those who tell you different are choosing to acknowledge or portray their concerns only in short-sighted allocative terms.

In the larger picture, Mr. White has presented a fair and balanced approach in an extremely complicated and contentious arena. His actions reflect a recognition and attempt to serve the needs and interests of all the people of our state, not just those who happen to have the financial resources to aggressively lobby their own self-serving agendas. Our fervent hope would be that you cast your vote in the same regard, and confirm Dr. White's appointment to the state Board of Fisheries. Thank you for your positive consideration and response to our comments.

Sincerely,

Henry Hunter,
Chairman

Apr 24 01 03:28p

AVCP Natural Resources

(907)543-5702

P. 1

AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
 Natural Resource Department
 P.O. Box 218 • Bethel, Alaska 99559 • Phone 543-3521

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!
CALL FOR ACTION



TO: RURAL FISHING COMMUNITIES & FISHERMEN
FR: AVCP, INC., DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DATE: APRIL 24, 2001
RE: SUPPORT THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF DR. WHITE TO BOARD OF FISHERIES

Total Pgs.: **3**

The Governor has decided to nominate Dr. John White to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) for a third term along with Mr. Russell Nelson of Bristol Bay.

Confirmation hearings were held by House Committee on Fisheries on April 23, the list of callers from around the state was concentrated from Southeast and South-central Alaska, the majority of the callers opposing Dr. White's re-appointment. Some callers were flat out mean-spirited.

This is a result of Dr. White's fair-handedness in dealing with sharing the burden of conservation and burden of proof in Alaska's fisheries. His being fair has affected richer commercial fisheries in the State and they want to punish him for it. Some urban fishermen groups have sent out alerts to their members to send in large volumes of Public Opinion Messages (POM) and testimonies to the House and Senate confirmation hearings in this matter, and it is apparent that they have a presence. **WE NEED TO HAVE A PRESENCE TOO!**

At the hearing yesterday, only a few callers from the Bristol Bay and Kawerak region, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA) and our new Interim Director of Natural Resources, Jennifer Hooper of AVCP made-up the only testimonies from Rural Alaska supporting Dr. White.

THE HOUSE AND SENATE ARE GOING TO VOTE ON THIS CONFIRMATION AND WE CAN NOT BE SILENT AGAIN!

PLEASE TAKE ACTION, TRIBAL OFFICES, STAFF AND CHIEF'S, FILL OUT THIS FORM AND FAX INTO THE BETHEL LIO, OR EMAIL COMMENTS!

A joint session of the House and Senate will vote on final confirmation before adjournment now scheduled for May 3rd.

Some fishing groups are contending that Governor Knowles has not appointed any commercial fishermen to the BOF for the last seven years. Dr. White is a commercial fisherman and has been for over 20 years on the Kuskokwim!

3 pages

April 24, 2001

Senator John Torgerson
Chair, Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol MS: 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Torgerson:

Members of the committee, my name is Paul A. Shadura II and I reside in Kenai Peninsula Borough. I have traveled 1,000 miles to testify today on the re-confirmation of Board of Fisheries member John White.

There are some key points that I believe you should consider:

1. How has the record of this board member proved to the committee that he has made fair and unbiased decisions that benefit all the users of the state?
 - a) Section 6(e) of the Alaska Statehood act states... (The) policy-making officials should be selected for their ability and their dedicated interest in the resource, and no identification should be made between a policy-making official and any particular segment of the population; likewise, no official should be bound to represent the interests of a specific geographical region.
 - b) In addition, an excerpt from the "Board of Fish review Committee" dated 2/23/88... In 1975 the Legislature enacted a new statute which split the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game, the members of which must be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature "without regard to political affiliation or geographical location" (ch. 206 SLA 1975). However, despite the explicit aforementioned statutory prohibitions, for more than a quarter century Alaska Governors, aided and abetted by the legislature, have appointed individuals to the Board because of their identification with special interests or geographic areas.
 - c) Re-appointing board members for two or three terms does not adhere to any diversity of interests and in fact would solidify or ingrain the inherent bias or idealism of one member from one area and from only one perspective or resource user.
 - d) If we are attempting to reduce the temptation of an administration or body from exerting political philosophies on board members that are not to be considered by political affiliations, then it would seem proper that "new blood" and "new ideas" would help to ensure that there would be less collusion and a stronger attempt for Board of Fish members to balance the decisions they promulgate.

2. Have decisions made by this board member resulted in sweeping losses to resource users?
 - a. In the Kuskokwim River region, this area will now be closed for real conservation reasons. This is Mr. White's back yard yet in six years which included his time as chairman he could not craft a moderate solution and now his inability has severely impacted the economic viability for the fishing families of this region.
 - b. In Cook Inlet in August 2001, Mr. White failed to approve an emergency petition that resulted in a surplus stock of pink salmon in excess of 20 Million fish. Information from local ADF&G personnel gave the Board their best available information on the need for surplus fishery and assessments that the conservation species that the board had been concerned about were returning in record numbers (In the final analysis the best return to the Kenai River in 20 years.).
 - c. Mr. White was instrumental on deterring the responsibilities of the decline of chum salmon away from his turf and placing the blame on a distant Area M. These sweeping changes to this area regulations will not, as board member Coffey alluded to in a recent legislative committee report, make the Kuskokwim whole again.
3. Does this board member listen to the concerns of others and does he have the necessary participation experience on affected fisheries?
 - a. Board member White has stated publicly that he does not feel the public testimony is necessary (Fall workshop 1999).
 - b. He voted against having a recorded copy of all committee meetings (Fall workshop 1999).
 - c. He reserves his ex-parte communications with only selected members of the public and stakeholders. Many times I or others in the commercial fishing community have gone up to Mr. White and have been rudely cast off with no answers except a sarcastic remark.
 - d. Mr. White is a dentist from Bethel, yet his recent press release states that he is a commercial fisherman. I believe that he has a freshwater longline permit that is not an open fishery and a limited fishery gillnet on the Kuskokwim. In contrast you may review someone like myself who is a third generation commercial fisherman in Cook Inlet, with family history that dates back over 100 years. I am an Alaska native descendent with Russian and English heritage because they were the first explorers in the State. I commercially fish salmon, herring, and halibut. My family has owned traps; we have been involved in processing, fish buying, and tendering. I have subsisted on salted salmon and sport fished in the Kenai River before it was fashionable. I am an active Board member of the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association for 20 years, board member to the CIRCAC and KRSMA boards. I have been involved with KPFA for 30 years, and am a UFA Board member. I live, eat, and breath fishing and I AM AN ALASKAN COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN!

Please do not reconfirm John White. He will not improve the fisheries. He will not use his intellect to bring the conflicts of individual users to a mutual agreement.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Shadura II
Kenai



RECORDS CERTIFICATION



I, the undersigned, an employee of the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the microfilm images on this microform are accurate reproductions of the original records of the State of Alaska as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established policy and practice of this State to microfilm its records and to dispose of the original documents after microfilm reproductions have been made.

William J. Carter

Signature of Camera Operator

10/14/2003

Date

CONFIRM.

BOARD

OF

FISH

5/01/02



Kenai River Sportfishing Association, inc.

PO Box 1228 • 161 N. Binkley Street, Suite 201

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

907.262.8588 phone 907.262.8582 fax

www.kenairiversportfishing.org • kenairiv@ptialaska.net

Dedicated to preserving the greatest sportfishing river in the world, the Kenai.

April 25, 2002

The Honorable Drew Scalzi
Alaska State House
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Scalzi:

Please accept this letter from the Kenai River Sportfishing Association, Inc. (KRSA) in support of the legislative confirmation of Brett Huber to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. KRSA is a member-based, conservation organization whose mission is the preservation of the Kenai River through protecting habitat, providing education and promoting responsible sport fishing.

As you know, the Alaska Board of Fisheries plays a critical role in fulfilling the state's stewardship responsibility to our fish and our fisheries. While no user group agrees with every decision reached by the regulators, in our estimation the Board of Fisheries has performed remarkably. In the face of an ever-increasing workload and additional jurisdictional complexities the Board of Fisheries has not only taken care of business, they have dramatically improved their process and developed and adopted policies that will benefit the fish and their attendant fisheries for generations to come.

As you are aware, Brett Huber, our executive director has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Board of Fisheries. We would like you to know that he has the full support of the KRSA board of directors. After discussion with Brett and among ourselves at our January 24th quarterly business meeting, the KRSA board unanimously approved endorsing his appointment. While fishery management issues are often contentious and the debate can sometimes be quite emotional, KRSA has always striven to take positions based on the best available biology and sound scientific fishery management principles. We are confident that Mr. Huber will approach his service to the Board with sound science and stewardship first in his mind and a sincere commitment to putting the fish first.

We know Brett to be motivated, hardworking, dependable and professional in fulfilling his responsibilities as the administrator of our non-profit. We also know that he displays those same qualities in the many volunteer roles he plays in the community. We feel certain that those characteristics coupled with his knowledge and background in habitat conservation and fishery management and his familiarity with the Board's process would make him a valuable and productive member of the Board.

Thank you again for your interest and dedication to our fisheries. We appreciate your consideration of our support for Mr. Huber and would be happy to provide any additional information you may desire.

Sincerely,

Rik Bucy
Chairman

BRETT HUBER DO NOT CONFIRM



COOK INLET FISHERMAN'S FUND

Non-profit Advocate for all Commercial Fishing Gear Types in Area H
P.O. Box 39408 Ninilchik, AK 99639 FAX 907-260-5614

*Huber
Nelson
fisher*

April 16, 2002

To all Representatives and Senators
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RECEIVED
APR 22 2002

Re: Board of Fish Confirmation

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On behalf of over 320 members of the Cook Inlet Fisherman's Fund, we are asking for your prompt attention and action in blocking the confirmation of Brett Huber.

While we endorse Gerry Merrigan and Art Nelson, the attached 200 plus public opinion messages send a crystal clear message of widespread opposition to Brett Huber's advancement. The signed Public Opinion cards are coming into our office on a daily basis and we shall send them to you weekly. Please read them and look at the individual signatures. You will be able to see that all walks of life not just commercial fishermen are signing these cards. Mr. Huber has alienated not just the commercial fishing families, but Alaskans that utilize the resources for subsistence needs and local recreation.

Undoubtedly some of you attended the salmon summit in Kodiak recently and for the most part the consensus was to develop a degree of advocacy for the salmon industry. Our problems in Cook Inlet are regulatory and not a lack of resource. We have experienced a great deal of antagonism from the board of fish and in particular, at the hands of Mr. Huber. At the board meeting in Anchorage in February he formed a quorum with a group of Kenai River guides to promote a hook and release fishery on declining trophy king salmon stocks. In so much as these regulations hurt the king return and the river, they also allocate to non-resident sport fishermen at the expense of local sport, and commercial fishermen.

The constitution clearly stipulates against allocation of natural resources to non-residents, "in times of shortage the non-resident will be restricted first". There is a growing contingent of local sport fishermen that speak out in favor of a food fishery not a hook and release play with food fishery, that panders to guided non-resident anglers. Some have expressed the view that these regulations Huber lobbied for at the board of fish meeting are tantamount to privatizing the Kenai River.

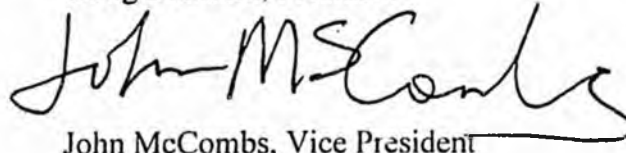
Mr. Huber's disregard for the habitat, resource and the local folks that have lived and worked here in our community, has created a great deal of animosity locally. Because he has embraced a messianic role as a voice of the river, a voice no one wants to hear, his greatest success has been in alienating river users of all walks of life. It has been his actions that prompted a large group of very influential local citizens to run an add in the Peninsula Clarion.

Our local economy is in poor financial shape. The loss of commercial fishing income has had a severe impact on local families. The local processors are being regulated out of business, and city and borough government's are losing tax income. The raw fish tax has been substantially reduced due to the commercial fleet not being able to utilize their limited entry permits for what they were intended.

The appointment of Brett Huber will only perpetuate the imbalance and bias of the board of fish.



Doug Blossom, President



John McCombs, Vice President

Officers

Doug Blossom, President
John McCombs, Vice Pres.
Dave Martin, Treasurer
Janet Clucas, Secretary

Board of Directors

Dan Ducker Butch Leman
Teague Vanek Tim Keener
Steve Vanek Mark Ducker
Chris Garcia

Support Staff

Joe Malatesta, Sr., Consultant
John McCombs, Editor
Deidre McCombs, Technical Editor

Kenai-Soldotna F&G Advisory Committee 19 April, 2002
20773 Porcupine Lane
Clam Gulch, AK 99568
262-4763

Dear Legislators,

After the Peninsula Clarion was kind enough (as usual) to advertise our meeting a couple days prior to its occurrence. And after news of this meeting danced for several days across numerous e-mails, the Kenai-Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee met on 17 April to discuss confirmation of the three newly appointed Board of Fish members. The only appointee that received any criticism was Brett Huber, and with the exception of one person, the public, representing diverse users, was unanimous in their objection to his appointment. Coming from the community in which Mr. Huber resides, this objection is glaring.

The objection was centered on the following key points:

1. Mr. Huber is an advocate of non-consumptive users. He has a record of favoring catch and release fisheries. The 30 people at this public meeting were unanimously opposed to the new catch and release king salmon fishery designed by the Board of Fish for the Kenai River. Huber is on record as not only favoring this fishery, but also wanting to expand the restrictions.
 2. Commercial fishers at this meeting testified that Mr. Huber has a mind-set against commercial fishing. Not only has Mr. Huber had a constant conflict with commercial fishers, but he also works for Kenai River Sportfish Association, which has a long history of opposing commercial fishing at every opportunity.
 3. Board of Fish members should have personality traits commensurate to public service. They should be good listeners, gifted at understanding scientific data, obvious in their respect of others, not easily angered, known as gentlemen, be good speakers, and have impeccable integrity. It was the belief of the public at this meeting that Mr. Huber fell far short in some of these personality traits.
 4. The BOF members should be residents from diverse areas of Alaska's coast. After the current appointments, the area from Metlakatla to Valdez boasts a single member. Kodiak doesn't have a single member. Neither does the Alaska Peninsula or Area M. Bristol Bay has a single member. The Kuskokwim River has a member but Norton Sound, the Yukon River and Kotzebue Sound are without a member. And why are these areas so poorly represented? Because 4 of the BOF members live in the Cook Inlet Watershed!
 5. Each member of the Board of Fish should have an extensive background in diverse fisheries, from crab to cod. For a long time the BOF has had numerous, effective sport fish advocates from Cook Inlet. What does Mr. Huber know that isn't duplicated by the abundant knowledge of retired sport fish biologist Larry Engel of Palmer or salt-water guide Ed Dersham of Anchor Pt.?
- A motion was made to support Brett Huber's appointment to the BOF. That motion failed by roll call vote. Favor - 0 Opposed - 11.

Brent Johnson (chairman)
Kenai-Soldotna F&G Advisory Committee



United Cook Inlet Drift Association

43961 K-Beach Rd, Ste E, Soldotna, AK 99669 ~ (907) 260-9436 ~ fax (907) 260-9438

April 15, 2002

House & Senate Members
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Board of Fisheries Confirmation

Dear Members of Alaska House of Representatives
and Members of Alaska State Senate:

We at United Cook Inlet Drift Association oppose the confirmation of Brett Huber to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We support the confirmation of Gerry Merrigan and Art Nelson.

We suppose the Legislature would expect our disappointment over the nomination of Mr. Huber given his obvious efforts to destroy the commercial salmon fishery here in Cook Inlet. But, our concerns are not just about Cook Inlet. Mr. Huber has consistently proven, by his actions and statements, that commercial sport fishing and tourism promotion must take precedent over, and grow, without limits, at the expense of every other historical use such as commercial, subsistence, and resident sport fishing. We believe such an attitude and commitment would certainly not be confined to Cook Inlet, but, realistically, be applied throughout the state.

Such one-dimensional thinking about resource uses, displayed by Mr. Huber, comes at a particularly bad time given the statewide effort to help the commercial salmon industry recover and compete with farmed salmon. The Board of Fisheries will play an important role as Alaska "reinvents" our commercial salmon fisheries, most especially regulations that will provide stability of harvest and promote a top quality product.

Recently, some one hundred fifty residents of the Kenai Peninsula publicly (Peninsula Clarion, 4/14/02) disassociated themselves from the goals put forth by Kenai River Sport Fishing Association, which are the goals of their Executive Director, Brett Huber. The majority of those objecting are not commercial fishers, but rather, prominent residents from all walks of life who have sport fishing in common, and disagree with Mr. Huber's views on salmon management. They have all been displaced by commercial sport fishing, and now, have even been denied harvest opportunity on some Kenai River king salmon. And for what? Simply to provide the maximum economic benefit to commercial fishing guides and tourism promotion.

We at UCIDA ask you to think long and hard about who you confirm to serve on the Board. It is our contention that anyone appointed to the Board must take into account the consequences of their actions, whether those consequences be to the resource, its habitat, or the toll it may take on other resident's lives, expectations, and in many cases, a lifetime of building and investing in their future, as well as, Alaska's future. Disregarding the damage done to people, especially residents, should never be justified in the name of economic development.

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Should you choose to confirm Mr. Huber perhaps he will prove our concerns wrong. But, until such time, we must assume his future decisions will be no different than his past decisions. As such, for our industry that translates into the final and complete destruction of commercial salmon fishing here in Cook Inlet. This, in spite of the harvestable surplus of salmon that there is now, and always has been produced in the greater Cook Inlet watershed.

Again, we cannot take a chance, and we certainly cannot endure another three years of relentless attacks on our industry. Therefore we must ask you to not confirm Mr. Huber.

Sincerely,



Bob Merchant
President, UCIDA

RECEIVED

APR 25 2002

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

April 25, 2002

To: Alaska legislators and ADFG Boards Support Section

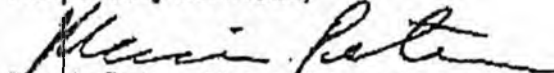
In a poll conducted by telephone and personal interviews, a majority of the members of the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee agreed to oppose the confirmation of Brett Huber to the Board of Fisheries.

Mr. Huber is known to this committee as an effective voice for a single segment of Kenai River fishermen. He does not, however, seem able to consider any biological information, existing allocation, or public opinion which might interfere with his own plans for Cook Inlet salmon stocks. We believe Mr. Huber is incapable of making consistently fair and reasonable decisions about the fishery resources so important to the people of the State of Alaska.

Advisory Committee members and their votes are listed below:

Marvin Peters, yes
Meryl Wolford, yes
Frank Libal, yes
Jim Meesis, yes
Don Bunker, yes
Trina Fellows, yes
David Faskin, yes
Mako Haggerty, yes
Richard Balzer, yes
Mike Scroggs, yes
John Custer, yes
Tom Young, yes
Bruce Petska, abstained
Charles Garver (alternate), yes
Dan Donich (alternate), yes

Respectfully submitted,


Marvin Peters, Homer AC chairman
Box 2623
Homer, Alaska 99603
235-2468

Hi Sherry,
2 members were
unavailable -
Gary Haulichuk
on slope
Nancy Hillsland
across the Bay -
poor cell phone svc.

April 9, 2002

Rep. Drew Scalzi

Dear Representative Scalzi,

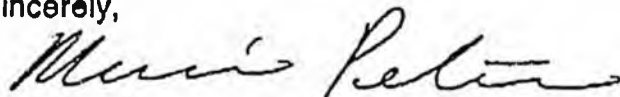
Alaska's fishery resources and responsible management will suffer with the confirmation of Brett Huber to the Board of Fisheries. While Mr. Huber has been an eloquent spokesman for Kenai River Sportfishing Association for the last few years, he has pushed for the interests of his employer at great cost to other user groups and the resource itself.

His support for drastic and biologically unnecessary reductions in the winter king fishery in Cook Inlet and Kodiak has made Mr. Huber extremely unpopular with sport fishermen in this area. His eagerness to close an existing fishery on the remote chance of sending another few fish to his clients on the Kenai River is nothing new, however. Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishermen have long been disgusted by his pious insistence that his association is not asking for any increase in allocation -- all he wants is a "conservation cushion". While "conservation cushions" have been in place for many years in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries, Mr. Huber is constantly seeking new regulations designed to provide de facto increases in allocation to Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

Many of the proposals made by Kenai River Sportfishing Association to the Board of Fisheries in the past year called for new reductions in commercial fishing gear and fishing time. In most of those proposals, the answer to the question "Who is likely to suffer?" begins with "No one". I am one of those "no ones" who has seen much of my fishing opportunity taken from me and given to Mr. Huber and his association under the guise of a "conservation cushion". Sportsmen, fishing guides, and commercial fishermen from this community and the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee oppose the confirmation of Brett Huber to the Board of Fisheries. While Board accountability is already slight, public confidence in the process can only be diminished by the addition of such a demonstrably biased board member.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Marvin Peters, Chairman, Homer Advisory Committee

Irving R. Carlisle
P. O. Box 2349
Soldotna, AK 99669
(907) 262-5389

April 8, 2002

To the Alaska Legislature:

Re: Board of Fisheries Appointment

I urge you to deny the confirmation of Brett Huber to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As a former member of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, I am keenly aware of the standards that this board must maintain in its review of statewide regulations regarding Alaska fisheries. Each board member must be completely objective and willing to make decisions based on the scientific evidence presented both for and against any particular issue. Board members with specific agendas do not perform well in the process and erode the public perception of such process.

Brett Huber comes to the process carrying heavy baggage from his position of Executive Director of Kenai River Sportfishing Association, where he has lobbied extensively to promote their political agenda. I do not fault him for this, as this is the function that he was hired to do, however, this is extremely counterproductive in the Board of Fisheries process.

I still regularly receive many contacts from around the State of Alaska regarding fisheries issues. The common comment I receive is the deplorable state of the current Board of Fisheries objectivity. It was once the model of management that every other state fisheries administration dreamed of. By repaying political contributors with board appointees, I feel Governor Knowles has virtually destroyed this once respected process.

The appointment of Brett Huber by Governor Knowles is another example of his disregard for an independent board and I urge you to reject this appointment and begin the process to return the Board of Fisheries to the credible entity it once was.

Please feel free to contact me in regard to this matter at (907) 262-5389 or at the address listed above. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Irving R. Carlisle

Subject: [Fwd: Brett Huber Nomination to BOF]

Date: Tue, 16 Apr 2002 11:54:00 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: Brett Huber Nomination to BOF

Date: Tue, 16 Apr 2002 11:19:33 -0800

From: Loren & Sandra Flagg <flaggs@gci.net>

To: Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us

To: Rep. Scalzi

From: Loren Flagg

Subject: Huber Nomination to BOF

I am a 34 year Alaskan who has attended probably 15 or more Cook Inlet Board of Fish Meetings since 1968. I am also a retired ADF&G Biologist and a 15 year sport fishing guide on the Kenai River. I strongly disagree with the position of KRPGA on the confirmation of Brett Huber to the Board of Fish. He should not be confirmed. Mr. Huber's views on the management of Kenai River king salmon stocks differ greatly from local and Alaska resident anglers as well as many Alaska resident fishing guides. We find it difficult to comprehend why he fought hard to turn our early Kenai king salmon run into a hook and release fishery, when fishery managers stated unequivocally that there was not a conservation concern on this run. There was an identified need to protect the larger 5 ocean component of this run, but hook and release on the entire run was not required to do so. What was needed was a plan to protect these larger fish and Mr. Huber's actions on this issue, by supporting a 55 inch and over harvest of these larger kings, was totally contrary to the conservation measure required!

Mr. Huber has promoted a fishery "stability" argument which has no place in managing salmon returns. Salmon returns are by their nature unpredictable and require flexibility in management. This was one of the great benefits of Statehood--Alaska's ability to manage salmon returns by Emergency Order (E.O.). The latest BOF action, which Mr. Huber strongly supported, took a giant leap toward weakening that authority.

Mr. Huber has not represented the best interests of the resource, nor the best interests of the users in the Cook Inlet area. He has ignored ADF&G'S best advice and data and has set a dangerous tone by favoring an elitist hook and release fishery over a resident salmon harvest fishery. To appease trophy "World Record Hunters" he has supported retention of the larger kings that Fish & Game sought to protect. This is so short sighted it is hard to believe. One can only imagine the additional stress that the already over-used Kenai River system would incur if someone did manage to land the proverbial 100 pound World Record king salmon during the early run. Does this river and the early run need more fame right now? Common sense says no, yet this is the opportunity that the over 55 inch retention regulation, promoted by Mr. Huber, aims to provide. We should be protecting these larger early run fish and let any world record attempts be made from our late run in July, which is about 500% greater in magnitude of return and more capable of handling intense fishing pressure.

Finally, I believe that guide interests, who have been led down the primrose path by Mr. Huber, had better wake up soon or they are going to lose the early run king salmon fishery. Resident Alaska fishermen are simply not going to stand by and watch as guided non-residents "play" with the very fish they are denied to harvest. I would urge you to strongly oppose the confirmation of Mr. Huber to the Board of Fish as he has influenced a poor decision in Cook Inlet, and could well do harm to fisheries in the rest of the state with

[Fwd: Brett Huber Nomination to BOF]

his misguided reasoning and lack of regard for the best interests of Alaska residents.

Sincerely,

Loren Flagg
P.O. Box 3268
Soldotna, Ak.
99669

907-262-6769

[Fwd: Board of Fisheries]

Subject: [Fwd: Board of Fisheries]

Date: Tue, 16 Apr 2002 11:53:49 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: Board of Fisheries

Date: Tue, 16 Apr 2002 18:09:39 +0000

From: "wayne mize" <teranch@hotmail.com>

To: Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us

Last month governor Knowles asked for Brett Huber to be placed on the Board of Fisheries, this gentleman does not represent ME or my family on the Kenai peninsula, approval should be denied. Thank You

Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: [Click Here](#)

[Fwd: Fw: Brett Huber nomination to Fish Board]

Subject: [Fwd: Fw: Brett Huber nomination to Fish Board]

Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002 12:33:12 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: Fw: Brett Huber nomination to Fish Board

Date: Fri, 12 Apr 2002 15:57:57 -0800

From: "Paul Zimmerman" <pcz@ak.net>

To: <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

>
>
> > I'm hoping to hear from you that Brett Huber will not be confirmed
for
> > the Fish Board. At the least, I'd appreciate assurance that you will
vote
> against his being confirmed.
> >
> > Mr. Huber 's now perceived as the driving force behind recent Kenai
> > river king salmon management changes that are very divisive. There is
no
> > question as to Mr. Huber's intent of supplanting resident biological
> harvest
> > in favor of economic gain for his represented constituents. This
> > reputation he has acquired, will do little to improve the public
> perception
> > of the board.
> >
> > The board members are called upon to make frequent allocative decisions
> > that require consensus building, and Mr. Huber will have little
> credibility
> > appearing to be impartial. The board needs better representation than
to
> > appoint industry spokesmen with prearranged agendas. It's time our
> boards
> > have impartial members and leadership.
> >
> > I would appreciate a response to this issue.
> >
> > Sincerely,
> > Paul Zimmerman
> > Box 414
> > Kasilof, Ak 99610
> > (907) 262-7223
> >
> >
>

Subject: Kenai Peninsula Online - Alaska Newspaper Brett Huber's presence on Board of Fisheries not good for Alaskans 04/10/02

Date: Thu, 11 Apr 2002 14:47:23 -0800

From: John Nelson <neldecoy@alaska.net>

To: Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us, Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us

http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/041002/ope_041002ope0020001.shtml



Powered by **CLARION**

Web posted Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Local Interest

- » Home
- » News
- » Sports
- » Obituaries
- » Editorial
- » Art +
- » Alaska
- » Outdoors
- » Community
- » Classifieds
- » Circulation
- » Schools

Events

Features

- » Business
- » Religion
- » Seniors
- » Health
- » Stocks
- » Movies
- » Legislature
- » Dispatch
- » Forums
- » TV Listings
- » For Kids
- » NIE Teacher Guides

Peninsula Guide

- » Web Guide
- » Web Search
- » Forms
- » Alaskan Autos
- » About Us
- » Churches
- » Archives
- » Online Services

More Links

More Local Weather

-11° Deadhorse
-16° Fairbanks

Brett Huber's presence on Board of Fisheries not good for Alaskans *Nomination should be nixed*

John Nelson

When Bob Dylan sang "The Times They Are A-Changin,'" he wasn't thinking about Alaska's fisheries, but he could have been.

Over the past few years and at an accelerating pace, the traditional, non-wasteful harvest of Alaska's fish resources by residents is being displaced by the nontraditional use of Alaska's fish resources by nonresidents. And all for the almighty dollar.

During the recent Board of Fisheries meetings on Cook Inlet, a Kenai River guide exclaimed, "The Kenai is so special it shouldn't just be treated as another meat fishery." Fellow guide and Kenai River Sportfishing Association executive director Brett Huber agrees: "Perhaps it's time to treat this like other trophy fisheries, like we do with the rainbow trout."

Brett Huber wants us to believe that catch-and-release fishing for trophy fish is noble, somehow "above" the traditional "meat" fishing Alaskans have practiced for ages. Huber would have us believe catch-and-release trophy fishing is better for the fish. But is catch-and-release trophy fishing noble, or even better? Is it the right thing to do for the fish?

Consider the upper river rainbow trout fishery, the fishery Huber holds up as an example worth imitating in other fisheries like the first run of Kenai kings. According to Fish and



26° Anchorage
27° Kenai
28° Homer
43° Juneau

Choose your city: [v]

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Power Search

- Our Stories
- Web
- Yellow Pages
- Stocks
- Classifieds

Search

Miss a day?
Use the PowerSearch below to search by topic, or click on the day to see the stories from the past week.
Wed| Tue| Mon|
Sun| Fri| Thu|

Game figures, the upper Kenai hosts a population of about 25,000 rainbow. In 2000, there were 78,000 rainbows caught and released.

That means each trout was caught on average a little more than three times during the fishing season. At a mortality rate of 5 percent, 3,900 of those 78,000 trout died, and at 1 pound each, that's 3,900 pounds of dead meat wasted. Moreover, 5 percent of the rainbows in the river have only one eye. Of the 6-year-old trout that comprise about 25 percent of the population, 85 percent of them have some degree of mouth damage from being hooked.

This is how Brett Huber wants to treat the first run of Kenai kings, or in his own words, "like we do ... the rainbow trout."

Brett Huber has been nominated to the Board of Fisheries by Gov. Tony Knowles, but Huber should not be confirmed by the Legislature. Huber's vision for Alaska's fisheries would continue to displace the traditional, non-wasteful harvest of our fish resources in favor of the tourist-oriented sport fishing industry while turning Alaska's fisheries into a mockery of the state's wanton waste laws.

Huber's idea of fishery management as evidenced by his plan for the first-run kings would increasingly divert the salmon best used on Alaska's tables into the pocketbooks of the tourist sportfishing industry.

Call your legislators and urge them to vote no on Huber's confirmation.: Sens. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof (800-964-5733), Jerry Ward, R-Nikiski (465-3766), and Reps. Ken Lancaster, R-Soldotna (800-463-2693), Mike Chenault, R-Nikiski (800-469-3779), and Drew Scalzi, R-Homer (800-665-2689).

John Nelson

Soldotna

<



E-mail this Story a friend



E-mail a message to the editor



Read our paper on your PDA



Have our Headlines e-mailed to you

Discuss this story in our Discussion Forum

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As a retired ADF&G employee I have had the opportunity to watch Mr. Brett Huber interact personally with me, the public, and Board of Fish members. I can state without reservation that Mr. Huber should not be confirmed as a Board of Fish member.

The Board of Fish is in trouble today because some of the present members are arrogant and vindicate in their decision making process. They have attacked staff - including myself, they have ignored scientific data, they have been disrespectful to the public process, and they have passed regulations that has cost the State millions of dollars for no biological or allocative reward. Fortunately, two of these individuals are leaving the Board. In contrast to these individuals, the Board requires people who can listen, interact with those of opposing views, evaluate information, and act in the best interest of the public. This position is one of the most important in the State of Alaska. Not only are millions of dollars at stake but the lives of thousands of people are impacted by the decisions reached.

Unfortunately, the legislature has not applied strict standards for performance of Board members. With these appointments you have the opportunity to start to correct the personnel problems of the Board and allow yourself some time to deal with the structural and functional problems in the Board process. However, if you appoint Mr. Huber you will continue the personnel issues the Board just rid itself of with the resignation of the present Board members.

As a professional I have interacted with Mr. Huber and his personality is one of arrogance and intolerance. He fails to seriously listen to scientific data that is contrary to his personal opinion and has misrepresented data numerous times to make his point. I question his integrity because of these actions.

Mr. Huber, at a number of public meetings, has stated habitat protection is an important issue on the Kenai River. However, consistently at Board of Fish meetings, he has objected to regulations that are habitat friendly. The message is that large sums of money can be raised in the name of habitat at the Kenai River Classic but limiting recreational use on the Kenai for habitat protection is not acceptable. I question whether Mr. Huber can make the tough decisions on habitat protection if recreational users are impacted.

I also would like Mr. Huber to explain to the committee how Kenai River Classic funds were spent recently. Mr. Huber and Kenai River Classic organizers have often stated no Classic funds are used to fund Board of Fish activities or to achieve allocation objectives. However, costs of preparing for and attending the recent Board of Fish meeting by the Kenai River Sport Fishing Association had to be in the 50,000 to 150,000 dollar range. A consultant's report on Upper Cook Inlet Management had to be very expensive. I am requesting that the committee look at this issue since it goes to the issue of integrity. If in fact Classic funds have been used, then Mr. Huber, as executive director of the KRSA, has misled the public.

I have also watched Mr. Huber propose and support regulations that significantly hurt the commercial fishing industry with no biological or allocative goals that benefit the general public. At the recent Board of Fish meeting, I observed the performance of Mr. Huber and it was unacceptable. He was manipulative and disrespectful to members of the public and myself. At one point in the meeting he presented his understanding of scientific data on sockeye salmon production and management in the Kenai and Kasilof River systems. His statements were incorrect. I attempted to discuss this with him by showing him, at a minimum, a different explanation of the situation. He dismissed my comments in public by making crude and unprofessional comments about my research abilities. Mr. Huber has no scientific background or training to make these judgements. I know of a number of ADF&G professionals that feel Mr. Huber is disrespectful. Appointment of Mr. Huber will only inflame the situation more.

I know you will receive a number of comments objecting to Mr. Huber appointment. I hope you take them seriously. I have found, in attending over 20 Board of Fish meetings, that people tend to accept regulations if they think the process and decision-makers acted in a fair and ethical manner. The appointment of Mr. Huber to the Board of Fish will not make people feel fairness and ethics prevailed.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Tarbox
P.O. Box 3507
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907-262-7767

Dan O. Pitts, D.D.S.
P. O. Box 1916
Soldotna, AK 99669
(907) 262-5919

April 7, 2002

To all Senators and Representatives of the Alaska Legislature:

As a former board member of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association and former Kenai River Classic Chairman I am writing to ask that you not confirm Brett Huber to the Board of Fish for the following reasons.

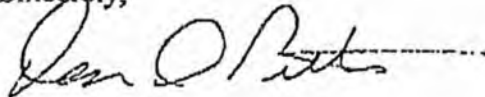
Mr. Huber's appointment would be a conflict of interest, since he was hired by KRSA specifically to lobby for and use his legislative experience to promote the political agenda of the KRSA Board to the Board of Fish.

As chairman of the 2000 Kenai River Classic I observed Mr. Huber to be impatient and often times verbally abusive to volunteers. I could not rely on Mr. Huber to carry out my directives and found him to be quick to take and slow to give credit for the accomplishments of the organization.

I feel Mr. Huber lacks the skills necessary to make objective decisions. I found, in my dealings with Mr. Huber, that he is extremely subjective in his views toward fisheries management and unwilling to accept the ideas of others even though they are founded on scientific fact. I do not feel that he will lend an open mind to the process.

It is my opinion that Mr. Huber's confirmation will be detrimental to the process of the Board of Fish. I urge you to consider my objections and I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan O. Pitts", followed by a horizontal line.

Dan O. Pitts, D.D.S.

[Fwd: BOF vote....]

Subject: [Fwd: BOF vote....]

Date: Thu, 25 Apr 2002 13:11:38 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: BOF vote....

Date: Thu, 25 Apr 2002 09:57:46 -0800

From: John Nelson <neldecoy@alaska.net>

To: "Rep. Ken Lancaster" <Representative_Ken_Lancaster@legis.state.ak.us>, Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us, SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>, Darwin_Peterson@legis.state.ak.us, Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us, Helen_Donahue <Helen_Donahue@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Legislators,

Regardless of whether Huber is confirmed or not, the issue of Hepler's "new deal" policies coming out of Sport Fish, that is the institution of catch-and-release fisheries at the expense of harvest is going to be aggressively displayed to national organizations like The Orion Society, Trout Unlimited, and more.

As a Canadian professor of ichthyology has concluded,

"Whereas ethical hunters clearly respect the interest of an animal to avoid pain and suffering, (sport) anglers intentionally override these interests in fish. The enjoyments of catching fish for sport, in large measure, consist of purposely inflicting fear, pain, and suffering on fish by forcing them to violently express their interest to stay alive. The very real challenge to anglers, then, is to find a justification for their cruel treatment..."

Fishing for fun, simply taking pleasure in the animal's frantic efforts to free itself is ethically indefensible and will increasingly be seen so by the public mind at large. It seems to me that fishing for fun will eventually go the way of Jim Crow laws and cigarette smoking in public buildings. We will never be rid of human insensibility, but as a society we increasingly disallow its public expression.

As the confirmation vote nears, I hope the legislature, including Mr. Mulder and Mr. Halford, consider the long-term implications and consequences of Hepler's leadership at Sport Fish and of Huber's nomination to BOF. Both Hepler and Huber walked into BOF asking for the same thing.

John Nelson
Soldotna

Nomination should be nixed

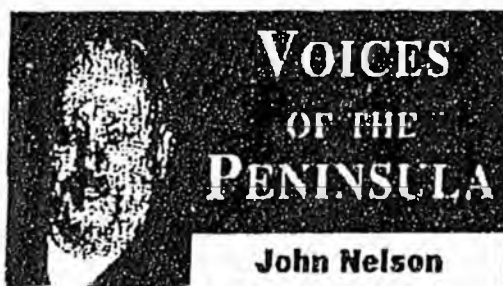
Brett Huber's presence on Board of Fisheries not good for Alaskans

When Bob Dylan sang "The Times They Are A-Changin,'" he wasn't thinking about Alaska's fisheries, but he could have been.

Over the past few years and at an accelerating pace, the traditional, non-wasteful harvest of Alaska's fish resources by residents is being displaced by the nontraditional use of Alaska's fish resources by nonresidents. And all for the almighty dollar.

During the recent Board of Fisheries meetings on Cook Inlet, a Kenai River guide exclaimed, "The Kenai is so special it shouldn't just be treated as another meat fishery." Fellow guide and Kenai River Sportfishing Association executive director Brett Huber agrees: "Perhaps it's time to treat this like other trophy fisheries, like we do with the rainbow trout."

Brett Huber wants us to believe that catch-and-release fishing for trophy fish is noble, somehow "above" the traditional "meat" fishing Alaskans have practiced for ages. Huber would have us believe catch-and-release trophy fishing is better for the fish. But is catch-and-release trophy fishing noble, or even better? Is it the right thing to do for the fish?



Consider the upper river rainbow trout fishery, the fishery Huber holds up as an example worth imitating in other fisheries like the first run of Kenai kings. According to Fish and Game figures, the upper Kenai hosts a population of about 25,000 rainbow. In 2000, there were 78,000 rainbows caught and released.

That means each trout was caught on average a little more than three times during the fishing season. At a mortality rate of 5 percent, 3,900 of those 78,000 trout died, and at 1 pound each, that's 3,900 pounds of dead meat wasted. Moreover, 5 percent of the rainbows in the river have only one eye. Of the 6-year-old trout that comprise about 25 percent of the population, 85 percent of them have some

degree of mouth damage from being hooked.

This is how Brett Huber wants to treat the first run of Kenai kings, or in his own words, "like we do ... the rainbow trout."

Brett Huber has been nominated to the Board of Fisheries by Gov. Tony Knowles, but Huber should not be confirmed by the Legislature. Huber's vision for Alaska's fisheries would continue to displace the traditional, non-wasteful harvest of our fish resources in favor of the tourist-oriented sport fishing industry while turning Alaska's fisheries into a mockery of the state's wanton waste laws.

Huber's idea of fishery management as evidenced by his plan for the first-run kings would increasingly divert the salmon best used on Alaska's tables into the pocketbooks of the tourist sportfishing industry.

Call your legislators and urge them to vote no on Huber's confirmation.: Sens. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof (800-964-5733), Jerry Ward, R-Nikiski (465-3766), and Reps. Ken Lancaster, R-Soldotna (800-463-2693), Mike Chenault, R-Nikiski (800-469-3779), and Drew Scalzi, R-Homer (800-665-2689).

John Nelson
Soldotna

Board of Fish nominee rejected

Advisory committee angles for hook and release of KRSA director

By MATT TUNSETH
Peninsula Clarion

The Kenai-Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted unanimously Wednesday to send a letter to state legislators and the governor opposing the nomination of an area fishing guide lobbyist to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

The decision came after an hour of committee discussion and public comment that was overwhelmingly opposed to the nomi-

nation of Brett Huber, executive director of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. Of the more than 30 people present at the meeting, only one person spoke on Huber's behalf.

Discussion focused overwhelmingly on Huber's role in shaping recent decisions by the controversial Board of Fisheries, especially the restrictions the board placed on early-run Kenai River king salmon. Also called into question was Huber's affiliation with KRSA, which sponsors the by-invita-

tion-only Kenai River Classic fishing derby each July.

"Basically, (Huber) has privatized the river. They have this derby, and all they do is create hassles for everyone else," said John McCombs, a commercial fisher from Ninilchik.

Only Bob Estes, a Kenai River fishing guide, spoke in favor of Huber's nomination.

"I think we need more sport fishing representation on the board," Estes said. "(Huber) is a good advocate for sport fishing on the

Kenai River."

Estes says guides should not be vilified for what they do. He believes Huber can be a strong advocate for Alaskans who enjoy fishing on the Kenai River.

"I think the general public needs to understand what (guides) do. People seem to think it's only nonresidents we take out. I take a lot of Alaska residents fishing," he said.

Huber was appointed by Gov. Tony Knowles earlier this month to fill one of the

See BOARD, back page

...Board

Continued from page A-1

three vacant positions on the board. The appointees still have to be approved by a joint session of the House and Senate. Although the Legislature's approval is not required, a joint session is usually held near the end of the legislative session to either confirm or deny the appointments, according to Knowles' press secretary, Bob King.

Sen. Jerry Ward, R-Nikiski, has previously said he is opposed to Huber's nomination. Ward said Thursday that he expects a joint session to be called within the next two weeks to discuss appointments, although an exact time frame has yet to be established.

Kenai-Soldotna Advisory Committee chairman Brent Johnson, a commercial fisher, said the group wanted to send a strong message to Juneau that Huber's nomination is opposed by central peninsula residents.

"This area definitely does not want to have him on the board," Johnson said after the meeting. "He

however, Huber says he is more than willing to listen to other people's views. He said Thursday that he was unaware that the board had even planned to meet to discuss his nomination. He said that during the meeting, he was in Homer discussing his nomination with a group of concerned citizens there.

However, he said, the advisory committee's decision didn't surprise him.

"The only part that surprises me is that I live in the community, and to find out the local advisory committee met to discuss my nomination without even contacting me... that's interesting," Huber said.

"I have no problem meeting with folks who want to meet with me. I've heard from people who support me and people who oppose my nomination," he said.

Johnson speculated that the committee's opposition to Huber's nomination will sway the Legislature.

"The community definitely will be heard. Community opposition (to Huber) will make a difference," he said.

If approved by the Legislature, Huber will claim one of the seven seats on the Board of Fisheries July 1. Board members serve three-year

[Fwd: Questions...]

Subject: [Fwd: Questions...]

Date: Fri, 19 Apr 2002 13:05:43 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: Questions...

Date: Fri, 19 Apr 2002 09:01:40 -0800

From: John Nelson <neldecoy@alaska.net>

To: "Rep. Ken Lancaster" <Representative_Ken_Lancaster@legis.state.ak.us>,

Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us,

Senator Jerry Ward <Senator_Jerry_Ward@legis.state.ak.us>,

Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Mike_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us

Re: Political improprieties

Brett Huber's lobbying efforts at the recent BOF meeting on behalf of the tourist sport fishing industry should be cause to question the propriety of KRSA's donations to governmental agencies and to question the participation by state officials in KRSA's fishing derby.

KRSA, under Huber's directorship, has donated nearly \$10,000 to ADF&G Sport Fish Division to test a new fish-counting apparatus this summer. KRSA has also bought telemetry devices for the U S Fish & Wildlife Service's work with Kenai River rainbows. Kelly Hepler, Director of Sport Fish works in KRSA's fishing derby, which generates funds used by KRSA for its donations.

These activities on the part of Huber, KRSA, and state and federal regulatory agencies and personnel have the appearance of improper relationships.

John Nelson
Soldotna

Subject: Huber Nomination

Date: Wed, 24 Apr 2002 06:50:50 -0800

From: wilbur nelson <wnelson@offcenterconcepts.com>

To: undisclosed-recipients;;

Good Morning:

>From an economics standpoint, the Huber nomination represents a potential expansion of the rent-seeking of KRSA and Guide-related interests.

Rent seeking is defined as:

Actions by individuals and interest groups designed to restructure public policy in a manner that will either directly or indirectly redistribute more income to themselves.

The negative externalities of rent seeking are clear:

1. Widespread use of the taxing, spending, and regulating powers of government that favors some at the expense of others will encourage rent seeking.

....In other words, confirming Brett for the BOF will only encourage more pro-tourist public policy---at the continued expense of resident's constitutional rights.

2. Rent seeking moves resources away from productive activities. The output of economies with substantial amounts of rent seeking will fall below their potential.

The productive activities of the Salmon that are meant for Alaskan's tables will float downstream, with a hook and release mortality of one in 15. Also, the latest round of BOF rules, heavily lobbied for by KRSA, effectively seek to "increase production" for the Guide industry by creating a stable, predictable fishery. This increase in production is in the face of published reports that the King Salmon of large size are disappearing, and has been done at the expense of the resident harvest. In economics all resources are scarce and when dealing with a commons there is no economic incentive for anyone involved to decrease production from that commons. The rent seeking behavior of Brett in particular (at the BOF proceedings) shows that KRSA and others are committing a fundamental economic sin in trying to increase production from a commons when returns begin to fall off. Instead of seeing the increasing occurrence of emergency closures as sign to "back off" of the resource, Brett and others have disenfranchised Alaskan voters by using rent seeking as a tool to expand their production.

This is an open and shut case---I beg you to help turn around badly flawed public policy by not confirming Brett to the Board of Fish.

Thank you,
Wilbur Nelson

<Representative_Carl_Moses@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Eldon_Mulder@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Scott_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Bill_Williams@legis.state.ak.us>
<Representative_Peggy_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us>

I'm hoping to hear from you that Brett Huber will not be confirmed for the Fish Board.

Mr. Huber is now perceived as the driving force behind recent Kenai river king salmon management changes that are very divisive. There is no question as to Mr. Huber's intent of supplanting resident biological harvest opportunity in favor of economic gain for the industry group he works for. The reputation he has acquired will do little to improve the public's perception of the boards ability to act in the best interests of the states residents.

The board members are called upon to make frequent allocative decisions that require consensus building, and Mr. Huber will have little credibility appearing to be impartial. The board needs better representation than to appoint industry spokesmen with prearranged agendas. It's time our boards have impartial members and leadership.

I hope I have your support on this issue and I would appreciate a response if you would.

Sincerely,
Paul Zimmerman
Box 414
Kasilof, Ak 99610
(907) 262-7223

April 25, 2002

Representative Drew Scalzi

Dear Mr. Scalzi:

I am writing to oppose the confirmation of Brett Huber to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). I retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in January of 2000 as a Management Biologist with Division of Sport Fish in Soldotna. I have extensive background working with Advisory Committees and the BOF in the development of management plans for both fresh water and marine fisheries to include Kenai River chinook fisheries.

There is significant local concern regarding recent changes to the Kenai River Early Run Chinook Salmon Management Plan. Mr. Huber provided extensive input to this plan during the previous BOF meeting. The changes greatly reduce harvest opportunity while insuring a very stable fishery. The primary beneficiary being guided and trophy anglers. While changes were needed to the management plan, the drastic measures taken were not needed. This stock of fish does have a harvestable surplus. The results of these changes will result in increased catch and release mortality by allowing the use of bait during a catch and release fishery (increased catch rates) and significantly reduce fish harvested for personal use. While I would be happy to further discuss the biological issues regarding this fishery this is not the primary intent of this letter.

The Board process has, at times throughout the years been a very political process, depending on issues and individual board members. The advisory committee process is an important part of this process. While not perfect, the Board process works very well in most situations. What is needed is to reduce political bias when it occurs and focus on biological issues while balancing social issues fairly to take in concerns of all groups. In theory, the process allows all members of the public to provide input in the development of regulations and management plans.

My opposition to Mr. Huber's confirmation stems from his attitude toward the public and his demonstrated willingness to manipulate the Board process. His disregard for all users during the past Board meeting combined with his recent editorial in the Peninsula Clarion (March 2000) are the basis of my concern. He indicated his belief that if the public wants to weigh in on Board decisions they should attend these meetings. The Board process is designed to allow the public to participate with written and oral testimony numerous times. However, Mr. Huber and members of other special interest groups have the luxury of time and financial support to attend and provide input throughout the entire meeting. The public should not have to sit through a two-week meeting to assure their interests are properly addressed.

In summary, my concern is that should Mr. Huber be confirmed his previously demonstrated attitude will further undermine public confidence and participation in the Board process. Public interests will continue to take a back seat to special interests when all should be considered equally. We need Board members with demonstrated willingness to positively weigh the input of all interests and respect all viewpoints. This input should be valid whether written or oral and not be dependent on one's ability to attend and lobby throughout an entire Board meeting. My interest is in fair and equitable public process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David Athons
P.O. Box 3521
Soldotna, AK, 99669
dathons@alaska.net
907-283-3743

"Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Carl_Moses@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Carl_Moses@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Eldon_Mulder@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Eldon_Mulder@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Scott_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Scott_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Bill_Williams@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Bill_Williams@legis.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Peggy_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Peggy_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senators,

I am whole heartedly opposed to appointing Brett Huber to the Board of Fisheries. He has recently spearheaded a move to severely restrict the salmon fishery on the Kenai River and I feel this was a great injustice to the residents of the State of Alaska. Ignoring sound biological data accumulated by State of Alaska fishery biologists, Mr. Huber played a big part in making the Kenai River primarily a "catch and release" fishery. This move sides with the fishing guide and the tourists and not with Alaskans who fish the Kenai for both recreation and to put food on the table. Please listen to the voters who sent you to Juneau and do not appoint Brett Huber.

Regards

Earl J. Chauvin

Technical Professional

Baroid Drilling Fluids

Phone 907-275-2642

cell 907-441-4821

e-mail earl.chauvin@halliburton .com

[Fwd: DO CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Subject: [Fwd: DO CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Date: Tue, 23 Apr 2002 08:30:50 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: DO CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Tue, 23 Apr 2002 05:39:24 -0700

From: Craig Gittings <gitt-one@netmagic.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Concerns on the Kenai have made your email address available for contrary beliefs to mine in the form of a email writing campaign to keep Brett Huber from filling the empty seat on tthe BOF. Brett Huber is foward minded in respect to the future of Alaska's fisheries. It would be sad to see interests on the Kenai River force his kind from becoming a member of the board of fisheries. I'm a strong proponet of catch and release. If the state is progressive enough to legislate catch and release of rainbow trout, it certianly should have the foresight to do the same certain runs of salmon and in this particular case, the early run of King salmon on the Kenai River to ensure its future viability.

Craig Gittings
Fremont, CA

[Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Subject: [Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Date: Tue, 23 Apr 2002 08:27:10 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 21:52:45 -0800

From: Bob & Liz <cormit@alaska.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

It is imperative that Alaska Board of Fish appointments have broad citizen support and bring a sense of integrity and fairness to the process. Brett Huber clearly does not have this kind of support or respect. I urge you to **NOT** confirm this appointment. As a matter of interest this is what a local sport magazine had to say about the matter <http://AlaskaOutdoorJournal.com/>

sincerely
Bob Correia
Kasilof, Alaska

Subject: Huber Nomination

Date: Wed, 24 Apr 2002 08:21:47 -0800

From: wilbur nelson <wnelson@offcenterconcepts.com>

To: <Helen_Donahue@legis.state.ak.us>, <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>, <Darwin_Peterson@legis.state.ak.us>

Good Morning:

>From an economics standpoint, the Huber nomination represents a potential expansion of the rent-seeking of KRSA and Guide-related interests.

Rent seeking is defined as:

Actions by individuals and interest groups designed to restructure public policy in a manner that will either directly or indirectly redistribute more income to themselves.

The negative externalities of rent seeking are clear:

1. Widespread use of the taxing, spending, and regulating powers of government that favors some at the expense of others will encourage rent seeking.

....In other words, confirming Brett for the BOF will only encourage more pro-tourist public policy---at the continued expense of resident's constitutional rights.

2. Rent seeking moves resources away from productive activities. The output of economies with substantial amounts of rent seeking will fall below their potential.

The productive activities of the Salmon that are meant for Alaskan's tables will float dead downstream, with a hook and release mortality of one in 15. Also, the latest round of BOF rules, heavily lobbied for by KRSA, effectively seek to "increase production" for the Guide industry by creating a stable, predictable fishery. This increase in production is in the face of published reports that the King Salmon of large size are disappearing, and has been done at the expense of the resident harvest. In economics all resources are scarce and when dealing with a commons there is no economic incentive for anyone involved to decrease production from that commons. The rent seeking behavior of Brett in particular (at the BOF proceedings) shows that KRSA and others are committing a fundamental economic sin in trying to increase production from a commons when returns begin to fall off. Instead of seeing the increasing occurrence of emergency closures as sign to "back off" of the resource, Brett and others have disenfranchised Alaskan voters by using rent seeking as a tool to expand their production.

This is an open and shut case---I beg you to help turn around badly flawed public policy by not confirming Brett to the Board of Fish.

Thank you,
Wilbur Nelson

[Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Subject: [Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Date: Tue, 23 Apr 2002 10:33:27 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Tue, 23 Apr 2002 10:09:52 -0800

From: jsseaton <jsseaton@unicom-alaska.com>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Scott Seaton

Talkeetna

[Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Subject: [Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 13:24:41 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 13:21:01 -0800

From: Bob Toll <btoll@ptialaska.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Sirs,

I believe that Brett Huber is not a good candidate for the BOF. He is not the caliber of person we need on the board to handle Alaskan fishery issues.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Bob Toll
Kasilof. AK

[Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Subject: [Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 11:35:44 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Sat, 20 Apr 2002 12:30:03 -0800

From: "Friedrich B. Wiese" <fwiese@alaska.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Please do not confirm Brett Huber for thr Board of Fisheries position as he does not represent my interests in fisheries issues or regulations. I am a 35 year state resident and take strong exception to the Kenai river catch and release regulation, I only take one King if lucky, don't sell Alaska to outside interest, we are the ones that vote you in or out of office, not the tourist.

Friedrich B. Wiese
1349 Saint Gotthard Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99508
907 562 4301
fwiwese@alaska.net

[Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Subject: [Fwd: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF]

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 13:24:21 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 12:42:15 -0800

From: Bob Ourso <rtourso@usgs.gov>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Please do not confirm Brett Huber for the BOF...He is obviously ignorant of issues related to fisheries and the average Alaskan

Bob Ourso
Anchorage, AK

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Tue, 23 Apr 2002 20:15:52 -0800

From: Linda Brannian <lbrannian@ak.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

I have worked around this man and do not recommend him to represent fair access, optimal utilization, and conservation of our fish resources. Please do not confirm him. We can do better.

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Sun, 21 Apr 2002 05:38:02 -0800

From: John Nelson <neldecoy@alaska.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Legislators,

Please do not confirm Huber to Board of Fish. The most important fish is the one on Alaska's tables.

John Nelson
Soldotna

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Sun, 21 Apr 2002 15:53:43 -0800

From: braxling <braxling@alaska.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Sandra Braxling Soldotna

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Sun, 21 Apr 2002 21:58:53 -0700

From: Charles Snyder <coheskimo@gci.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>, HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

NO. NO. NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 07:54:12 -0800

From: Pete Holden <dlh@gci.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

How can this person possibly have an open mind on topics concerning the river.

Thank You

David Holden

Soldotna, Ak

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 12:42:15 -0800

From: Bob Ourso <rtourso@usgs.gov>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Please do not confirm Brett Huber for the BOF...He is obviously ignorant of issues related to fisheries and the average Alaskan

Bob Ourso
Anchorage, AK

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Sat, 20 Apr 2002 12:30:03 -0800

From: "Friedrich B. Wiese" <fwiese@alaska.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Please do not confirm Brett Huber for thr Board of Fisheries position as he does not represent my interests in fisheries issues or regulations. I am a 35 year state resident and take strong exception to the Kenai river catch and release regulation, I only take one King if lucky, don't sell Alaska to outside interest, we are the ones that vote you in or out of office, not the tourist.

Friedrich B. Wiese
1349 Saint Gotthard Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99508
907 562 4301
fwiese@alaska.net

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Tue, 23 Apr 2002 10:09:52 -0800

From: jsseaton <jsseaton@unicom-alaska.com>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Scott Seaton

Talkeetna

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 21:52:45 -0800

From: Bob & Liz <cormit@alaska.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

It is imperative that Alaska Board of Fish appointments have broad citizen support and bring a sense of integrity and fairness to the process. Brett Huber clearly does not have this kind of support or respect. I urge you to **NOT** confirm this appointment. As a matter of interest this is what a local sport magazine had to say about the matter <http://AlaskaOutdoorJournal.com/>

sincerely
Bob Correia
Kasilof, Alaska

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2002 13:21:01 -0800

From: Bob Toll <btoll@ptialaska.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

Sirs,

I believe that Brett Huber is not a good candidate for the BOF. He is not the caliber of person we need on the board to handle Alaskan fishery issues.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Bob Toll
Kasilof. AK

DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Subject: DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF

Date: Sun, 21 Apr 2002 00:05:58 -0800

From: Gunnar Pedersen <netnorse@netscape.net>

To: SENATE Resource Committee Chair <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>,
HOUSE Resource Committee Co-Chair <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

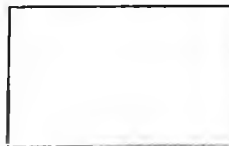
Alaska's only real-time internet magazine!

AOJ SERVED 339,596 VISITORS WITH 1,430,238 PAGES IN 2001!
- Now Serving 98,004 Visitors Viewing 299,548 Pages This Year -

2893 reasons to always
REMEMBER!

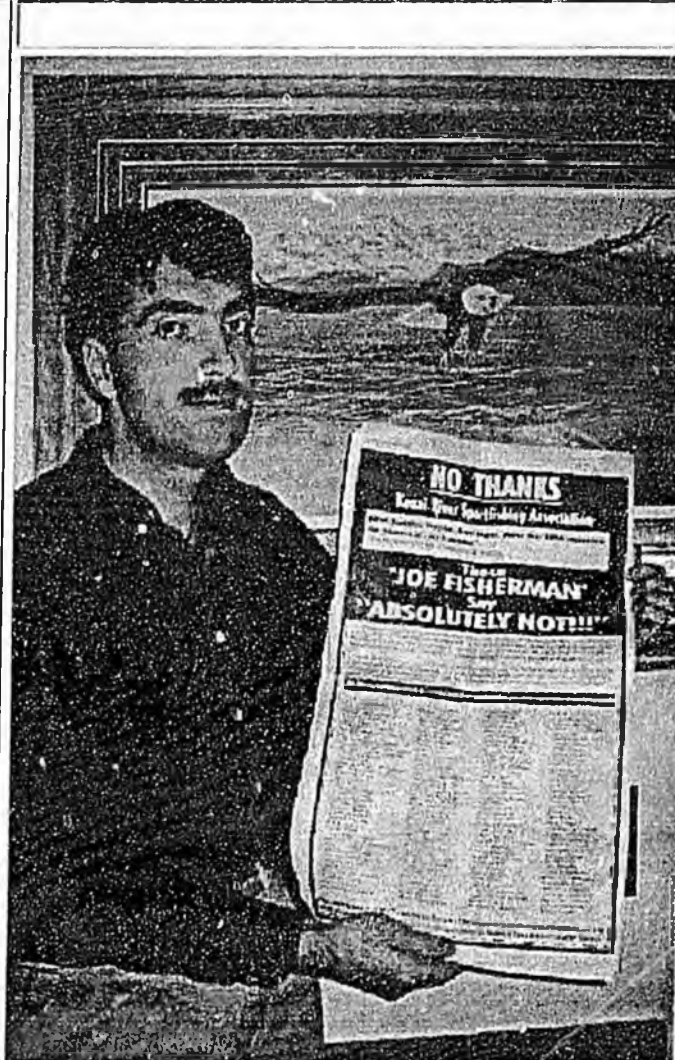


Headquarters



HOW WE LOST OUR RIGHTS TO HARVEST
Les Palmer's 3 Part "Outdoor View" Series

A RUDE AWAKENING



Alaskans say "Cease & Desist!" to Brett Huber's Kenai River Sportfishing Association

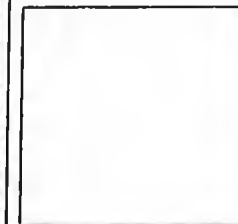
Mathew Morse holds up the full page protest statement published in the Peninsula Clarion newspaper on Sunday April 14th, 2002 and published again in the Dispatch on Wednesday April 17th, 2002. (CLICK HERE to read the statement page.) One hundred and fifty-four Alaskans made it very clear that KRSA and its executive director, Brett Huber, did not represent their interests as ordinary, average anglers and resource users at the February Board of Fisheries meeting and to discontinue making claims that it represents the "Joe Fisherman" unguided anglers who signed the page.

**Help Protect Your Alaskan Fishing Rights!
Brett Huber Must NOT Be Confirmed For Board of Fisheries**

Alaskans have ALWAYS had a fundamental right to harvest the surplus game and fish resources of this state. Those rights are an integral part of who we are, what our heritage is all about, and why we have

DEPARTMENTS

- [Salmon Run Charts](#)
- [News Briefs](#)
- [Outdoor Tips](#)
- [What's Cookin'?](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Weather Central](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Hall of Fame](#)
- [Travel Log](#)



Southeastern Alaska has been a producer of fine king salmon fishing as long as any other area in the state.

But because its a bit more "secluded" it has not received as much attention as the areas which are saturated with fishing services. From our research of ADFG king salmon harvest data, we have discovered that SITKA appears to be holding the title as best southeastern region king salmon producer for anglers. During the peak of the run, angler effort per fish is often

A PUZZLING PLANRIGHTING THE
WRONGSAnchorage Daily
NewsKing Rules Stir
Debate on Kenai
by Jon LittlePeninsula Clarion
Letters to the Editor
Does KRSA
Represent the
Public Interest?Peninsula Voices -
Guest Editorials
Catch & Release
Plan Should Be
Scrapped

Letters To JUNEAU

Brett Huber
Confirmation

decided to call Alaska our home over all other places to live. We enjoy the wildness of Alaska right in our own backyards and we are blessed to live in a region which provides such a bounty that we can still base much of our very existence around the opportunities it provides. Feeding our families, by putting food on the table which we have harvested from Alaska's bossom is the very fabric which makes up our "personalities" as very unique and fortunate Americans.

During the February Board of Fisheries meeting, Alaskans had this "soul" shredded by an historical, unprecedented change in the Kenai River king salmon fishery regulations. For the first time ever, a healthy, viable, and well-managed king salmon fishery that has always been delegated as a harvestable resource was abruptly converted to mainly a Catch & Release King Fishery with minimal harvest opportunities offered to Alaskans and visiting anglers. (See New Kenai Regs)

BRETT HUBER, participating in the BOF committee process representing the Kenai River Sportfishing Association, was a primary champion of the cause to convert the early run of Kenai River king salmon into a Catch & Release "playground" for guides and anglers who cared not for putting a fish on the table. The only benefactors in the "resource users department" were the river guides who were told they now have a stable and predictable fishery with which they can market their services to other anglers. All Alaskans who valued the right to harvest surplus fish in a healthy fishery were now displaced and must seek alternative fisheries to put food on their tables to feed their families.

less than ten hours which means a full day charter is likely to produce fish for most if not all on board. The following list of saltwater salmon and halibut charters in the SITKA area will give you a headstart on checking out what they have to offer. We don't know any of these so they are not endorsed by AOJ one way or the other.

SITKA FISHING
CHARTERS

Reel Class Charters
Denny's Guide Service
Ancline Unlimited
Big Blue Charters
Kingfisher Charters &
Lodge
Baranof Wilderness
Lodge
Dragon Lady Charters
Raven Guide Services
A Whale of a Tale
Charters
Sitka Rose Sportfishing
Charters
Excursions Unlimited

BRETT HUBER is now a candidate for one of the vacant Board of Fisheries seats. The seven members that make up the BOF represent ALL ALASKANS each time they meet to vote on regulations that will affect individuals, user groups, entire communities and even the foundation of our tourism industry. The Board has a responsibility to protect the future of the resource first, then protect the traditional rights to harvest for all Alaskans. Special interest groups, monetary valuations placed on a resource, and minority users should always take a back seat to our personal rights as the true owners of these resources.

Many hundreds of Alaskans have taken the time to speak out this past week in Public Opinion Messages [POMs] to all the legislators in Juneau making it clear that they DO NOT want Brett Huber confirmed as a BOF member because he does not represent their interests in Alaskans' fisheries. He is anti-harvest and pro-Catch & Release and that is unacceptable for 99% of those who live in this state and rely on our salmon fisheries as a traditional consumable resource. The "protest page" that was published in our newspapers, the Letters to the Editor in the Anchorage Daily News and the Clarion, the guest editorials published in the papers and even the 6 o'clock tv news coverage reporting how upset Alaskans were when this regulation was passed are just some of the examples of the public speaking out against the direction which Brett Huber and those like him want to take for the "new vision" of fisheries management plans.

The Alaskans' Voice doesn't end there. On Tuesday evening, 4/17, the Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee voted against supporting Brett Huber as a suitable appointee for the Board of Fisheries. This No Confidence vote by a group representing a huge number of Alaskan anglers was a clear message. On Wednesday evening, 4/18, the Kenai-Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee voted unanimously to not support Brett Huber as a candidate to represent the Peninsula residents' interests and to send a message to Juneau telling them "Do Not Confirm Brett Huber for BOF."

Our representatives in Juneau NEED to hear from Alaskans from all over the state before they take their vote in a week or two. This is a STATEWIDE issue. These BOF members will represent your interests in fisheries throughout the state for the next three years. The wrong person on the Board is a waste of this wonderful democratic process we have been able to participate in.

It is clear to most Alaskans that Mr. Brett Huber would not make a suitable Board of Fisheries member who would fairly represent all Alaskans and their fishing rights. His "vision" of the direction which salmon fisheries should be managed is contrary to everything we Alaskans stand for and the reason we live here.

Every Juneau legislator will vote on whether Brett Huber will be seated on the Board of Fisheries. **We need those representatives to hear from Alaskans from all over the state**, letting them know that Mr. Huber should not be confirmed on the BOF.

This is a very simple thing to do. Click on the "TELL IT TO JUNEAU" button below. An email message window will pop up with the SUBJECT line already typed in with "DO NOT CONFIRM BRETT HUBER FOR BOF". In addition, the email is already pre-addressed to members of the legislature. For Windows PCs using Outlook Express an abbreviated mail list is sent. For All Macs plus Windows PCs using Netscape Mail all 60 legislators are sent the email. If you can use Netscape Mail it will allow you to choose the maximum list for notification.

You don't have to add any message if you don't want to. The subject line will inform them of your position but you are welcome to add any additional comments you may want. **Just be sure to sign your NAME and HOMETOWN so they know who and where you are.** It will only take 30 SECONDS to help insure you will have fair representation on the Board of Fisheries in the future. **THANKS** from many fellow Alaskans!

<p align="center">WINDOWS PC using OUTLOOK EXPRESS</p>	<p align="center">ALL MACS + WINDOWS PC using Netscape Mail</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p align="center"><u>Tell It To JUNEAU</u></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p align="center"><u>Tell It To JUNEAU</u></p>	
<p>Sunrise: 6:25 am</p>	<p align="center">Last Update: 04/22/02 2:35 AM ADT</p>	<p align="right">Sunset: 8:43 pm</p>



NO THANKS

Kenai River Sportfishing Association

KRSA Executive Director, Brett Huber, states that KRSA represents the interests of "Joe Fisherman."
(Peninsula Clarion, February 8, 2002)

These
'JOE FISHERMAN'
Say
"ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!"

The regulations, supported by Kenai River Sportfishing Association, that allow for the killing of the large trophy king salmon and the use of bait in a catch-and-release fishery, both in the name of conservation, provide a great fishing opportunity for the white-collar politician and corporate bigshot. The opportunity for "Joe Fisherman", the blue-collar angler, to provide a king salmon for his family when a harvestable surplus exists, fell victim to this thinly disguised political agenda.

By choice, we join and support an organization whose basic tenets reflect our ideals, whose objectives we concur with and whose strategies we approve of. Subsequently, an organization may rightfully claim that they represent us. We don't think an organization's right to represent us or to state that it represents us occur simply because we participate in activities related to that organization's centerpiece.

The following individuals wish to be excluded from those 'Joe Fisherman' your elitist organization claims to represent.

Les Palmer	Jeff Beaudoin	Todd Moore	David Blossom
Earl C. Munuell	Chuck VanRay	Bill Radtke	Randall Davis
Dr. Dan Pitts	Brian Blossom	Roger Rosin	Steve DeVito
Norm Blakeley	Bill Granger	Jeff Carlisle	Robert "Tex" Dean
Spence DeVito	Arnold Johnson	Bob Shirley	Joe Koski
Sid Logan	Gary Deiman	Loren Flagg	Russell Rosin
Edward N. Krohn	John Efta	Jeannine Morse	Penny Alberty
Steve Hammarstrom	Steve Vanek	David Athons	Walt Kreiger
Irv Carlisle	Ken Florey	Gary G. Barnes	Diane Duncan
Dr. William O. West	Bob Clucas	Todd Duwe	Brad Carver
Vernon "Bud" Lofstedt	Rodger Schmidt	David L. Schmidt	Jim Fellman
Dr. Albert Franzmann	David Martin	Terry W. McBee	Kyle Horsley
Larry VanRay	Dinah Mahan	John D. Harro	Carroll Eby
Tom Hodel	Jean Koski	Perry Cannon	Marvin Dragseth
George "Mac" McDowell	Herman Hermansen	Ron Walden	Jim Frates
Dr. John Kobylarz	Mark Powell	Gerald Winkler	Aaron Morse
Jerome Near	John Mills	Marylin Tanner	Dave Gardner
Ken Tarbox	Lloyd-Lorelee Davis	Doug Anderson	Kevin Carlisle
Jon Holland	Leonard M. Efta	Max Best	Lea Shields
Steve Stenga	John D. McCombs	Jay Rohloff	Chris Garcia
Kevin Fulton	Mark Lockwood	Will Madison	Jim Robb
Nancy Leamon	John Jay White	Tom Hills	Joe Dragseth
Ed Marsters	Gina Dragseth	Kate McDowell	Karl Heinz Krause
Robert DeCino	Brian F. Krohn	Mark Hutton	Dean Thompson
Jack Johnson	Larry Frampton	Dean Gardner	Joe Malatesta, Sr.
Janet Clucas	Siegfried Heller	Richard L. Vehmeier	Heath Duncan
Paul Ruesch	Jack Horsley	John Nelson	Norman Beasley
Kelly Wolf	Ryan Wolf	Stu Goldstein	Bobby Frates
Paul Zimmerman	Bill Thompson	Dave Carpenter	Bill Grimm
Arthur "Chuck" Robinson	Bob Scott	Joel Burns	Jon Horsley
Sheryl Dilley	"Big Al" Dettmer	Roy Bertogilo	Wilbur Nelson
Nelden Gardner	Mike Thompson	Kim Gardner	Maurice Holthaus
George Jackson	Doug Green	Vera Wolf	Madeline Fox
Shane Morgan	Michael E. Krohn	Carla Carlisle	Manfred Wanek
Dave Jewell	Becky West	Doug Blossom, Jr.	Audrey Johnson
Dorothy Hermansen	Doug Blossom	Alan DeGraffenried	Stephen Tanner
Shonda Danna	Sis Dragseth	Sadie Fox	Larry Wachtler
Gary Esquiro	Ruth Holthaus	Ronald L. Davis	Bruce Fisher
Drew "Obie" Obrien	Alan Thompson		

This advertisement is NOT paid for by Senator Ted Stevens, Governor Tony Knowles, or any other government or corporate slush fund, but rather by those whose names appear herein.

Nomination should be nixed

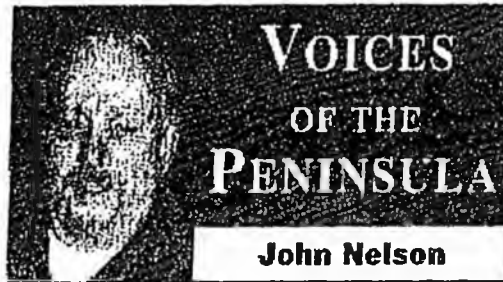
Brett Huber's presence on Board of Fisheries not good for Alaskans

When Bob Dylan sang "The Times They Are A-Changin,'" he wasn't thinking about Alaska's fisheries, but he could have been.

Over the past few years and at an accelerating pace, the traditional, non-wasteful harvest of Alaska's fish resources by residents is being displaced by the nontraditional use of Alaska's fish resources by nonresidents. And all for the almighty dollar.

During the recent Board of Fisheries meetings on Cook Inlet, a Kenai River guide exclaimed, "The Kenai is so special it shouldn't just be treated as another meat fishery." Fellow guide and Kenai River Sportfishing Association executive director Brett Huber agrees: "Perhaps it's time to treat this like other trophy fisheries, like we do with the rainbow trout."

Brett Huber wants us to believe that catch-and-release fishing for trophy fish is noble, somehow "above" the traditional "meat" fishing Alaskans have practiced for ages. Huber would have us believe catch-and-release trophy fishing is better for the fish. But is catch-and-release trophy fishing noble, or even better? Is it the right thing to do for the fish?



Consider the upper river rainbow trout fishery, the fishery Huber holds up as an example worth imitating in other fisheries like the first run of Kenai kings. According to Fish and Game figures, the upper Kenai hosts a population of about 25,000 rainbow. In 2000, there were 78,000 rainbows caught and released.

That means each trout was caught on average a little more than three times during the fishing season. At a mortality rate of 5 percent, 3,900 of those 78,000 trout died, and at 1 pound each, that's 3,900 pounds of dead meat wasted. Moreover, 5 percent of the rainbows in the river have only one eye. Of the 6-year-old trout that comprise about 25 percent of the population, 85 percent of them have some

degree of mouth damage from being hooked.

This is how Brett Huber wants to treat the first run of Kenai kings, or in his own words, "like we do ... the rainbow trout."

Brett Huber has been nominated to the Board of Fisheries by Gov. Tony Knowles, but Huber should not be confirmed by the Legislature. Huber's vision for Alaska's fisheries would continue to displace the traditional, non-wasteful harvest of our fish resources in favor of the tourist-oriented sport fishing industry while turning Alaska's fisheries into a mockery of the state's wanton waste laws.

Huber's idea of fishery management as evidenced by his plan for the first-run kings would increasingly divert the salmon best used on Alaska's tables into the pocketbooks of the tourist sportfishing industry.

Call your legislators and urge them to vote no on Huber's confirmation.: Sens. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof (800-964-5733), Jerry Ward, R-Nikiski (465-3766), and Reps. Ken Lancaster, R-Soldotna (800-463-2693), Mike Chenault, R-Nikiski (800-469-3779), and Drew Scalzi, R-Homer (800-665-2689).

John Nelson
Soldotna

Clarion 2:440.02

[Fwd: Huber]

Subject: [Fwd: Huber]

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2002 15:19:46 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: pat_hartiey@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: Huber

Date: Thu, 25 Apr 2002 23:05:39 -0800 (AKDT)

From: fay000@webtv.net (Fay Gavin)

To: Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us

Please do NOT confirm Huber to the BOF

He does not represent the issues of the fisherperson He is taking care of the special interests and needs of tourism not the ALASKANS that would like to keep a fish without hooking and releasing all day till they hook the RIGHT size.....fay gavin ANCH. AK

Subject: The Rest of the Story

Date: Fri, 05 Apr 2002 17:19:27 -0800

From: Les Palmer <lpalmer@alaska.net>

To: Ken Lancaster <Representative_Ken_Lancaster@legis.state.ak.us>

Ken,

I know you're busy, but this column contains the jist of an issue that's extremely important to the entire state. It also relates to Brett Huber, who you will be asked to confirm for the Board of Fisheries soon. I would appreciate your take on this issue. Also, please tell me whether you intend to support Huber's confirmation.

Thank you for your efforts down there. It must be a madhouse. Stay the course. Janet and I appreciate your efforts.

Les

This column appeared in Les Palmer's "An Outdoor View," Peninsula Clarion, Outdoors section, Apr. 5, 2002

A RUDE AWAKENING

by

Les Palmer

(Editor's note: This is the first in a three-part series about what recent events portend for the future of anglers, fishing guides and others for whom the Kenai River is key to their welfare.)

Hi. My name is Les, and I'm a fishing-guide booster.

I've boosted guiding since the late 1980s, when I started writing this column. I've remained a booster even when everyone around me was throwing rocks at guides. It hasn't always been easy, being a guide booster.

As an outdoor writer, I've turned down dozens of offers of 'free' fishing trips. There are no free lunches. I'm friendly with several guides, but consider only one a true friend.

My thinking has always been that guides do far more good than harm. The guided fishing industry doesn't do as much for the community or the resource as it could and should, but it does bring in millions of dollars in "new" money from Outside, dollars that bounce several times before settling down.

Speaking to the Board of Fisheries at its 1999 meeting in Soldotna, I said, "Guides are an asset to the Kenai River and Alaska's economy, not a liability." I still believe that. But my attitude toward guides has changed in recent weeks. I'm starting to think that being guide-friendly is an unhealthy habit I should break.

In late February, I was in Fred Meyers, maneuvering a shopping cart around a bend, when a woman came up and said, 'What did you think about the way the Board of Fisheries meeting turned out?'

I was still feeling angry and frustrated about that meeting, but I didn't want to get into it with a stranger who hadn't even introduced herself, so I said, 'I'm still waiting for the fallout to land.'

'Well, I'm a guide, and I didn't like it,' she said. 'I wanted the early-run kings to be all catch- and-release.'

'You did?'

'I come from California,' she said. 'Down there, our rainbow trout used to be big, but they were harvested down to nothing. Now we've had catch and release for the last five years, and the big ones are coming back.'

'Two things,' I said. 'One, king salmon aren't rainbow trout. And two, you are no longer in California.'

I figured that would cool her jets. I was wrong.

'I was disappointed that the board didn't extend coho fishing on the Kenai through October,' she said. 'I could book that whole month.'

'That's why the board didn't extend the season,' I said. 'They would've given locals a shot at those late silvers, but they were afraid the guides would exploit those fish. They didn't want it to turn into a catch-and-release fishery.'

After that conversation-killer, we went our separate ways. It was just as well. The way I felt about Kenai River guides after what they had done at the fish-board meeting in February, she was lucky I stopped when I did.

At that board meeting, the Kenai River Professional Guides Association coalesced with the well-funded and well-represented Kenai River Sportfishing Association. This alliance formed to convince the Board of Fisheries that king salmon are too good to be wasted on food, but should be saved for play. The plan was to 'save' the early-run Kenai kings by having catch-and-release management for the entire run, through June 30.

To the casual observer, the coalition was flying a conservation flag, 'Save the Endangered Early-Run Kenai Kings.' But their true colors were -- and are -- greed and self-interest, 'King Salmon for Fun and Profit, not Food.'

At the meeting, fishing guide and KRSA board member Pat Carter summed it up. In an interview with the Anchorage Daily News, he said, 'The Kenai is so special it shouldn't just be treated as another meat fishery.'

Over the years, I've supported KRSA in many ways, believing it represented the best interests of fish, as well as anglers. I was one of the early members, in the late 1970s. So what happened at this board meeting was a rude awakening. This seemingly benevolent organization, proselytizing with its pro-habitat message, has become a 400-pound piranha in the goldfish pond.

Most people haven't yet realized what happened at that February fish-board meeting. I mean other than the board adding another 11 onerous regulations to the already nightmarishly complex rules for fishing the Kenai River.

The most significant thing the board did was to, in part, go along with the KRSA-guide coalition's plan. Without regard for the number of early-run kings that will be in the Kenai River, the board scheduled a catch-and-release fishery for the last 20 days of June on the early-run Kenai River king salmon.

This outrageous action marked the first time ever that a traditional salmon harvest fishery had been replaced by a catch-and-release fishery. Together with a non-retention, 40- to 55-inch slot limit, the board slashed the annual early-run harvest to one-sixth of what it has been in prior years, from an average of 6,900 to less than 1,200.

This precedent has statewide implications. Before, fisheries managers used catch-and-release only as a means of giving anglers a chance to fish on small fish populations and during weak salmon runs. Now, starting this season, "fun" fishing for salmon assumes a higher value than the usual 'food' fishing. If the Board of Fisheries can do it on the Kenai, they can do it anywhere.

I find myself feeling bad about things I've thought and written about our local Natives' persistence to fish for salmon with gill nets. I find myself wanting to talk to the dip-netters and personal-use gill-net advocates who have become more vocal in recent years. Of late, I've even found myself having calm and reasonable conversations with commercial fishermen.

Big changes are on the breeze. If you're wondering what will happen next, you needn't look far for clues. In the Clarion (Feb. 15, 2002, 'Board Mulls King Plan'), KRSA executive director Brett Huber said, 'Perhaps it's time to treat this like other trophy fisheries, like we do with rainbow trout.'

Because of this radical change in something I had thought was sacred, I've been reconsidering this thing called "sport fishing."

I'm a meat fisherman. Always have been, always will be. Like the great majority of Alaskans, I consider eating fish an important part of catching it. Perhaps the most important part.

That said, I'm not a purist meat fisherman. I've caught and released more than a few trout, grayling and bonefish over the years. Yet, I've never felt right about catching and releasing salmon, to "fight" or "play" them just for the fun of it.

That salmon are meant to be food for humans and other organisms is so apparent, I cannot fathom how any thinking person could believe otherwise.

I confess, I've sinned twice in the distant past. One morning, four of us caught and released 34 kings at the 3rd Hole, across from the mouth of the Killey River. We killed at least two of those fish we released, if the 7.6 percent mortality rate for catch-and-release applied that day.

I didn't feel right about that fishing. At the time I didn't understand why. But I do now.

(Next week: A puzzling plan)

Les Palmer is a freelance outdoor writer who lives in Sterling.

The End

Subject: Second Column of a Series

Date: Fri, 12 Apr 2002 09:38:33 -0700

From: Les Palmer <lpalmer@alaska.net>

To: <Representative_Ken_Lancaster@legis.state.ak.us>

For Peninsula Clarion, Outdoors, Apr. 12, 2002

A PUZZLING PLAN

by

Les Palmer

(Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series about what recent events portend for the future of anglers, fishing guides and others for whom the Kenai River is key to their welfare.)

The king salmon, the first salmon of the year, will soon start nosing into the Kenai River, bound for their spawning grounds.

In years past, my heart beat faster at the very thought of catching and bringing home one of these fish. But this year, I'm preoccupied with the knowledge that some people want to stop all harvest of Kenai kings, except for the 'trophy' size. So, instead of thinking about fishing, I'm spending every spare moment trying to save one of the main reasons for living on the Kenai Peninsula.

In February, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulations that effectively slash five-sixths from the annual harvest of early-run Kenai River king salmon. From 1988 through 2000, downstream from the Soldotna bridge, the average harvest from this run was about 6,900 fish. Under the new regulations, effective this year, the harvest will likely be less than 1,200.

The board accomplished most of this severe cut by declaring the last 20 days in June a catch-and-release fishery. For the first time ever, an Alaskan salmon harvest fishery has been canceled before the season begins, replaced by a 'fun' fishery, without biological reason.

Rumors and news accounts were the first inkling most Kenai Peninsula residents had of the fish board's extreme, seemingly irrational action. As the full realization of what it meant came to bear, longtime observers of the local fishing scene were in a state of stunned disbelief.

Members of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association and the Kenai River Professional Guides Association were stunned for different reasons. They wanted the harvest cut even further.

At the February board meeting, KRSA board member and fishing guide Pat Carter told the Anchorage Daily News (Feb. 19, 2002), 'We have a problem, and we just put a Band Aid on it. The Kenai is so special it shouldn't just be treated as another meat fishery.'

KRSA members at the board meeting had zealously tried to stop virtually all harvest of kings. In response to criticism of the group's actions by me and other local residents, KRSA executive director Brett Huber wrote an opinion piece that appeared in the Clarion (Mar. 12, 2002). KRSA's position, he wrote, was that the early run should be managed by catch-and-release, bait should be allowed, and anglers ought to be able to keep a potential new world-record king, the ones more than 55 inches in length.

'We (took this position) because we believed it to be the most biologically sound option available -- and we still do,' Huber wrote.

Huber claimed that fishery managers identified two distinct problems in

staff reports to the board. One, he wrote, was 'a lack of stability in one of the most important sport fisheries in the state.'

Huber wasn't the only one concerned about 'stability' of this run. Kelly Hepler, director of the Division of Sport Fish, mentioned it to Soldotna resident John Nelson. In response to Nelson's complaint about the fish board's action regarding early-run Kenai kings, Hepler wrote on March 14: 'My staff went into the recent Cook Inlet Board meeting asking for two things for the early-run chinook salmon on the Kenai River: 1) additional protection for large chinook salmon, and 2) consideration be given for providing a stable and predictable fishery for current user groups.'

As for 'stable and predictable,' if those are Hepler's main goals, it explains why he didn't defend the existing harvest fishery, when it was shot down in flames. A catch-and-release fishery is much easier and less expensive to monitor. In-season management under fun-fishing rules will be much easier on Hepler, his staff and the agency's budget.

As for Hepler's 'current user groups,' those are mainly guided anglers, who harvested all but about 11 percent of the early-run kings in 2001.

If you believe what KRSA members and some of the guides said at the board meeting -- and continue to say -- you would think the early-run Kenai kings were on the edge of extinction.

But at the Soldotna offices of the Department of Fish and Game, the scientists who spend most of their time studying these fish disagree. Biologist Larry Marsh tells me the early run has met its biological escapement goal in 15 of the past 16 years.

Soldotna fishery biologists acknowledge the lack of larger kings -- the '5-ocean' 7-year-olds -- in recent years, but disagree among themselves as to the cause. In a January 2002 report, they wrote: 'We don't know if this decline is a result of natural processes or the result of selective harvest pressures on larger fish by anglers in the recreational fishery or a combination of both.'

In response, these biologists suggested to the Kenai-Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee a 'non-retention slot limit' that protected the larger kings. The committee submitted a proposal incorporating this idea. The biologists said a range of 45 inches to 55 inches would allow most of the larger fish to escape and spawn.

But board members, hearing mainly from KRSA members, went further. To protect virtually all the 5-ocean fish and most of the 4-ocean fish, they lowered the bottom end of the non-retention slot from 45 to 40 inches. Then, incongruously, they allowed the killing of kings longer than 55 inches, the largest of the large ones they were supposedly trying to protect.

The board doesn't deserve all the blame. At the meeting of the Kenai-Soldotna advisory committee, where the issues involved could have been aired in public, KRSA and the guides stayed away, holding their cards close to their vests until the real game. That this committee has long been dominated by commercial-fishing interests had much to do with its being by-passed in the process.

Although KRSA voiced concern about the early run Kenai kings at the February board meeting, their concern wasn't apparent until then. The group went to a lot of trouble and expense to submit nine proposals for regulation changes, none of which pertained to early-run Kenai kings. KRSA members waited until the board meeting was well under way, then met with members of the guides association and talked them into supporting the catch-and-release idea.

As one guide who was present at this meeting told me, 'The guides were led to believe it was the only way to bring back the big kings and restore the run. They were convinced there was no other way.'

This idea that the early-run kings need to be 'brought back' is just plain malarkey. Mark Gamblin, the fisheries management biologist for the upper Kenai Peninsula area, has stated several times since the February meeting that the run is not in trouble.

As recently as Apr. 10, Gamblin said, 'The impression that some folks have, or are promoting, that there's a conservation issue or crisis that needs to be addressed, is just simply incorrect.'

This is primarily a social issue, not a biological issue, he said.

Those of us who consider the catching and eating of salmon almost a holy ritual are going to have to draw a line in the sand. The bureaucrats won't help us, and guides are in it mainly for the money. For now, at least, the organizations that pretend to stand up for 'Joe Fisherman' are standing on the wrong side of the line.

The vast majority of Alaskans believe that when a run of salmon has a harvestable surplus, fisheries policy and management should be to harvest those fish, not allocate them to guides and an elite group that wants to treat salmon as playthings.

We can win this fight. We must win this fight.

Next week: Taking a stand

Les Palmer is a freelance writer who lives in Sterling.

The End

[Fwd: third column in a series]

Subject: [Fwd: third column in a series]

Date: Fri, 19 Apr 2002 12:59:40 -0800

From: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Pat_Hartley@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: third column in a series

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 21:38:26 -0700

From: Les Palmer <lpalmer@alaska.net>

To: Representative Drew Scalzi <Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us>

For Peninsula Clarion, "An Outdoor View," April 19, 2002

Righting the Wrongs
by
Les Palmer

(Editor's note: This is the third column in a three-part series about what recent events portend for the future of anglers, fishing guides and others for whom the Kenai River is key to their welfare.)

When it comes to making fishing regulations, Alaska has the most open process of all states. The public can be involved at every stage, from the local fish and game advisory committee, to the Board of Fisheries. It's a system deserving of our support. We should cherish and take pride in it.

But wait. If this process is so wonderful, how did we end up with a regulation that effectively made catch-and-release salmon fishing more important than catch-and-eat?

For no biological reason, the fish board in February voted to replace a traditional salmon harvest with a catch-and-release fishery. For now, this regulation applies only to the early-run Kenai River king salmon, but it signals profound changes ahead.

More than a simple count of 'yeas' and 'nays,' that unprecedented vote represented a paradigm shift.

With that vote, the Board of Fisheries gave away part of our Alaskan birthright, our right to catch and eat salmon, so fishing guides would have a more stable, predictable fishery to sell.

With that vote, the board ignored the Alaska Constitution, which mandates the management of fish for a sustained yield.

With that vote, the board turned a deaf ear to the scientists who safeguard our fisheries, and instead paid heed to a few self-interested fishing guides and the overzealous representatives of a sport-fishing organization.

With that vote, the board served notice that the same thing could happen anywhere. Too much pressure on king salmon fisheries in the Susitna drainage? Slow down the harvest with catch-and-release. Are emergency closures making it difficult for Nushagak River guides and lodge owners to book trips? Make the king run catch-and-release. Is intensive management costing too much? Go to catch-and-release.

Where was the Department of Fish and Game while all this was going on? On allocative proposals, agency staff claim neutrality. Mainly, they were mute on this issue, claiming it was allocative, not biological, knowing it was a hot potato. But just how neutral were they?

As I mentioned in last week's column, Sport Fish Director Kelly Hepler stated that his staff went to the February board meeting asking that 'consideration be given for providing a stable and predictable fishery for current user groups' of early-run Kenai River king salmon. On an issue that was so obviously allocative, what was he doing asking for something that has more to do with the marketability of a product than with the biology of the early-run kings?

Hepler wasn't the only one interested in a stable and predictable early run. After the board vote, KRSA executive director Brett Huber expressed his disappointment that the board hadn't made the entire run catch-and-release. 'It would have been predictable, simple and stable,' Huber told the Anchorage Daily News.

Biologists linked with this exercise in social engineering have lost some credibility, and credibility is of utmost importance to a scientist. This didn't happen overnight.

As recently as a decade ago, Fish and Game staff instinctively gave the Kenai River Sportfishing Association a wide berth. In the organization's early years, founder Bob Penney was a junkyard dog when it came to taking on the commercial-fishing industry. In one way, this was healthy. At least you knew where Penney was coming from and where he wanted to go. And woe be to the biologist who went there.

Nowadays, KRSA's aims are less obvious. In the early 1990s, it became a kinder, gentler organization. 'Think habitat -- if we wait it'll be too late,' became its slogan. It adopted the mission of 'preserving the greatest sportfishing river in the world, the Kenai River, through protecting fish habitat, providing education, and promoting responsible sportfishing.'

The newly benevolent organization began granting large sums of cash to provide habitat-friendly angler access along the Kenai. It handed out awards to property owners for protecting their river banks in a habitat-friendly manner.

KRSA is largely funded by its fishing tournament, the Kenai River Classic, held in early July for the past eight years. In last year's event, Honorary Classic Co-Hosts Senator Ted Stevens and Governor Tony Knowles played host to 180 participants, according to the KRSA Web site. This group included four U.S. senators, four Bush Cabinet members, dozens of executives from major corporations, and celebrity guests. Also attending were Senate President Rick Halford, House Speaker Brian Porter, Fish and Game Commissioner Frank Rue and Alaska Board of Fisheries board members Dan Coffey and Ed Dersham. This was not your everyday fishing trip.

While giving away \$2 million dollars for river-related projects, KRSA ingratiated itself to every city, borough, state and federal agency with ties to the Kenai River, as well as to the Kenai Peninsula business community.

Many is the state law-maker and bureaucrat who spent an enjoyable July morning fishing for king salmon on the Kenai River. This is KRSA's 'On the River' program. Its purpose, according to the group's Web site, is to make policy makers 'familiar with the issues of importance to the river and the efforts being accomplished on its behalf.'

How can a policy maker refuse a request from KRSA when he or she has been on a free fishing trip with such nice, well-meaning folks?

How can the Department of Fish and Game be other than accommodating when KRSA gives Fish and Game several thousand dollars for a study?

Not that KRSA hasn't done a lot of good work. But its largess with

politicians and bureaucrats threatens not only its own credibility, but that of those whose favor the group seeks.

How can the state give unbiased consideration to the issue of boat wakes on the Kenai when the prime sponsor of the Kenai River Classic is Yamaha Marine?

It may seem as if I'm giving KRSA too much credit, but I don't think so. It's safe to say that this is the most powerful and influential sport-fishing organization in the world. At the February fish-board meeting, that power and influence was demonstrated.

Not that KRSA deserves all the credit. Other reasons for what went wrong:

€ Angler apathy is at an all-time high.

€ Commercial fishermen, driven to desperation by low salmon prices, vented their anger and frustration by writing dozens of silly proposals, all of which had to be considered at every level of the process. The sheer number of proposals swamped the advisory committees. Important issues went unconsidered.

€ The Kenai-Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee for years has been viewed by other user-groups as stacked in favor of commercial-fishing interests. Sport-fishing interests chose to ignore this committee, thus skipping part of the public process.

€ Going into the February board meeting, some issues remained hidden that should have been previously aired in public. As a result, the public and at least some of the staff and board were blind-sided by what happened.

In retrospect, many of us wish we could go back and reconsider the proposal dealing with early-run kings. Hopefully, the board will give us that chance to reconsider it before 2005, when the board next addresses Cook Inlet fin-fish proposals.

If you're wondering what you can do right now, there's plenty.

As Alaskans, we need to reaffirm the belief that whenever a harvestable surplus of salmon exists, it should be harvested, not set aside to play with. We need to join organizations that support this belief, and work to change those that don't.

The fee for a resident sport fishing license (\$15) hasn't increased in years. If we want to harvest Kenai River salmon, which requires intensive, expensive management, we may have to pay more for that management than we did 10 years ago. We should mention this to our legislators.

We need to rethink the word 'sport,' as it applies to fishing. Somewhere along the line, many anglers have bought into the idea that catching-and-releasing salmon is a 'sporting' thing to do. Maybe we ought to think about whether salmon have enough problems, without being caught and released just for 'sport.'

Along the way, we'll hear that a 'trophy' salmon has more value on a tourist's hook or wall than on an Alaska's dinner plate. If we allow economics to form our opinions on this matter, we will have sold off the rest of our birthright.

Les Palmer is a freelance writer who lives in Sterling.

The End

Subject: Kenai Peninsula Online - Alaska Newspaper Catch-and-release decision should be scrapped King plan fails us all 04/18/02

Date: Fri, 19 Apr 2002 08:25:36 -0800

From: Tom Wright <Tom_Wright@Legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Pat Hartley <Pat_Hartley@Legis.state.ak.us>

Good fodder for Drew at Board of Fish confirmation hearings in Resources.

tom

http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/041802/ope_041802ope0030001.shtml

Medicare Questions?

Start Your Morning with Coffee & the Clarion



Click here to Subscribe



Powered by **CLARION**

Web posted Thursday, April 18, 2002

Local Interest

- » Home
- » News
- » Sports
- » Obituaries
- » Editorial
- » Art +
- » Alaska
- » Outdoors
- » Community
- » Classifieds
- » Circulation
- » Schools

Events

Features

- » Business
- » Religion
- » Seniors
- » Health
- » Stocks
- » Movies
- » Legislature
- » Dispatch
- » Forums
- » TV Listings
- » For Kids
- » NIE Teacher Guides

Peninsula Guide

- » Web Guide
- » Web Search
- » Forms
- » Alaskan Autos
- » About Us
- » Churches
- » Archives
- » Online Services

More Links



Catch-and-release decision should be scrapped King plan fails us all

Loren Flagg

When longtime Board of Fisheries observers hailing from diverse interest groups all slam the board process in this newspaper, we must suspect that "something is rotten in Denmark."

Indeed, when Les Palmer (Peninsula Clarion outdoor writer and sports fish advocate), Doug Blossom (eastside setnetter and commercial fishing advocate) and Ken Tarbox (former Fish and Game biologist and environmental advocate) team up to register serious complaints about the recently completed Cook Inlet meeting, we should all take notice.

Actually, based on the number of negative letters to the editor in both local and Anchorage papers as well as the many critical blasts directed at the fish board on the local radio program Sound-Off, perhaps Alaskans have taken due notice.

At the crux of the problem this time is a board process that produced a "failed upon arrival" early king salmon management plan for the Kenai River. The plan is not just a real stinker, it is a disaster for the fish, for the biology of the Kenai system, for local and Alaska resident fishermen, for tourists and nonresident fishermen for Fish and Game

More Local Weather



-15° Deadhorse
27° Fairbanks
39° Anchorage
36° Kenai
36° Homer
37° Juneau

Choose your city [v]

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Power Search

- Our Stories
- Web
- Yellow Pages
- Stocks
- Classifieds

Search

Miss a day?

Use the PowerSearch below to search by topic, or click on the day to see the stories from the past week.
Wed| Tue| Mon|
Sun| Fri| Thu|

...and nonresident fishermen, for fish and game management and for the economy of the Kenai Peninsula.

The new plan produced by the board makes absolutely no sense to anyone who is knowledgeable about the Kenai River. What is the problem, how did this fiasco happen, and where do we go from here?

The main problem was that the old plan did not need a total makeover, it just needed a little tweak to give the larger 5-ocean fish a little help in recovering from a downward trend. Instead of a tweak, the early plan was twiddled down the toilet by the board. With the new plan, we end up exclusively targeting the very component of 5-ocean fish that the original proposal sought to protect.

Only those king salmon 55 inches and over may now be retained after June 10. Admittedly, there are not many fish of that size expected to return this year. (If you do the biology and the math you will discover that this year's 5-ocean return of kings will stem from the adult fish that spawned during the 1995 flood that raised havoc with the Killey River system, the major early run spawning grounds.)

Still, do you develop a plan that aims to harvest the "last survivor?" The problem is not that just a few fish over 55 inches may be harvested. The problem is that very likely most fish brought to the boat over 50 inches will be played out, netted, stretched out by at least two sets of hands, and then measured two or three times. And of course the obligatory picture will be taken before it is released.

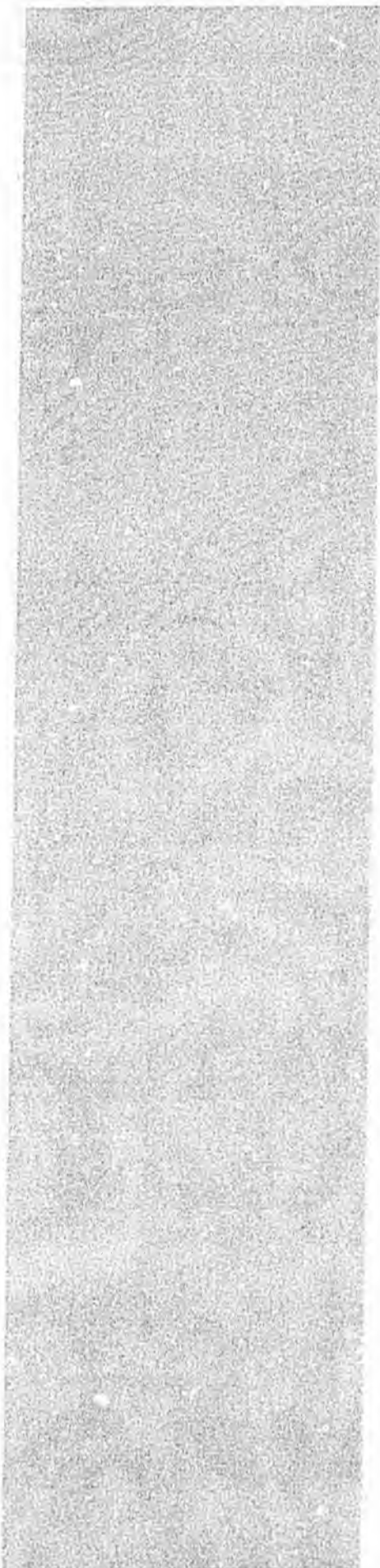
That this will happen is just a fact of human nature. Most local anglers and competent guides are going to know when a fish is 2 or 3 inches or so under keeper size. But believe me, they are going to go ahead and measure them anyway "just to be sure," especially in the presence of their friends or paid clients.

A study by Fish and Game suggests that hook and release mortality on Kenai king salmon is 7 to 8 percent overall for fish of all size categories. If you have ever tried to measure a king salmon over 50 inches in the net you know the problems involved. It is a very difficult task to accurately measure a fish of this size and invariably leaves the net with scales and slime and the fish in a stressed-out condition.

While this has long been an acceptable practice in this fishery, the difference now is that these larger fish are reported to be in a downward trend by Fish and Game and may be in need of additional protection.

That is just one problem with the new plan.

Another *major problem*: The Board of Fish has reduced Fish and Game's Emergency Order (E.O.) authority to make in-season management decisions based on run strength. This is the way salmon runs are managed all over the state.



E.O. is by far the best management system possible, given the uncertainty of salmon returns and lack of reliable forecasts. If the run comes in weak, harvest measures are restricted or the fishery is closed down completely. If the run comes in strong, regulations can be relaxed. This form of management was one of the great benefits of statehood, and within just a few years of being implemented, it helped revive depleted salmon populations around the state.

Now, the new plan has reduced Fish and Game's in-season ability to adapt harvest strategy to run strength. While it may be still possible to open up the fishery to catch and keep after June 10, the requirements are stricter and local management flexibility has been reduced. The opportunity for local anglers (as well guided anglers from all over the world) to partake in this fishery not just for the sport of it, but to put salmon on the dinner table, has been diminished.

A third problem: The new plan, while attempting to protect the main body of 5-ocean fish, is so overly restrictive in this area that it needlessly protects the majority of 4-ocean fish as well. No one, including Fish and Game biologists, has identified any problem with the 4-ocean component of the run, yet harvest of an estimated 80 percent of these fish may be denied by the new regulation, which includes a 40-inch size limit in effect until June 10.

When asked to suggest a size limit to protect the vast majority of 5-ocean fish, Fish and Game biologists came up with 45 inches. This would have protected all of the larger 5-ocean fish (except for those over 55 inches) and even most of those with slower growth genes. It would have also made available for potential harvest more than 70 percent of fish in the 4-ocean age class.

The magnitude of this harvest could easily be controlled by Fish and Game's in-season E.O. authority. Yet, for some reason, the board declined the data provided by experts and decided to impose a smaller 40-inch limit until June 10. If harvest is allowed after June 10 by E.O., it will still be with the 40-inch restriction.

This action was a big slap in the face to resident anglers who have participated in this fishery for many years. "Joe Fisherman" has now been severely restricted during the early portion of the run and quite possibly totally shut off from the later return -- and not for a valid biological reason.

Due to low water conditions in the river and run timing, many locals do not even begin to participate in this fishery until early June. Now, by regulation, they and guided anglers as well may be shut off from any early-run harvest (except for fish over 55 inches) after June 10.

One final problem: The plan allows for the use of bait by E.O. during the hook-and-release period. If the run is strong enough to allow the use of bait, it should be strong enough to

allow the retention of fish.

This was truly a ludicrous decision by the board that catered heavily to an interest group's personal agenda. Why should we be permitted to endlessly "play" with fish when we are being denied the right to retain them under a conservation purpose? No bait tends to keep both angler effort and fish handling down to a minimum, which should be one of the goals of a hook-and-release salmon fishery.

What is really hard to understand is why these changes were made? There seems to be no individual, no sport fishing group, no guide organization, and no Fish and Game representative who will take responsibility for changes to the plan. All seem to claim that they did not author or support the new plan. So just who did?

If I could paraphrase an old saying, "Success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan." This new plan is definitely a bona fide failure, yet somehow made its way through the committee process and was passed by the Board of Fisheries.

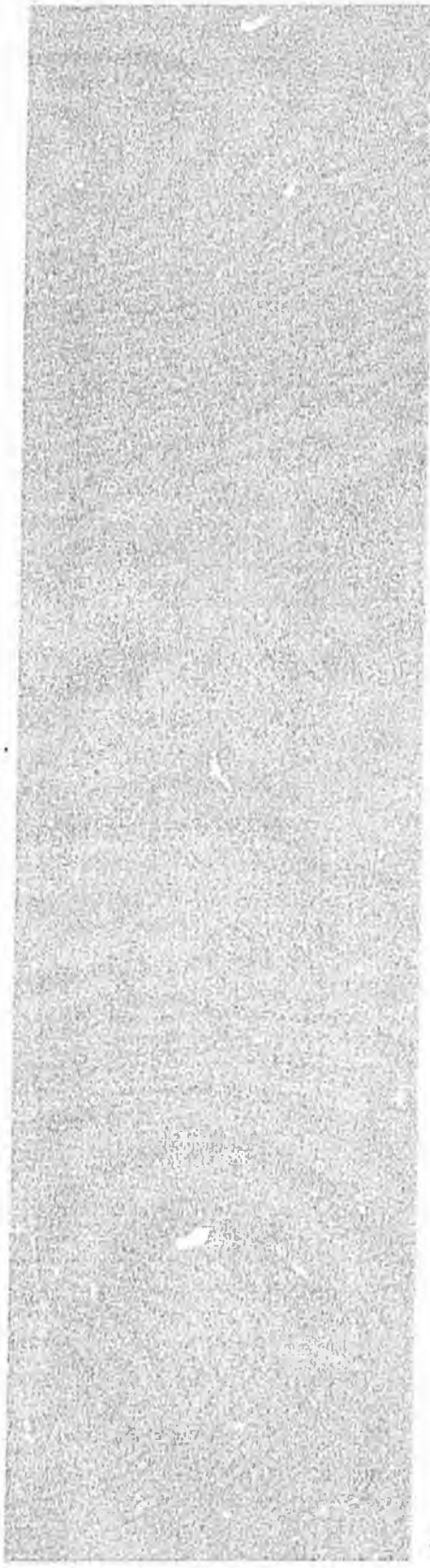
I have read in this paper that the Kenai River Sportfishing Association's executive director, Brett Huber, was instrumental in promoting the stability argument, exclusive catch and release, and other components of the plan. There are claims KRSA was coveting special interests and promoting sport fishing for elitists, rather than locals. Perhaps this will be a good line of questioning for legislator's to take during the upcoming confirmation hearings for Huber's appointment to a fish board seat.

Then again, we may have to wait to get a copy of the board meeting transcript to sort this all out. In the meantime we need to lay the groundwork to overturn this plan and get a plan back that is based on biological management -- not the Stone Age concept of management by stability. Salmon returns are far from stable, and there must be flexibility allowed in management.

For those who do not want to live with this Neanderthal plan for the next three years, there is a process available through the Board of Fish to overturn it and to make the necessary changes to bring it back to biology-based management.

Actually, Round 1, the petition process, has already been attempted by an assortment of sport fishing interests and by the Alaska Outdoor Journal. Petitions to change the early-run plan were presented at the March Board of Fisheries hearing and were roundly rejected by the board due to lack of a conservation emergency. What these petitions did accomplish was to alert the board that there was wide spread dissatisfaction with the early king salmon plan and to lay the groundwork for Round 2, the agenda change process, next fall.

Under this process the Board of Fish will accept an agenda change request only:



for a fishery conservation purpose or reason;

to correct an error in regulation; or

to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

The board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information found by the board to be compelling.

I believe there are good reasons for the board to accept an agenda change. Since this is not a predominantly "fish-allocation" issue, the board should find no reason for rejection of the request in this clause. Helping to "set the table" for a review of the plan this fall is Fish and Game Sport Fish Division Director Kelly Hepler.

Apparently recognizing the extreme dissatisfaction by this community and nearly all river user groups with the outcome of the early Kenai king plan, Mr. Hepler has already instructed his staff "to initiate a series of public meetings this fall to discuss alternatives for providing reasonable access to this resource while protecting larger fish." This will be a good start and fits in well with the agenda change process.

If the board accepts the agenda change request next fall, it would then schedule a full hearing on the issue for a meeting sometime in the 2002-03 cycle. The support of all Kenai River user groups and organizations, the tourism industry, local governments and individual users will be needed next fall to bring this about.

Based on what I am hearing from this community, there should be little problem in garnering overwhelming support for an early review and revamping of this plan. The formation of a new local-based sportsmen's organization to coalesce this support and to better represent the interests of the Kenai River, its resources and its users is sorely needed. This is going to take a lot of support and hard work from river users and community members, but in the words of JFK, "Let us begin."

Loren Flagg is a retired Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist who lives on the Kenai River in Soldotna. He has been a sport fishing guide for the past 15 years.

<

Brent G Johnson
20773 Porcupine Lane
Clam Gulch, AK 99568
907-262-4763

26 April 2002

Dear Legislator,

I see the Governor has appointed another commercial fish antagonist to the Board of Fish. Why can't the Governor just let us die with dignity? We will be dead and gone shortly and won't need the likes of bad Huber twisting the knife in our wounds.

Already three fourths of the Lower Cook Inlet seiners occupy themselves in other fields while only one quarter tries to fish. Predictions are that half the Cook Inlet drift fleet won't be able to afford to fish this year. Northern Cook Inlet setnetters are becoming as rare as sailboats in February.

Over the past decade men with great talent who live in the Cook Inlet watershed have been appointed to the BOF. These have included lawyers, guides, and sport fish biologists with several things in common: They have sharp minds filled with intricacies of the sport fish world. They have oratory skills to lead the lesser sheep. And they have a hatred for commercial fishing.

In that decadent time frame, there hasn't been a Cook Inlet commercial fisher on the BOF, period. This is not just taxation without representation; it's the death penalty without representation.

Consequently in this decade management has decayed and fish stocks have degraded. In the end it wouldn't matter. I don't think Cook Inlet commercial fishers could overcome farm fish, the Asian economic crises, water turbidity, pollution, poor ocean survival, rising costs of fuel and other necessities, and subsistence. So the appointment is a moot point for me.

For fairness, it's a huge point. Honesty swims in the gallows for reconsideration.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson
Life-long Clam Gulch setnetter.

*Letters sent to: Ketchikan, Petersburg, Haines, Juneau, Cordova
Valdez, Seward Fairbanks, Nome, Anchorage, Kenai, Homer
& Kodiak*

April 26, 2002

Letter to the Editor:

All of you that consider fishing for food to be as Alaskan as motherhood and apple pie should contact your legislators ASAP. Brett Huber, a current Knowles appointee to the Board of Fish, stands to be confirmed by your legislators within the next few days. Mr. Huber represents a new philosophy in fish management that promotes catch and release, play with your food fisheries, over traditional Alaskan fish for food opportunities. This translates into fisheries for elitist "sportsmen" having priority over those who choose to harvest for their table.

Please contact your legislators today and insist that they VOTE NO on Brett Huber's Board of Fisheries confirmation. Send a POM (Political Opinion Message) today !!

Thank you,



Bill Sullivan
Kenai

Bill Sullivan
P.O. Box 943
Kenai, AK 99611
(907) 283-4850

April 23, 2002

Letter to the Editor:

Residents of the Kenai Peninsula, on behalf of the residents of the State of Alaska need your help in stopping the confirmation of Brett Huber of Soldotna to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We, the residents of the Kenai Peninsula, know him and have worked around him and feel strongly that he is not appropriate for the Board of Fisheries We feel this for the following reasons:

Salmon summit - recently in Kodiak there were over a hundred individuals representing all sectors of the salmon industry that came together in a common cause of revitalizing our salmon resources. New thoughts and management practices very well may be in the future if this industry is going to recover. Mr. Huber was too busy to attend the salmon summit, even though other nominees to the Board of Fisheries were in attendance. If Mr. Huber was concerned about the future of the commercial salmon industry he should have attended the salmon summit.

Over six hundred residents of the Kenai Peninsula have personally taken the time to write Senators and Representatives asking them not to confirm Mr. Huber. These written comments come from the commercial guides, commercial fishermen, processors, business and just everyday Joe Fisherman. One hundred fifty two community leaders each paid \$10.00 for a full-page ad in our local newspaper expressing displeasure with Mr. Huber and his views of salmon management. This group included eleven retired fishery biologists and former Board of Fisheries members.

Fish and Game advisory groups in Anchorage and here on the Kenai Peninsula have also opposed Mr. Huber and his views of salmon management. Just recently our local native community has also publicly opposed the nomination of Mr. Huber to the Board of Fisheries.

In short, Mr. Huber's nomination is a desperate move by two or three Anchorage politicians to promote an anti-commercial fishing agenda. Mr. Huber represents poor salmon management ideas and practices that are not in the best interest of Alaskans or the salmon resources. Your Senators and Representatives need to stop the confirmation of this individual to the Board of Fisheries.

For further information on these issues, please refer to www.alaskaoutdoorjournal.com.

Sincerely,

Roland R. Maw
Roland R. Maw
Kasilof

Roland R. Maw
P.O. Box 530
Kasilof, AK 99610
(907) 260-9436

Letter sent to following newspapers:

Ketchikan, Petersburg, Haines, Juneau, Cordova, Valdez, Seward, Fairbanks, Nome, Anchorage, Kenai, Homer, and Kodiak.

Any questions, please let me know.

LETTER TO THE CORDOVA TIMES RE: BOF AND BRETT HUBER APPOINTMENT

Dear Editor,

Alaska Salmon Fishery Management – a success story that makes one proud to be an Alaskan. Scientist, fishery managers, and the public from around the world look to Alaska for the model of how to manage salmon populations. The founding fathers of this Great State showed superior wisdom in abandoning the federal government model of fixed fishing times. They designed a unique and wonderful system.

The cornerstone of Alaska salmon management is the Area management concept that is combined with abundance based management techniques. The primary technique is emergency order authority that allows local knowledgeable biologists to adjust fishing time and area to meet escapement and harvest objectives. Local biologists live in the community and hopefully know and respond to local conditions. They learn the fisheries and what can and cannot be done in the interest of escapement, harvest, safety, social, and economic situations. They are available for questions and must answer to the community for their decisions. Therefore, not only are they decision-makers but they are accountable decision-makers. Overriding this is the mandate to maintain high sustained yields of salmon.

Unfortunately, the Board of Fish and the Governor of the State has abandoned this concept in Upper Cook Inlet. This has been a slow process but the last Board of Fish meeting brought the new philosophy to the public attention. This new philosophy is one of restrictions on the use of emergency order authority, the changing of traditional sport fisheries, which harvested fish, into catch and release fisheries, the abandoning of sustained yield escapement goals for no social or economic reason, and finally they inhibited local managers from speaking out against these policies at their meetings.

These are harsh words and accusations but the direction is real and should be of concern to all users of the salmon resources. In Upper Cook Inlet, resident sport fish anglers have mounted a serious protest to only catch and release Chinook salmon fisheries. Local biologist testified that there was no biological reason to go to this extreme measure. The Board indicated they made this decision to bring a stable and predictable fishery that benefited out of state guided anglers. No more harvest even if the runs are at recorded levels. No emergency order authority to adjust fishing times and areas. No escapement goal management since no harvest means the total run will spawn. For the early run Kenai River Chinook the loss of harvest amounts to 6,000 fish or 180,000 pounds of salmon that will not be on sport anglers dinner plates.

In the Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries the Board limited the emergency order authority of local managers to allow no more than 24 hours per week in some weeks and significantly restricted fishing time for both drift and set gill nets in all weeks. In abundant years, managers have fished 4 times as much to meet escapement objectives. The local manager told his supervisor that it "is impossible to manage for the goals" with these restrictions. The manager was informed that he could not use the term "impossible" in public. Restricted emergency order authority means abandoning the Alaska management concept.

While the above is serious there is a way to change the direction. Change the Board of Fish members and the political structure that created it. Unfortunately, the Governor has appointed Brett Huber to the Board of Fish. Mr. Huber was instrumental, as executive director of the Kenai River Sport Fishing Association, in getting the Board to pass the above restrictions. He rejected the escapement goal concept and has stated there should be no upper end to the goals. He attacked the commercial fisheries by using misleading and false information on the management and biology of Upper Cook Inlet systems.

Therefore, I am urging all Alaskan to write their legislators to ask that **Mr. Huber not be confirmed. His philosophy of management is not in the best interest of the State of Alaska.** In addition, I urge all Alaskan to put pressure on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to return to the model that made this State proud. The other choice is to watch our resources move down the same path as Washington, Oregon, and California.

Kenneth E. Tarbox
Box 3507
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907-262-7767
tarbox@ptialaska.net

Dear Representative Scalzi,

We are salmon drift permit holders here in Cook Inlet, and have been following closely the nomination of Brett Huber. Several of us Cook Inlet fishermen have been discussing the confirmation of Mr. Huber. Some of these folks are also board people with UCIDA, and we all oppose Mr. Huber from being seated. We oppose his being seated for the following reasons.

(1) Brett Huber as the executive director of KRSA has been the main thrust in the elimination of fishing time for the commercial fishing fleet, and set netters, which has been devastating to the commercial drift fishing fleet. This devastation, along with the poor salmon prices have brought about a near collapse of the fishing fleet financially, along with tremendous loss in depreciation of permits, vessels, and processing facilities.

(2) Because Brett Huber receives his salary from KRSA, and possibly from the Kenai Classic tournament, he will continue to pursue, and support, and reflect the goals of the organizations that pay him. This represents to us a very potential issue of conflict of interest, which will place Mr. Huber in a most precarious position as to his voting on agendas that include management and allocation issues dealing with Cook Inlet, and Kenai River salmon stocks. We have challenged several individuals to respond to the invitation of requesting Mr. Huber reveal his sources of income personally, so that the members of the legislature may consider potential conflict of interest on his behalf. To date, We have not heard that Mr. Huber has done so. We are extending the challenge to you to request Mr. Huber to divulge his income sources, and the amount of his salary, so that this conflict of interest issue may be exposed to all of the legislators.

Mr. Huber may indicate that he can simply not participate in voting on these issues. This would blatantly be unfair to the people of the Kenai Peninsula and issues associated with Cook Inlet Salmon stocks and Kenai River management strategies, as it seems to me that if a board member is so handicapped because of the conflict of interest problems, that he should be replaced with a more neutral nomination.

(3) Mr. Huber lacks experience in fish management training, and conservation. He has consistently expressed and pursued the goals of KRSA and Kenai River Guide Associations to increase escapement for the benefit of sports fishermen on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, contrary to the scientific biological research recently completed on the carrying capacity of the Skilak Lake system of sockeye salmon. If you are not familiar with this department survey, you may contact the Soldotna ADF&G department for a copy. The Skilak Lake system produces approximately 70% of the total Kenai River sockeye salmon. Over-escapement of sockeye salmon and the over-grazing of the over-abundant sockeye fry in the Skilak Lake system resulted in a 58% mortality of salmon fry in this system from Sept 2000 to April 2001. As the executive director of KRSA, Brett Huber did not exhibit any concern over the over escapement issue of the sockeye in the Kenai River System.

(4) Brett Huber has shown little if any consideration for the sportfishing people of the Kenai Peninsula, and their traditional consumptive use of the resources of King Salmon. As the executive director of KRSA, he encouraged and participated in the last two unpopular decisions of the Homer Winter King Fishery, and the Winter King Fishery of the Kodiak Archipelago. He also spear headed the catch and release decision put out by the BOF on the early run of king salmon on the Kenai River. He did this while being a salaried representative of KRSA, and the coalition of commercial sport fishing guides of the Kenai River.

(5) If Mr. Huber has been and is salaried with funds from the Kenai Classic Tournament, which funds were donated by the public for the use of habitat and environment projects, and these funds were diverted to pay Mr. Huber's office costs and salary, does this not represent unethical conduct on the part of Mr. Huber? How will those individuals that donated funds for environment and habitat improvement feel, when they realize that their contributions were channeled to Mr. Huber to support himself, and his effort in lobbying the BOF and securing these very unpopular decisions which were the agenda of KRSA, and the Kenai River Guide association? If this condition exists, should it not be exposed before Mr. Huber is confirmed?

In conclusion, We have not expressed any new issues that you are not already familiar with. The commercial salmon fishermen of Cook Inlet have supported you as our Representative, and have voted for you and worked for you. We know these allocation issues are very complex, and emotional. We also, as a commercial salmon fishing industry, are now in such a perilous financial condition, that we are putting forth our last stand to try and protect our way of life, and our investments in our permits and equipment. It is our understanding, that you have publicly proclaimed that you will not support the nomination of Brett Huber, and the legislature confirmation of him. We support you in your effort. We just simply do not want Brett Huber confirmed. Thankyou, Alan DeGraffenried degraff@xyz.net
Don Bunker bunker@xyz.net