



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support
P.O. Box 1155
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

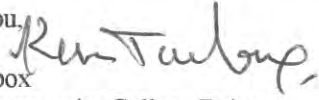
December 28, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find attached my comments on Proposal 103 submitted by Kenai River Sport Fishing Association for the upcoming Upper Cook Inlet meeting. I strongly oppose proposal 103 and have stated my rationale for this in the attached paper entitled "Why a policy which requires meeting the lower end of an escapement goal over going over the upper end of all other goals is poor management practice."

Please distribute to the Board of Fisheries members and staff.

Thank you,


Ken Tarbox
33270 Community College Drive
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907-262-7767



WHY A POLICY WHICH REQUIRES MEETING THE LOWER END OF AN ESCAPEMENT
GOAL OVER GOING OVER THE UPPER END OF **ALL** OTHER GOALS
IS POOR MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

Proposal 103 submitted by Kenai River Sport Fish Association would change the Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) management plan to include the sentence...*"Achieving the lower end of **all** escapement goals shall take a priority over not exceeding the upper end of **any** escapement goal."*

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) stated *"It should be noted that the management plans and policies do not indicate a priority of meeting the lower end of escapement goals over exceeding the upper end of an escapement goal. However, even though it is not stated in the plans and policies, the department puts a priority of meeting the lower end of escapement goals over exceeding the upper end of escapement goals."*

The presumption in these statements is that the fish stock is at some biological risk and/or that going over a goal is less risk than going under the goal relative to sustainability of yields. What is not stated is how far one is under a goal for one stock (Stock A) and how far one is willing to go over a goal for another stock (Stock B). As implied by ADF&G and KRSA, - being slightly under Stock A goal is greater risk than going over Stock B goal by a wide margin. Historically the Board of Fish (BOF) and ADF&G have not had this attitude for all stocks and situations.

Biological and Sustainable Escapement Goals (BEG and SEG, respectively) provide for **high average yields**. They are not goals that if not met threaten the long-term health of the stock. Spawner levels that would do that are well below the BEG and SEG goals. In addition, well under a goal and well over the goal can produce the same return and therefore the similar risk of loss yield and altered ecological consequences.

These concepts can be demonstrated with Kenai River sockeye salmon in the figure below and a generalized Ricker curve following it.

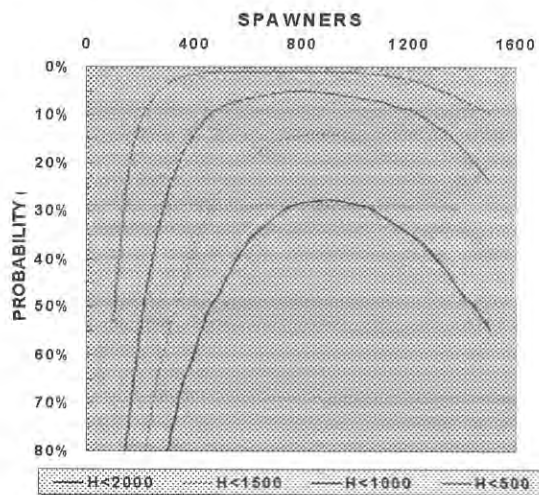


Figure 1. Probability of Kenai Sockeye Harvest as a Function of Spawners (thousands) Lines represented harvest less than (source ADF&G).

The probability of having yields below 500,000 fish is about 50% even with only 100,000 spawning sockeye. In contrast, at higher number of spawners (1.6 million) the probability of having a harvest less than 500,000 is only about 12%. The lowest probability of yields less than 2.0 million fish requires the goal be around 900,000 fish.

Also note that the probability of having a harvest less than 2.0 million fish does not change much in the range of 700,000 to 1.1 million fish. In other words, the flat top of the curve means being just under or over a BEG or SEG goal does not significantly change the risk of future poor harvest.

For Kenai River late run Chinook salmon the ADF&G data show a similar pattern. Going slightly below the SEG goal of 15,000 does not threaten the health of the stock. It only slightly reduces future harvest (because of uncertainty in the data ADF&G added 2,000 fish to the lower end of the BEG goal making the Chinook goal an SEG).

In Figure 1 the curve is steeper on the left side than the right and thus one could state correctly that **management error** is of a higher consequence if one passes the threshold where the curve descends quickly. However, at the top of the curve, where it is flat, the room for error is not that risky. So depending on where the escapement level is defines the consequences of a management action. **In other words if one is near the BEG or SEG goal the risk of loss yields does not change significantly..**

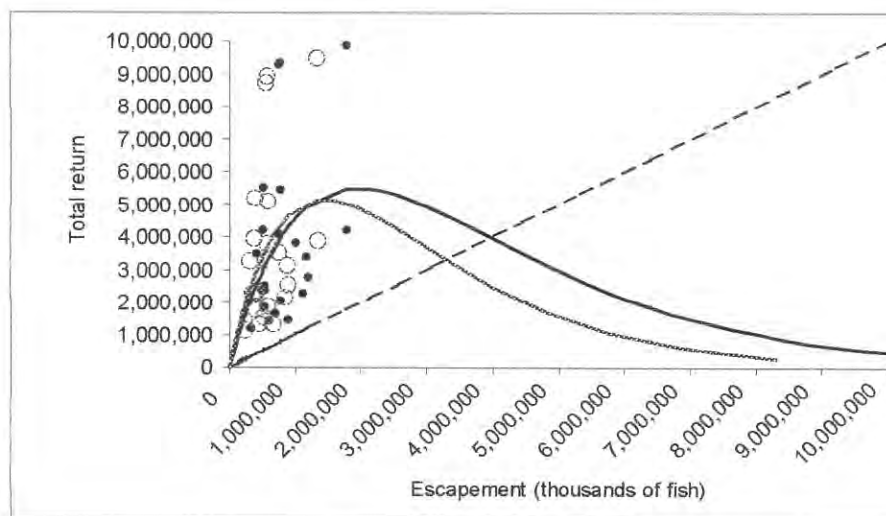


Figure 2. Classic Ricker Curve used with Kenai River sockeye salmon data – actual SEG for Kenai River sockeye salmon was set using a variation of this curve – this Figure is not to be used to set a goal.

In Figure 2 if one puts the lower goal as a priority then one discounts the fact that at some point both low escapements and large escapements produce the same poor return on average. In Figure 2, (a Ricker curve or some variation is used by ADF&G to set salmon goals), one can see that as one passes the Maximum Recruitment point (top of the curve) the total return starts to decrease significantly. Therefore, there are two points where the returns are the same – one at low escapements and one at high escapements. Thus one can get a return below a biological threshold by either going significantly under or over the SEG or BEG goal.

Again it is true that risk of a management error is higher at the low end because of the steep nature of the curve. However, one should not put the priority to meet the BEG or SEG goal as a higher priority in all cases for one Stock (A) and regardless of the magnitude of the escapement for Stock B.



In addition, one can see from the above curve that the Replacement Point (dashed line crossing curve) means that a significant loss of yield takes place for a fishery when one manages past the Maximum Recruitment point. **Therefore, to restate this – when one is just short of the SEG or BEG goal the cost of reaching it may be significant to other fisheries with harvest-able surplus.**

Historical Perspective

ADF&G until recently has never stated that there was a priority of meeting the lower end of an escapement goal than going over the upper end of a goal. This response was relative to a question about trade-offs between the Kenai River Chinook salmon SEG goal and the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG goal. This answer is not consistent with past practices of the BOF or ADF&G.

Within UCI there have been as many as 35 streams with escapement goals. In a mixed stock fishery ADF&G staff have always realized that in some years a goal may not be achieved so that other goals are not significantly exceeded. Every year at least one of these goals will be under the SEG or BEG goal.

Does ADF&G plan to close all fisheries downstream to achieve this goal or will they manage the other systems so that they reach their goal or do not exceed the Maximum Recruitment Point. Does a 100 fish under Stock A goal mean hundreds of thousands of fish in Stock B goes over the goal? This is the fundamental question and why ADF&G and KRSA positions are not defensible in a mixed stock fishery for **all** systems that may be under a goal.

Management flexibility has been a hallmark of ADF&G management and was in effect in 2013 – ADF&G recent priority statement is not consistent with regulations or practice.

For example, when Russian River late run sockeye salmon goals are not being met the BOF and ADF&G close the Russian River and the Kenai River 1800 yards downstream of the confluence. The ADF&G does not close the whole Kenai River even though Russian River fish will be harvested in the 50 miles below the Russian River. The reason for this is that Kenai River sockeye in-river harvest would be lost and the trade-off of protecting every Russian River fish is not worth the cost. According to the recent policy statement ADF&G would or should close the whole river as meeting the Russian River goal minimum would take priority over harvest and meeting the Kenai River mainstem spawning goals.

In addition, the Department under-escaped the Susitna River to keep Kenai River sockeye salmon from significantly exceeding its goal when the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon return was above 4 million fish.. The BOF codified this into regulation that reduced the Susitna SEG goal to an OEG goal that had a lower minimum when Kenai River sockeye salmon return was strong. The trade-off was to go over the goal in the Kenai and under in the Susitna. The main point was not to do it every year or on a consistent schedule.

There are numerous other examples to demonstrate that ADF&G does not make a priority of meeting the lower end of a goal over going over or meeting another stock escapement goal

For example, ADF&G has allowed a Kenai River late run chinook salmon fishery to start July 1 even when the Kenai River early run chinook stock has not met its goal. In 2012 and 2013 the Kenai River chinook early run did not meet its goal, yet the in-river sport fishery was allowed to harvest early run fish. If a priority to meeting the early run goal was in place then the in-river fishery should have been closed for the whole month of July according to this rationale. In 2013 ADF&G claim is that the early run goal was not made and therefore there was no harvest-able surplus, but fish were harvested while targeting late run Chinook salmon.

The reason for these types of decisions is obvious. All systems are not created equal and in a mixed stock fishery, whether in-river or out, trade-off must be made in-season. All systems cannot meet their goals. With numerous systems with goals this would be impossible.



Instead, ADF&G has historically used their professional judgement to make these trade offs. **How far one is going over on one goal and under on another is the issue.** Meeting the minimum goal vs. going over other goals, regardless of magnitude, would be poor best management practice

In summary, putting language in regulation that puts a priority on meeting the lower end of a goal in **all** cases is both biologically and socially a bad idea.



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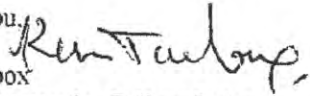
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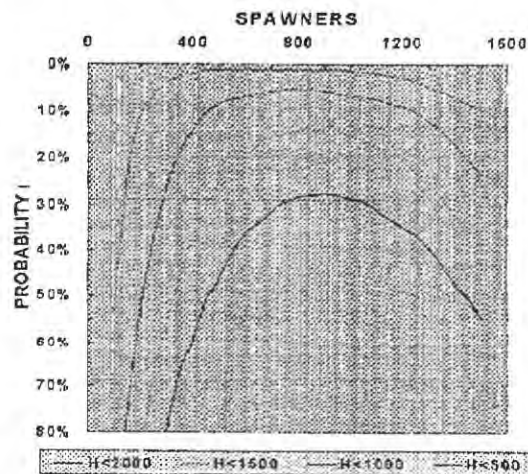


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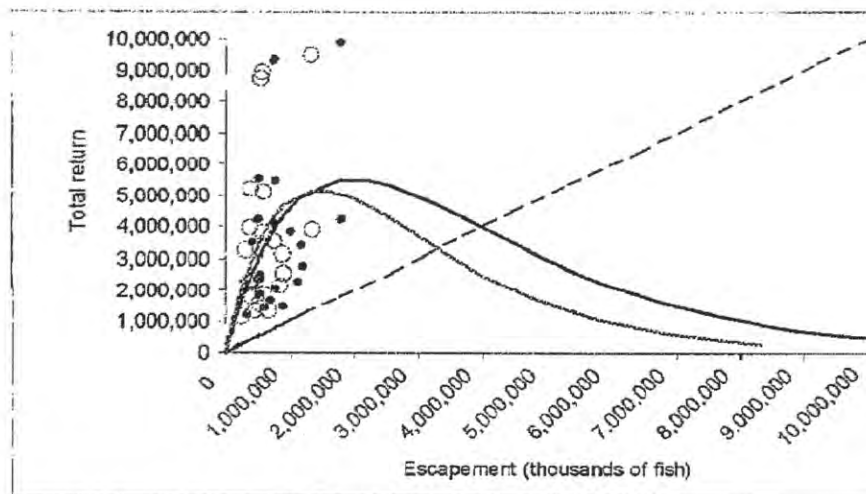


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Archer J. Richardson
Box 40
Stewarts Point, CA 95480-0040

December 9, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet will be critical for the sustainability of Kenai River king salmon and all other kings in Cook Inlet, many of which are stocks of concern. The abrupt fall in numbers of kings in the Inlet should be a red flag to all concerned parties. I urge you to action to deal with the conservation of kings at your upcoming meeting. My views on certain proposals are as follows.

From CA, and have been fishing the Kenai since 1986. Bought a home in Soldotna in 2006 and have enjoyed my time with family and friends on the Kenai and Cook Inlet every summer. I do not want to see the resources diminish.

Managing for the low end of the escapement goal for Kenai River king salmon is not good public policy. We need more kings in the river to spawn, not less. More fish in future years means everyone benefits. Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

I would like to see a licencing system that is on a computer. Therefore there would be less fisherfolks buying two licenses. All licences should be returned at the end of the year or when expired and the ACTUAL take of ALL salmon species should be calculated. This could be done at a college of your choice and would make a great class for someone going into any outdoor field. Please pay very close attention to the Early Run fish above the Soldotna Bridge...if the number are low, please CLOSE IT! Sunken Island should have been closed years ago, a great or was a great spawning area. Wish I was available to attend meetings. I should be, as it has been warmer in AK than CA.



Thank you for listening to my views on these subjects. Together we can all make a lasting difference in the long term health of our fishery resources. I trust you will do the right thing when considering how best to conserve and restore once healthy salmon runs to their former glory.

Sincerely,

Archer J. Richardson

Archer J. Richardson

Box 40

Stewarts Point, CA 95480-0040

Email address: Arch@hunting-n-fishing-fool.com

Phone number: 707-785-2687

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler





Douglas Kelsch
2480 N Hope Circle
Palmer, AK 99645

December 9, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery



Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I have been an Alaska resident since 1996 and have dipnetted in the Copper River until 2012 when we moved our family to Palmer. I plan to dipnet in the Kenai starting this year. I recently had the opportunity to advance in my career field but it would have meant moving from Alaska to the lower 48. We chose to stay because of the uniqueness of living in Alaska. Procuring our own food through activities like berry picking, ice fishing, hunting and dipnetting are a heritage which I hope to pass on to my kids should they want to return to Alaska after college. Additionally we are dependent upon dipnetting to defray the high cost of living in Alaska. It is of singular importance relative to the other ways of procuring food in Alaska. Some years berries are scarce and we are unsuccessful hunting but I have yet to have a year where I could not depend on salmon caught dipnetting to provide a plentiful, healthy, reasonable cost food source.

Managing for the low end of the escapement goal for Kenai River king salmon is not good public policy. We need more kings in the river to spawn, not less. More fish in future years means everyone benefits. I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

Sport, personal use and commercial set net fisheries can all fish but must share equitably in the burden of king salmon conservation. To assure future sustainable and healthy king salmon returns to the Kenai River, everyone must be held accountable for their harvest and mortality of kings. Without accountability for all user groups, there will be no conservation success stories for king salmon.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting)



households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Thank you for listening to my views on these subjects. Together we can all make a lasting difference in the long term health of our fishery resources. I trust you will do the right thing when considering how best to conserve and restore once healthy salmon runs to their former glory.

Sincerely,

Douglas Kelsch

Douglas Kelsch
2480 N Hope Circle
Palmer, AK 99645

Email address: dougkelsch@yahoo.com

Phone number: 907-750-2259

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen





Mike Woolcock
36148 Betty Lou Dr.
Sterling, AK 99672

December 10, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

In areas like the Kenai River, many people feel like I do that king salmon are more important as a sport fishery than as a commercial fishery. In my mind, the obvious decline in the number of king salmon returning to the Kenai demands your attention. When returns, catch rates, and angler hours all drop by three quarters in less than a decade, something is wrong and business as usual is no longer acceptable. At the fast approaching Board of Fisheries meetings for Cook Inlet, please make king salmon management a priority consideration.

Lived in Ak for 40 years and have will support all actions reducing in river pressure on King salmon. It is an injustice to manage important Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries for the yield interests of commercial fisheries instead of maximum sustained returns that would benefit all user groups. Such management shortchanges everyone by reducing future returns and invites overfishing. It is vital to have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy directs that the burden of conservation will be applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock. Where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measureable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource. All user groups need to bear in the burden of conservation of Kenai River king salmon in an equitable manner.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

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Additional information about me:

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John Goulet
P O Box 671668
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December 12, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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PO Box 115526
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Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai River king salmon are world famous - but today they face an uncertain future. I urge you to take responsible action to help return these giants to a healthy population. At the upcoming Board of Fisheries for Upper Cook Inlet, I ask that you to take a serious look at king salmon conservation. These are some thoughts about issues you will consider.

I owned a commercial boat, drift gill net permit, and gear for four years in S E Alaska. I am a fisherman. First to catch enough to feed my family for a year by either a fishing pole, dip net or fish wheel. I have been fishing all over Alaska since I came up in 1981 and have watched like everyone else the decline of our King and coho salmon. Every body and animal wants them. Two areas of fishing need to be restricted or eliminated and they are gill nets and fish wheels.

King salmon are a sport fish priority in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Sport fisheries benefit more from greater abundances of fish, not less. We benefit from managing Kenai River king salmon fisheries for maximum sustained return, not minimum escapement goals. Making sure we have healthy escapements to deliver larger returns of kings is critical.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I support increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal use (dipnetting) fishing in Cook Inlet. Alaskans greatly depend upon the fish harvested in these fisheries. The social, recreational, cultural and economic values generated in these fisheries are much greater in value than those generated in the area's commercial salmon fisheries. As a public resource, it makes most sense to manage Cook Inlet salmon resources for the greatest number of Alaskans - those that fish and harvest in the sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes,



proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. I as a personal use and sport fisherman would be willing to pay towards a fund every year for the buying out of 5% of commercial fishing permits every year until ALL permits are removed from Cook Inlet and the Copper River. Along with the removal of the 5% annual would be the escapement of 5% more fish into the rivers. These rivers handled a much higher number of spawning salmon than any of us alive today could comprehend.

Thank you for your service to responsible fisheries management in Alaska. I can think of no higher priority than to deal successfully and in a forthright manner with the crisis we are now facing with the Kenai River king salmon. Their future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

John Goulet

John Goulet
P O Box 671668
Chugiak, AK 99567

Email address: fishonjohn1@hotmail.com

Phone number: 907-688-5230

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen





Rick Meredith
19751 a Mitkof loop
Eagle River, AK 99577

December 12, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

This fishery is ours to fix or to continue its decline until they reach extinction. Do not fail our residents and put a plan together that will allow both commercial and sport fishing alike to continue.

It is an injustice to manage important Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries for the yield interests of commercial fisheries instead of maximum sustained returns that would benefit all user groups. Such management shortchanges everyone by reducing future returns and invites overfishing. It is vital to have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes,



proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. I am grateful for the chance to let you know how concerned I am about the dire situation facing our Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries. Kings are very important to me as well as to my family and friends. Your decisions will greatly impact the direction and health of these king salmon runs for many years to come. The time is now to act on this most important resource.

Sincerely,

Rick Meredith

Rick Meredith
19751 a Mitkof loop
Eagle River, AK 99577

Email address: rickmelbj@gci.net
Phone number: 907-726-5039
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter, I don't fish but receive fish from others





Steve Wackowski
3663 Mirage Cir
Anchorage, AK 99504

December 12, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

King salmon are a sport fish priority in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Sport fisheries benefit more from greater abundances of fish, not less. We benefit from managing Kenai River king salmon fisheries for maximum sustained return, not minimum escapement goals. Making sure we have healthy escapements to deliver larger returns of kings is critical.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting) households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits



#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

I want these fisheries to be around for my kids who will grow up in Alaska. There are plenty of other places for the commercial guys to go fish.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries faces an urgent responsibility to give clear direction on how best to mitigate the king salmon disaster occurring in Cook Inlet and on the Kenai River. Simply lowering escapement numbers and then maintaining status quo management is not a recipe for long-term success. I urge you to take the necessary time to fully work through the king salmon conservation and management issues at your next meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. There is no higher priority than this.
Sincerely,

Steve Wackowski

Steve Wackowski
3663 Mirage Cir
Anchorage, AK 99504

Email address: swackowski@yahoo.com

Phone number: 9073068007

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter





Richard Bucy
831 River Estates Dr
Soldotna, AK 99669

December 12, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows. I have fished in Alaska since the late 1940s (with my granddad) and the Kenai since 1978. I currently live on the Kenai in Soldotna and regularly sport fish and dip net as do most of my family members.....I have 8 brothers and sisters and a large tribe of nieces and nephews.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.



To claim that it is necessary to limit the escapement of sockeye for environmental reasons does not make a lot of sense to me. I recall the massive "overescapement" after the Exxon Valdez spill closure to commercial fishing in the inlet and the successful runs in following years.....recruitment was low - perhaps less than 1 to 1 - but the overall returns were strong. Let's not manage according to the myth of "Overescapement" for any but purely economic reasons. We all deserve to make a living but the loss of the kings hurts more than any amount of diminution in harvest of sockeye. I managed a large retail establishment in Soldotna and later a chain of stores statewide. I have seen first hand what the loss of our King fishery has done to the economy. I have also seen the value of my home decrease 30% and many riverfront homes going unsold due to lack of fishing opportunity. Save our Kings please.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter. The conservation and sustainability of Kenai River king salmon rests in your able hands. The fish come first!

Sincerely,

Richard T. Bucy

Richard Bucy
831 River Estates Dr
Soldotna, AK 99669

Email address: rtbucy@hotmail.com

Phone number: 907-632-3507

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter





John Trautner
P.O. Box 909
Girdwood, AK 99587

December 12, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am very concerned about the decline of king salmon in Cook Inlet, especially on the Kenai River. Kenai kings are important and must not be ignored. The health of king salmon is now threatened. When you consider actions at your next meeting, please keep these ideas in mind.

I am 78 yrs old and a Veteran of the Korean War. I have fished since I was 3 with my dad. A resident of Alaska since 1958, I sport fish for Kings 2 to 4 times a year. I also participate in the dip-net fishery. Formerly I held Commercial Fishing License for Dungeness Crab. As a Commercial Pilot, Diver and Business and property owner on the Kenai I am very concerned about being allowed to use this resource.

It is an injustice to manage important Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries for the yield interests of commercial fisheries instead of maximum sustained returns that would benefit all user groups. Such management shortchanges everyone by reducing future returns and invites overfishing. It is vital to have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal use (dipnetting) fishing in Cook Inlet. Alaskans greatly depend upon the fish harvested in these fisheries. The social, recreational, cultural and economic values generated in these fisheries are much greater in value than those generated in the area's commercial salmon fisheries. As a public resource, it makes most sense to manage Cook Inlet salmon resources for the greatest number of Alaskans - those that fish and harvest in the sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing



#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

I do not support #112, #248, #126 or #139. Set net fishing should be banned on all beaches. Commerical Drift and Set Nets are the reason for the decline of the King Salmon Resource. Not just on the Kenai but the entire Cook Inlet water-shed. I have no problem in allowing set nets or drift nets once the personal fishery needs are satisfied and the Escapement goals are met. As a resident I believe I am entitled to my share of this resource. As I grow older fishing helps to offset the food costs of my retirement for myself and my family. It also helpful to know I can plan to fish on the Kenai. I have a problem with believing the by-catch totals provided by the commerical fishing industry. I think the way to manage the fishery is to ban all fishing including commercial drift, personal use and set nets until the escapement goals have been met. The kings will return to the Kenai if we manage the fishery using a rational thought process. If we yield to commercial pressures we will never see the Kenai River Fishery healthy again. If you look at the Multiplier effect I think every dollar spent on the Kenai in the Kenai Business Community rolls over 3-4 times, this provides a healthy enviornment for business investment. When you close the fishery for whatever reason you effect everything and everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. As you consider the many proposals, remember - Long Live the Kings!

Sincerely,

John J. Trautner

John Trautner
P.O. Box 909
Girdwood, AK 99587

Email address: outsidermining@msn.com

Phone number: 907-223-7466

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



Joseph Williams
811 Birch Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

December 12, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about fish issues in Cook Inlet. I am very worried about the lack of king salmon. The Board of Fisheries must deal with the scarcity of kings in Cook Inlet at the next board meeting in Anchorage. There are many proposals to consider, but I want to talk about a few that are important to me.

Dipnet every year. Some years are better than others. No kings caught by my family last few years, and not by those near me.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

In these times of historic low returns of king salmon to Cook Inlet and especially to the Kenai River, all user groups must share equitably in the burden of conservation. Sport anglers have seen harvest rates on the Kenai River for king salmon decline by 95 percent, while personal use (dipnetters) have foregone any harvest opportunity for Kenai kings the last two years. Meanwhile, in 2013, despite record-low numbers of king salmon, a severely restricted sport fishery and escapement goals barely being met, commercial set net sockeye fishermen were granted significant net-in-the-water time until near the end of the season.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

The fix to the management failure of not providing Alaskan residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for food is not directing them to purchase those same fish from commercial fishermen. That tactic is just insulting to Alaskans who want to harvest their own fish for personal consumption and to share with family and friends. In the Cook Inlet region, the harvest needs of 200,000 resident and non-resident anglers and the more than 30,000 personal use (dipnetting) households must be a top management priority, not an afterthought based on incidental escapement in the prosecution of commercial fisheries.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for



Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

Dipnetting provides my family with fish throughout the year, and is a staple of our diet.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. As you consider the many proposals, remember - Long Live the Kings!

Sincerely,

Joseph R Williams

Joseph Williams
811 Birch Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Email address: josephrwilliams06@hotmail.com

Phone number: 907-306-4571

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Personal Use / Dipnetter





PC 12

Rob Boyer
PO BOX 91376
Anchorage, AK 99509

December 12, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows. My dad moved to Alaska in 1957. I was born and raised in Alaska. I spent my childhood enjoying the time spent chasing Kenai River Kings with friends and family. I left the state for school and work but I came back every July to fish for the magnificent Kenai King. Sadly, I have witnessed this run decline dramatically the past few years. While I'm a nonresident today, I have relocated back home. Given the current situation, I'm worried that my kids will never get to witness a giant Kenai king in their lifetime. As ocean productivity seems to be in a general statewide decline for king salmon, I think it is a mistake to lower escapement goals as a management response. Fewer spawners seem to bear fewer fish and it can be a reinforcing downward cycle. We must have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon in our rivers. This will maximize the overall size of the returns. Larger returns greatly reduce our risks for overfishing this invaluable resource.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River



#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Things need to change and change fast or we risk losing the iconic Kenai King forever. Alaska is the Last Frontier and the Kenai King is truly one of the best symbols of this. There are so many reasons drastic action needs to be taken but most importantly it is for the average Alaskan sportsman. Alaskans are a unique breed and the Kenai is one of those unique rivers that defines our state and ourselves.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries faces an urgent responsibility to give clear direction on how best to mitigate the king salmon disaster occurring in Cook Inlet and on the Kenai River. Simply lowering escapement numbers and then maintaining status quo management is not a recipe for long-term success. I urge you to take the necessary time to fully work through the king salmon conservation and management issues at your next meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. There is no higher priority than this.
Sincerely,

Rob Boyer

Rob Boyer
PO BOX 91376
Anchorage, AK 99509

Email address: robboyerjr@yahoo.com

Phone number: 720-560-2875

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen





PC 13

Robert Kim
1255 e old squaw ct
Wasilla, AK 99654

December 12, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows. It is an injustice to manage important Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries for the yield interests of commercial fisheries instead of maximum sustained returns that would benefit all user groups. Such management shortchanges everyone by reducing future returns and invites overfishing. It is vital to have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

During times of scarcity for any fishery resource, the right thing to do is to make all user groups share equitably in the burden of conservation. All major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. All user groups must share equitably in the burden of Kenai River king salmon conservation. It is a shared responsibility to maintain the future and health of this resource.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye



It is important to conserve our resources today for our children and grandchildren. Your work on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is important. Alaska is known for its sustainable fisheries management. The crisis in low numbers of Kenai kings is a significant challenge. No other sport fishery in Alaska is as well-known as the Kenai. Your actions will shape the health of the fish and the viability of this fishery for years to come.

Sincerely,

Robert Kim

Robert Kim
1255 e old squaw ct
Wasilla, AK 99654

Email address: kimrob@rocketmail.com

Phone number: 9079529359

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen





PC 14

Jessica Flournoy
15623 Old Glenn Highway
Eagle River, AK 99577

December 13, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

In areas like the Kenai River, many people feel like I do that king salmon are more important as a sport fishery than as a commercial fishery. In my mind, the obvious decline in the number of king salmon returning to the Kenai demands your attention. When returns, catch rates, and angler hours all drop by three quarters in less than a decade, something is wrong and business as usual is no longer acceptable. At the fast approaching Board of Fisheries meetings for Cook Inlet, please make king salmon management a priority consideration.

I have lived in the great state of Alaska for 35 years now. I grew up 5 minutes from the mouth of the Kenai River and watched incoming cannery workers & dipnetters quickly populate unpopulated areas each & every summer. Something has changed, though, in the past 5-10 years. There are no simple answers. But we most definitely need to try to save our precious resources. I can't tell you how many times in the past 5 years I've heard dipnetters boast of their number of salmon caught, & then joke in the SAME sentence about how many of those fish will never be eaten, because they took MORE than they needed. The attitude & purpose behind catching the fish has changed & not for good. Fishing is fun, but shouldn't be done purely for the fun of it. It's wasteful! I suspect something is going on with the king salmon that we don't have information about. Japanese? Ocean predators? We can regulate numbers and perhaps need to, but perhaps some more research needs to be happening elsewhere as well. It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary



location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye



I didn't select any of these issues because I'm in a rush and didn't thoroughly look them over. I do think, however, that if preserving our salmon is important enough to us as a larger whole (as a whole state), we need to understand WHY the shortage exists and then ALL of us need to be actively protecting our numbers. Commercial and non-commercial alike. It doesn't matter if it's your livelihood or not. If the fish here were to ever be extinct, and it WAS your livelihood, you may have wished you could have done something earlier to prevent the extinction. Let's not wish! Let's act now!

I am grateful for the chance to let you know how concerned I am about the dire situation facing our Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries. Kings are very important to me as well as to my family and friends. Your decisions will greatly impact the direction and health of these king salmon runs for many years to come. The time is now to act on this most important resource.

Sincerely,

Jessica Flournoy

Jessica Flournoy
15623 Old Glenn Highway
Eagle River, AK 99577

Email address: petersjmp@hotmail.com

Phone number: 907-242-6791

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



PC 15

Diana Williams
3705 Arctic #2546
Anchorage, AK 99503

December 13, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

In areas like the Kenai River, many people feel like I do that king salmon are more important as a sport fishery than as a commercial fishery. In my mind, the obvious decline in the number of king salmon returning to the Kenai demands your attention. When returns, catch rates, and angler hours all drop by three quarters in less than a decade, something is wrong and business as usual is no longer acceptable. At the fast approaching Board of Fisheries meetings for Cook Inlet, please make king salmon management a priority consideration.

I have been an Alaska resident since 1968 and have been fishing on the Kenai with my family since the 70's. My parents live in Soldotna and my husband has started farming there, and we spend most weekends of the summer on the Kenai.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I support putting Alaskan residents first in the management of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Many people harvest fish to feed our families and share with friends. Access to fish is one of the primary reasons Alaskans value living in Alaska. When fishery managers puts the needs of Alaskan residents behind the needs of national and global fish markets, people are justifiably resentful. Cook Inlet supports Alaska's largest sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries. The needs of Alaskan residents must be a top priority in Cook Inlet.



Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

We used to really enjoy summers and fishing, and now it has gotten to where we can't fish at all until late in the summer, due to all the restrictions to protect the kings. I am curious to know if the fairly recent rules limiting rainbow trout catches could have had an effect on the king salmon population. It seems like since they told us we couldn't keep rainbows over 18" the king salmon population has really taken a dive. Also, the dipnet limits need to be lowered. Most people I know (including us) catch way more fish than they need and end up giving or throwing away part of their catch; meanwhile, the hook and line fishermen up river are having to observe ridiculous fishing rules. I would love to return to simpler regs that let you catch your limit however you wanted (snag, etc.), and when you reach your limit, you're done. As it is, you need a lawyer to interpret the rules.

Kenai River king salmon have a special place in my heart - I care deeply about them. All the best as you work towards effective solutions in ensuring their sustainability as one of the world's greatest sport fisheries. Fish On!

Sincerely,

Diana Williams

Diana Williams
3705 Arctic #2546
Anchorage, AK 99503

Email address: candd@alaska.net

Phone number: 907-243-8960

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen





PC 16

Kent Smith
1927 W. Desttyny Cir
Wasilla, AK 99654

December 14, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about fish issues in Cook Inlet. I am very worried about the lack of king salmon. The Board of Fisheries must deal with the scarcity of kings in Cook Inlet at the next board meeting in Anchorage. There are many proposals to consider, but I want to talk about a few that are important to me.

I have been fishing the Kenai River for over 30 years, I own property in Wasilla and Soldotna. I have very strong feeling for Kenai River and the King Salmon that belong there forever.

King salmon are a sport fish priority in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Sport fisheries benefit more from greater abundances of fish, not less. We benefit from managing Kenai River king salmon fisheries for maximum sustained return, not minimum escapement goals. Making sure we have healthy escapements to deliver larger returns of kings is critical.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye



I want my King Salmon back now, please manage the fishery now or get someone in there who will. There are hard decisions to be made, make them now before it is too late. You ask what should we do, does common sense ever come into play or does your ego control your thought process? If we do not let the wound heal it will not get better, leave the Kings alone for awhile.

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Kent Smith

Kent Smith
1927 W. Desttyny Cir
Wasilla, AK 99654

Email address: gofloatwood@gmail.com

Phone number: 907-306-3733

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen





PC 17

Rene Velasco
10410 halfhitch dr
Anchorage, AK 99515

December 14, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to. It is an injustice to manage important Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries for the yield interests of commercial fisheries instead of maximum sustained returns that would benefit all user groups. Such management shortchanges everyone by reducing future returns and invites overfishing. It is vital to have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy directs that the burden of conservation will be applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock. Where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measureable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource. All user groups need to bear in the burden of conservation of Kenai River king salmon in an equitable manner.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal use (dipnetting) fishing in Cook Inlet. Alaskans greatly depend upon the fish harvested in these fisheries. The social, recreational, cultural and economic values generated in these fisheries are much greater in value than those generated in the area's commercial salmon fisheries. As a public resource, it makes most sense to manage Cook Inlet salmon resources for the greatest number of Alaskans - those that fish and harvest in the sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye



I am grateful for the chance to let you know how concerned I am about the dire situation facing our Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries. Kings are very important to me as well as to my family and friends. Your decisions will greatly impact the direction and health of these king salmon runs for many years to come. The time is now to act on this most important resource.

Sincerely,

Rene velasco

Rene Velasco
10410 halfhitch dr
Anchorage, AK 99515

Email address: rvelasco@gci.net
Phone number: 9073012640
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen





PC 18

Brad Kirr
9381A Campbell Terrace Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502

December 14, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I am the owner and guide of Alaska Kenai Fishing for Fun out of Cooper Landing, Alaska. When I'm not on the Kenai or Kasilof, I'm in Anchorage teaching middle school students Math and Science.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I am extremely concerned about the low returning King numbers in the Cook Inlet. As a new father, I want my child to be able to benefit from such an amazing fishery as I have.

Thank you for your service to responsible fisheries management in Alaska. I can think of no higher priority than to deal successfully and in a forthright manner with the crisis we are now facing with the Kenai River king salmon. Their future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Brad Kirr



Brad, Kirr
9381A Campbell Terrace Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502

Email address: akkenaifishingforfun@gmail.com
Phone number: 4065815567
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Sport Angler





Kathryn Huseman
Po box 870264
Wasilla, AK 99687

December 15, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As ocean productivity seems to be in a general statewide decline for king salmon, I think it is a mistake to lower escapement goals as a management response. Fewer spawners seem to bear fewer fish and it can be a reinforcing downward cycle. We must have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon in our rivers. This will maximize the overall size of the returns. Larger returns greatly reduce our risks for overfishing this invaluable resource.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

In these times of historic low returns of king salmon to Cook Inlet and especially to the Kenai River, all user groups must share equitably in the burden of conservation. Sport anglers have seen harvest rates on the Kenai River for king salmon decline by 95 percent, while personal use (dipnetters) have foregone any harvest opportunity for Kenai kings the last two years. Meanwhile, in 2013, despite record-low numbers of king salmon, a severely restricted sport fishery and escapement goals barely being met, commercial set net sockeye fishermen were granted significant net-in-the-water time until near the end of the season.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes,



proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. uci da is pushing too far, the needs of 560 permit holders, many that don't even live in Alaska, can't outweighs the needs of the 500,000 Alaskans. Please please please protect sport fishers and the Fish themselves, for future generation. I hope I am not living in the generation that wipes Alaska greatest resource out, so a few people can make money.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. As you consider the many proposals, remember - Long Live the Kings!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Huseman

Kathryn Huseman
Po box 870264
Wasilla, AK 99687

Email address: kathryn.huseman@gmail.com

Phone number: 907-315-8059

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen





PC 20

Jim Trujillo
P.O Box 18
Kasilof, AK 99610

December 15, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. Angler hours have dropped by 80 percent and harvest rates are 95 percent less than a decade ago. We are barely, if at all, making minimum escapements for kings on the Kenai and many other rivers in Cook Inlet. Although king salmon declines are a statewide issue, it is an emergency situation here. For your next meeting, I will share with you a couple of important ideas for your consideration.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I make my living from sport caught salmon and halibut. But this endless blaming of one user group against the other has to stop or the Kings are going to be extinct. Put the guides in salt water where they belong. Quit fishing on the spawning grounds. I have been involved in both commercial and sport fishing for 43 years and it has never made sense to me to fish for King salmon on the spawning beds. If you can't stop fishing in the Kenai river then go to drift only, and stop not only habitat destruction but the noise pollution and exhaust pollution. Make the Kenai river a catch and release river until the return numbers are high enough to support catch and keep. Start every run as catch and release, no bait, single hook, no barbs, until the maximum escapement goal has been met

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts and concerns. As you consider the many proposals, remember - Long Live the Kings!

Sincerely,



Jim Trujillo

Jim Trujillo
P.O Box 18
Kasilof, AK 99610

Email address: eks@alaska.net
Phone number: 907-262-7295
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Concerned Citizen





PC 21

Ronald Lee
3229 Tayshee Circle
Anchorage, AK 99504

December 15, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about fish issues in Cook Inlet. I am very worried about the lack of king salmon. The Board of Fisheries must deal with the scarcity of kings in Cook Inlet at the next board meeting in Anchorage. There are many proposals to consider, but I want to talk about a few that are important to me.

My wife and I spend over 50 days per year on the Kenai fishing primarily salmon. We've done this for more than 20 years. I implore you to do what's right, do what's necessary to save our Kings.

King salmon are a sport fish priority in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Sport fisheries benefit more from greater abundances of fish, not less. We benefit from managing Kenai River king salmon fisheries for maximum sustained return, not minimum escapement goals. Making sure we have healthy escapements to deliver larger returns of kings is critical.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy directs that the burden of conservation will be applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock. Where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measureable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource. All user groups need to bear in the burden of conservation of Kenai River king salmon in an equitable manner.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes, proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.



It's sad to see the decline in the numbers of Kings. The negative economic impact to Soldotna and the surrounding communities is real. As an added thought, trout fishing is catch and release in many areas of the country including here. It's done in the name of preservation of the resource. It isn't that much of a stretch to have clients, tourists, even Alaskans understand that the same principle can/should apply to Kenai Kings. Again, do what's right, do what's necessary to save our Kings.

Kenai River king salmon have a special place in my heart - I care deeply about them. All the best as you work towards effective solutions in ensuring their sustainability as one of the world's greatest sport fisheries. Fish On!

Sincerely,

Ronald E Lee

Ronald Lee
3229 Tayshee Circle
Anchorage, AK 99504

Email address: relee@gci.net
Phone number: 907-245-3556
Additional information about me:
I am a Resident Sport Angler





Ryan Johnston
20567 Birch Crest Lane
Eagle River , AK 99577

December 16, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

King salmon management and conservation needs to be at the top of the list of priorities that you deal with at the next Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. No other issue has changed as dramatically as the disappearance of healthy runs of king salmon on the world famous Kenai River and in other rivers in Cook Inlet. Please take time to carefully consider how best manage these iconic fish - your actions will be critical in how well king salmon survive. My opinions on various proposals are as follows. Kenai river sports angler and resident my entire life born and raised 2nd generation alaskan. Small Business owner.

Adequate numbers of king salmon must be allowed to spawn. We must manage the Kenai River king run for maximum sustained return, not for minimum escapement goals. Managing for lower numbers of spawning king salmon is a bad idea and leaves no room for margin of error. Recent returns show a change from the historical norms: there are now a larger proportion of younger fish; all fish are smaller at age; there are a larger proportion of immature males; and there are a smaller number of the larger, more fecund females. All of these issues with the quality of the more recent king salmon escapements points to taking a precautionary, conservative management approach.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

In these times of historic low returns of king salmon to Cook Inlet and especially to the Kenai River, all user groups must share equitably in the burden of conservation. Sport anglers have seen harvest rates on the Kenai River for king salmon decline by 95 percent, while personal use (dipnetters) have foregone any harvest opportunity for Kenai kings the last two years. Meanwhile, in 2013, despite record-low numbers of king salmon, a severely restricted sport fishery and escapement goals barely being met, commercial set net sockeye fishermen were granted significant net-in-the-water time until near the end of the season.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.



I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Your work on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is important. Alaska is known for its sustainable fisheries management. The crisis in low numbers of Kenai kings is a significant challenge. No other sport fishery in Alaska is as well-known as the Kenai. Your actions will shape the health of the fish and the viability of this fishery for years to come.

Sincerely,

Ryan Johnston

Ryan Johnston
20567 Birch Crest Lane
Eagle River , AK 99577

Email address: ryanj1979@gmail.com

Phone number: 9073179307

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter





Scott Comella
1 Mile Captain's Bay Rd.
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692

December 17, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet will be critical for the sustainability of Kenai River king salmon and all other kings in Cook Inlet, many of which are stocks of concern. The abrupt fall in numbers of kings in the Inlet should be a red flag to all concerned parties. I urge you to action to deal with the conservation of kings at your upcoming meeting. My views on certain proposals are as follows.

I moved here from Oregon 11 months ago, so I am not yet considered a resident. I have observed the Chinook salmon numbers there over the past 2 decades. They have done great things to bring the population back to remarkable numbers.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy directs that the burden of conservation will be applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock. Where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measureable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource. All user groups need to bear in the burden of conservation of Kenai River king salmon in an equitable manner.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes,



proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. In my opinion salmon are the life blood of the wilderness. The fact that we humans also use them as food is secondary.

I am grateful for the chance to let you know how concerned I am about the dire situation facing our Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries. Kings are very important to me as well as to my family and friends. Your decisions will greatly impact the direction and health of these king salmon runs for many years to come. The time is now to act on this most important resource.

Sincerely,

Scott Comella

Scott Comella
1 Mile Captain's Bay Rd.
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692

Email address: scottco77@live.com

Phone number: 907-359-7454

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen





PC 24

Steven Untiet
8225 old Seward highway
Anchorage, AK 99518

December 17, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to. It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

In these times of historic low returns of king salmon to Cook Inlet and especially to the Kenai River, all user groups must share equitably in the burden of conservation. Sport anglers have seen harvest rates on the Kenai River for king salmon decline by 95 percent, while personal use (dipnetters) have foregone any harvest opportunity for Kenai kings the last two years. Meanwhile, in 2013, despite record-low numbers of king salmon, a severely restricted sport fishery and escapement goals barely being met, commercial set net sockeye fishermen were granted significant net-in-the-water time until near the end of the season.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Commercial fisheries in Alaska do a great job in providing food resources to national and global markets. However, the majority of Alaskans do not want to be dependent upon that supply chain for an essential food source for their families. Many Alaskans put fish in their freezers from a rod and reel and / or dipnet. Nowhere do more Alaskan families depend upon access and opportunity to harvest fish than in Cook Inlet, home to the state's largest sport and personal use (dipnet) fisheries. I favor reasonable opportunities for Alaskans to harvest meaningful numbers of fish for consumption.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes



#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Steven untiet

Steven Untiet
8225 old Seward highway
Anchorage, AK 99518

Email address: suntiet@alaskacustomfirearms.com

Phone number: 907 351-7808

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter





ROBERT A. LESKO
8026 ROSEBUD CIRCLE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

December 17, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am very concerned about the decline of king salmon in Cook Inlet, especially on the Kenai River. Kenai kings are important and must not be ignored. The health of king salmon is now threatened. When you consider actions at your next meeting, please keep these ideas in mind.

BEING AN ALASKA RESIDENT, SEEING THE UNWANTED WASTE OF SUCH A CHERSTEM HAISHED RESOURCE, MY ISSUE IS THAT GUIDE SERVICES ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH TRYING TO BREAK THE IGFA WORLD RECORD, GETTING AS MANY CHARTERS IN PER DAY AND SEASON, AND THE ALL MIGHTY "" DOLLAR "" .. AS FOR THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST THIS ECO SYSTEM CAN NOT SUPPORT 300-600 SET NETS AND DRIFT NETS , EVEN THOUGH THEY TARGET PINK OR SOCKEYE SALMON IT'S THE ISSUE OF "" BY CATCH "" , IF IT'S CAUGHT IN A NET "" OVER BOARD IT GOES "" , AS FOR THE DIPNET FISHERY, THE STATE GIVES OUT TOO MANY PERMITS FOR A WATER SHED THAT IS DWINDLING EACH YEAR, THE SUBSISTANCE/PERSONAL USE FISHERY WAS DESIGNED TO SUBSIDIZE THE TABLE FARE OF LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIIES, THERE TOO MANY USERS THAT NOT ONLY TAKE A COOK INLET PERMIT THEY ALSO TAKE A COPPER RIVER PERMIT THEY NOT ONLE SYSTEM PUT FOOD ON THEIR TABLE BUT SHIP IT TO FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OUTSIDE OF ALASKA, THE SYSTEM "" S T I N K S "" ,

As ocean productivity seems to be in a general statewide decline for king salmon, I think it is a mistake to lower escapement goals as a management response. Fewer spawners seem to bear fewer fish and it can be a reinforcing downward cycle. We must have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon in our rivers. This will maximize the overall size of the returns. Larger returns greatly reduce our risks for overfishing this invaluable resource.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

Sport, personal use and commercial set net fisheries can all fish but must share equitably in the burden of king salmon conservation. To assure future sustainable and healthy king salmon returns to the Kenai River, everyone must be held accountable for their harvest and mortality of kings. Without accountability for all user groups, there will be no conservation success stories for king salmon.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary



location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

THERE TOO MANY NETS AND ON THE WATER NOT ENOUGH FISH ,THE WASTE HAS TO END , I SPORT FISH TO RELAX AND TO PUT A FISH ON MY TABLE NOT TO SUPPLY THE WORLD ' I HARVESTED "" 1 ""

KING SALMON IN 22 YEARS DUE TO BLEEDING, THEY ARE A MAGNIFISANT FISH THAT NEEDS PROTECTION AS WELL AS THE SOCKEYE SALMON , "" PROTECT OUR RESOURCES ""

Thank you for your service to responsible fisheries management in Alaska. I can think of no higher priority than to deal successfully and in a forthright manner with the crisis we are now facing with the Kenai River king salmon. Their future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

BOB LESKO

ROBERT A. LESKO
8026 ROSEBUD CIRCLE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

Email address: fatboy@alaska.net

Phone number: 907-522-4897

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen

