

Kelly Hanke
46425 Big Eddy Road
Soldotna, AK 99669

December 23, 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 have lived in Alaska since 1970 and have made Soldotna my home for almost 21 years. I live on the banks of the Kenai River year-round. I have raised my children and now grandchildren here. The Kenai River is my home, my business and my memories. Even when I was growing up in Anchorage, the Kenai River was always a big part and story in my life.

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.

This fishery is extremely important to me. I moved from Anchorage to Soldotna to be on the Kenai River for life. I want my children to have those same kinds of memories with their children, and I want to see my grandchildren catch those beautiful big Kings and squeal in delight. There is nothing more amazing, special and memorable than that. This is a unique fishery and we need to treasure it and manage for it as such.

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,

Kelly Hanke

Kelly Hanke
46425 Big Eddy Road





Soldotna, AK 99669

Email address: kelly@krsa.com

Phone number: 907-394-5097

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter



Jeff Edwards
3810 amber bay loop
Anchorage , AK 99515

December 23, 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.

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

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

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper 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

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,

Jeff Edwards

Jeff Edwards
3810 amber bay loop
Anchorage , AK 99515

Email address: jbedwards39@gmail.com

Phone number: 907250-7373

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter

Thomas W. Hendrix Jr
P.O. Box 201454
Anchorage , AK 99520

December 23, 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 do not feel that it is effective 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. Sport, Subsistence and Commercial Set Net Fisheries can all enjoy the King Salmon runs but need to share the burden of conservation so we have the runs for generations to come. We need to manage and observe the return and escapement of the King Runs. I support proposal 209 that seeks to set restrictions for sport and personal usage and proposal 211 that limits gear for commercial set net fishing as well.

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 feel these are important as I am a life long Alaskan and want to protect a fishery that will continue to attract tourism in our State and still allow Sport, Subsistence and Commercial interests to be balanced for many years to come.





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,

Thomas W. Hendrix Jr

Thomas W. Hendrix Jr
P.O. Box 201454
Anchorage , AK 99520

Email address: thendrix@carlile.biz

Phone number: 907-745-1596

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen

Jacquelyne Carvalho
12050 Woodchase Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

December 23, 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.

I was born and raised in Alaska and plan to remain here throughout my natural life. My husband and I enjoy fishing for King Salmon but do agree that there is a problem that must be addressed.

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

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.

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

Fish and Sport fishing on the Kenai River has created many memories that will be treasured, I hope my children will get the opportunity to have the same memories as I have.

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,

Jacquelyne Carvalho

Jacquelyne Carvalho
12050 Woodchase Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

Email address: jpool@lrs-ak.com

Phone number: 9072292026

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen

Jessica Sessum-Rahn
3700 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 1300
Anchorage, AK 99503

December 23, 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.

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

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.

I support proposals:

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

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

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,

Jessica Sessum-Rahn

Jessica Sessum-Rahn
3700 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 1300
Anchorage, AK 99503

Email address: jsessum@lrs-ak.com

Phone number: 907-301-3291

Additional information about me:

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



Chad Helgeson
4331 Rendezvous Cir
Anchorage, AK 99504

December 23, 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 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 have lived in South Central Alaska for 16 years and have used the Kenai and Cook Inlet Fisheries most of these years, I have 3 children that are now old enough to latch onto a Kenai King and want them to have this opportunity now and in the future for their kids.

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

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

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.

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

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

These are important to me as I want to catch fish in the river, not in a net offshore. I do support commercial fishery, as it is important to the state for tourism and the quality of our exported fish from this state. But also important is the close proximity of these great rivers to the majority of the public in Alaska. Our Alaskan residents should always be more important than the export of salmon from the commercial fisheries and we should be given the opportunity to sport fish one of the greatest rivers in the world for all of its natural species of salmon.

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,

Chad Helgeson

Helgeson, Chad
4331 Rendezvous Cir
Anchorage, AK 99504

Email address: chelgeson@hilcorp.com

Phone number: 907-229-4824

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler



Douglas Smith
15827 Noble Point
Anchorage, AK 99516

December 23, 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 am a 30 year resident of Alaska and I have raised my family here. I will live out my natural life here and hope that my Daughter and her future children will do the same. I respect the views of others and believe we can resolve issues when we decide to work them effectively as residents with the good of the many considered over the special interest of the few.

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:

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Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

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#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 cannot begin to describe the importance of our fish resource to our family in the way of sport angling with my wife and daughter. The memories created along the Kenai will be treasured forever but I am very concerned about the fish stocks, particularly the King salmon, in the river going forward.

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,

Douglas Smith

Douglas Smith
15827 Noble Point
Anchorage, AK 99516

Email address: dsmith@lrs-ak.com

Phone number: 907 339-4502

Additional information about me:

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



TOTEM OCEAN TRAILER EXPRESS



PC 165
1 of 1

Thursday, January 09, 2014

Mr. Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Fax: 907 465 6094

ATTN: BOARD OF FISH COMMENTS FOR UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH

Dear Mr. Haight:

I am writing on behalf of Totem Ocean Trailer Express in Alaska. We provide inland and ocean transportation for Kenai Peninsula commercial fishermen and fish processing companies.

At this time we simply wish to note our economic dependence on the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery as an important part of our business portfolio of fisheries in Southcentral, Southwestern and Western Alaska. Our company transports a tremendous tonnage of seafood on our ships out of the Port of Anchorage to Puget Sound for distribution in the lower 48 and other destinations. Regulatory stability in commercial fisheries is important for our business planning and scheduling on an annual basis. This equates to stability in fishery allocations and we support the maintenance of status quo in the Cook Inlet commercial sockeye salmon fishery.

I also wish to add that, as one of the states only export industry, the southbound shipments of seafood to the lower 48 are a backhaul that reduces our overall transportation costs for all northbound industrial and consumer products that come into Alaska at the Port of Anchorage. This illustrates that there are overarching benefits to Alaskan residents in the maintenance of viable commercial fisheries, in terms of overall cost of living benefits to Alaskan consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important Alaskan commercial fishery.

Sincerely,

Grace Greene
Alaska General Manager
Totem Ocean Trailer Express

cc: Arni Thomson, Executive Director, Alaska Salmon Alliance





Carl Melichar
8020 hwy 25
mayer , MN 55360

December 24, 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 am professional artist I have been coming in out of alaska since 1977, I have been to alaska over 20 times and fished the Kenai several times it is a pretty wild river. Sorry to hear abput what is happening. 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

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

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

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#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

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,

Carl Melichar

Carl Melichar
8020 hwy 25
mayer , MN 55360

Email address: melichar@frontier.com
Phone number: 9526572323
Additional information about me:
I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist



Ryan Sexton
4229 se jefferson
milwaukie, AK 97222

December 27, 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 grew up on the banks of the kenai and it will always hold a place in my heart. To see the decimation of the king run in my lifetime has been heart breaking.

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.

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. 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,

Ryan Sexton

Ryan Sexton
4229 se jefferson
milwaukie, AK 97222

Email address: rysn.s.sexton@gmail.com

Phone number: 5038904542

Additional information about me:

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

Robert Bashleben
7951 n. Palmer fishhook rd.
Palmer, AK 99645

December 27, 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.

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

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

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,

Robert Bashleben

Robert Bashleben

7951 n. Palmer fishhook rd.

Palmer, AK 99645

Email address: rbash102@gmail.com

Phone number: 907-745-8241

Additional information about me:

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



Sandra Notestine
13401 Baywind Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516

December 28, 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 own recreational property on the Kenai River near Soldotna. I have definitely seen the low to, what I would call, non-existent runs of King Salmon. King runs seemed to deplete when the number of commercial fishing permits were allowed to over-fish the river. King size reduced after the allowable catch of kings began to be based on the size of the fish (We removed all of the spawning large fish). Now depletion seems to be affected by set net accidental catch and/or something that happens prior to the fish reaching the river or the spawning area. Could the nuclear reactor waste problem and after-affect fish migration from Japan be the cause? Could the water current changes from the melting Arctic ice and the polar shift be redirecting the fish? Could the GMOs in our corn-based fuel and food products used or dumped by cruise ships in the ocean be polluting our water and killing the fish? WE DON'T KNOW. 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.

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 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.

Will any harvest or escapement change make a difference? The only way to know what needs to be done and what causes the reduced runs would be for all NOT to fish one of the king runs for a year to see if there is any change in the returning run years later. ...Better now while we still have a few left to spawn. I would hate for the species to become extinct. Alaska should do our own drastic Alaskan experiment before the Federal government closes it for everyone , without knowing what the cause was. If we know the cause, maybe we can fix it. If it is us, we can definitely figure it out. As far as escapement numbers, I don't know how you come up with your numbers, but the 1975-1980 year numbers must have been right. Fishing was REALLY good then. Sharing a reduced escapement number each year hasn't solved the problem yet.

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,

Sandy Notestine

Sandra Notestine
13401 Baywind Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516

Email address: alaska.notes@gmail.com

Phone number: 9073454639

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen

Bryan Adams
Bldg 682 a st
JBER, AK 99505

December 28, 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 in the military and plan on staying up here when my contract is done. I love this state.

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.

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#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

The revenue of the king salmon is very important to many Alaskan's. Without them then small business will close or shut down more than already have.

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,

Bryan Adams

Bryan Adams
Bldg 682 a st
JBER, AK 99505

Email address: Layz5273@yahoo.com

Phone number: 907-444-5144

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen

Martin Thurber
P.O. Box 880
Kenai, AK 99611

December 29, 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'm a property owner adjacent to the K-Beach set net area and I have personally seen large numbers of king salmon being off loaded from the set net boats and placed in separate totes for transport from the beach. I have later found king salmon heads dumped on the beach. I don't think these salmon are being counted.

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.

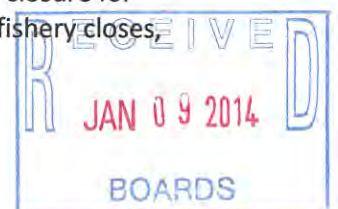
Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

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.

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper 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. As an Alaskan, I should have an equal opportunity to catch and put fish in my freezer as someone catching and selling the same fish. If I'm restricted from catching King salmon than so should the set netters. I would like to see observers in the set net fishery.

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,

MartinThurber

Martin Thurber
P.O. Box 880
Kenai, AK 99611

Email address: mtalaska@comcast.net

Phone number: 907 252-0588

Additional information about me:

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



Michael Thomas
3059 Oak Crest Drive
Clearlake, CA 95422

December 29, 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.

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

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

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

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

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#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,

Michael Thomas

Michael Thomas
3059 Oak Crest Drive
Clearlake, CA 95422

Email address: tai@mchsi.com

Phone number: 707-994-1712

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Richard Mohaupt
2424 Ryan Blvd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

December 30, 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.

My wife and I have been traveling from Southwest Florida to Alaska, specifically Kenai / Soldotna, for the last 8 years. While Alaska has much to offer, the Kenai king salmon was the main draw. We spend approximately 2 weeks on the river fishing each year. We have noticed a decline in not only size, but the number of returning salmon. In fact this past summer the river was closed to all king fishing. Add to that the extensions granted to the commercial netter for reds. The number of reds returning to the river were drastically reduced. Why the extensions? I can only assume for commercial interests. Please do not forget that residents and non-residents account for much state revenue, i.e. licensing, lodging, guides, tackle, restaurants, fuel, etc... The decisions you face are no doubt difficult, but Alaska's natural resources must be protected for the future. Unfortunately, big money (Commercial interests) can overshadow the majority opinion from non-commercial fishers.

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.

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.

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.

I couldn't have said it better, referencing the above points. I have witnessed first-hand the collapse of Florida resources, enacting absurd recreational bag/size limits, closure zones, etc.... at the expense of recreational fishers, all the while allowing commercial operations to deplete resources that have now taken many, many years to begin rebuilding. Finally law makers listened to the voters and made it illegal to harvest redfish for commercial purposes and banned gill netting state-wide. Recreation fishermen also stood together, asked for and received, the total closure of certain fish species to ensure sustainable fisheries for the future generations. The State of Alaska will benefit greatly from having more fish return each year, not less. On another note, please consider changing the law regarding snagging Sockeye. Far too many fish are snagged in the body only to be released, many with wounds that will surely prevent them from spawning. Get a limit any way and be done.

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,

Richard E. Mohaupt

Richard Mohaupt
2424 Ryan Blvd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Email address: mo114@comcast.net

Phone number: (941) 628-4553

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Levi miller
1125 Gail dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654

December 31, 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'm 23 male, I've been dippnetting/sport fishing in Kenai since I was 17. It puts fresh food on my table for me and my family/friends!

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

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 that the setnetters and commercial fisheries be limited. This summer (2013) I watched setnetters bag limits doubled and they could go out on week days and weekends. There was no such thing done for dipnetters. When the escapement was reached they practically let the setnetters/commercial fisherman practically do what they want. My brother in law was dippnetting on





the weekend before the escapement, he got his limit. I went 3days after him... the escapement was reached 2days prior, I got 2 fish in my dipnet for 2days of fishing. so they double bags limits for commercial fisherman and lifted a lot of the limitations on them! THEY KILLED THE RUNS AFTER THAT! I catch a king I throw it back instintly, they catch a whole school of kings they are dead or severely injured before they hit the boat! It's a no brainier commercial fishing is killing the runs, I watch it first hand! It's greed and done for more money! I do this to eat and I respect the salmon runs!

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,

Levi miller

Levi miller
1125 Gail dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Email address: levi_miller25@hotmail.com

Phone number: 907-414-7315

Additional information about me:

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



Robert Lloyd
13245 Shelburne Road
Anchorage, AK 99516

January 1, 2014

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'm a lifelong Alaskan who has traveled and fished the Cook Inlet fishery continually since I was a child-before Statehood. If Alaska is serious about saving the king salmon population in Cook Inlet start by closing the fishery. Closed to commercial by-catch with the drift fleet and the set net sites; closed to "catch and release" which is actually catch and re;ease with very little chance of survival. C LOSED period. Stop the self reporting, actually monitor the industry. Limit the number of guides and guide boats on the river- an action that could have been taken in the 1980's; buy back and retire drift and set net permits as they become available and change the make-up of the Fisheries Management Board to include more than the commercial interests (commercial fishermen and guides). If some or all of these suggestions are not introduced the result will be the continued decimation of the king salmon fishery but will extend to the coho, rainbow and dolly populations also.

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 Rive r 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.

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gill net fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper 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.

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,

Robert L. Lloyd

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Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen