

DAVID VOUGHT  
9340 CARLSON RD  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

November 25, 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.

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

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

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

The current management plan for the Kenai River has failed. Substantial changes are needed to ensure rebuilding of all Chinook returns. The management plan needs to recognize that the economy associated with the sports fishery is now more important than the commercial fishery. Most important is the recognition that the destruction of any salmon run can not be tolerated. It is clear that the management of the Kenai River for the benefit of the commercial fishery is a counter productive strategy. A complete reevaluation is needed. Emergency measures to protect and restore the King return is clearly and urgently needed.

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,

David Vought

DAVID VOUGHT  
9340 CARLSON RD  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

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Additional information about me:

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

Russell Burlingame  
2273 N Saddle Horse Dr  
Wasilla, AK 99654

December 8, 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 a previous resident of Soldotna and currently reside in the Mat Su Valley. I own recreational property in Soldotna to enjoy the Kenai River and other local opportunities.

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.

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.

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. Resident sportfish and personal use should be the priority of fish management.



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,

Russell W. Burlingame

Russell Burlingame  
2273 N Saddle Horse Dr  
Wasilla, AK 99654

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Phone number: 9077157234

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter





Jack Chambers  
3208 Paul Lane  
Missoula, MT 59803

December 8, 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 have come to Alaska to fish King salmon several times and it is something I want my grand-children to experience.

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.

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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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,

Jack Chambers

Jack Chambers  
3208 Paul Lane  
Missoula, MT 59803

Email address: [jackchambersori@yahoo.com](mailto:jackchambersori@yahoo.com)

Phone number: 406-251-4082

Additional information about me:

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





Roy Kutter  
43892 Sylvia Crest Rd  
Melrose, MN 56352

December 8, 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 finally retired and would like to enjoy more of Alaska.

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

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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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. As a Minnesota resident that enjoys fishing I have had the opportunity to take four different fishing vacations to the Kenai River. Each time I fished with a friend in his private boat and Kings were always caught. However, the last three years he has discouraged me from coming to Alaska due to the poor King returns. While there appears to various reasons/ blame for the decline there is one that has always bothered me. That is the uncontrolled number of King fishing guides. Many times the river has been so congested that we either fished evenings or early mornings just to avoid the guides. There is no doubt that the heavy guide fishing pressure has taken way too many of those "giant" 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,

Roy Kutter

Roy Kutter  
43892 Sylvia Crest Rd  
Melrose, MN 56352

Email address: [skutter@meltel.net](mailto:skutter@meltel.net)

Phone number: 320-256-5177

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen







Royce Jamieson  
8 Rawhiti Street, Termuka  
Timaru, AK 7920

December 7, 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 travelled to Alaska in July 2012 to fish primarily the Kenai River. On our arrival it became very clear that the chances of catching a King salmon were very slim indeed. Although we did take advantage of a big sockeye run we were very disappointed in the 'no show' of the kings. I can speak for a number of fellow salmon fishermen who are now considering cancelling a fishing trip to Alaska because of low King run. I have enjoyed fishing since I was a lad, ( I'm now 68 ) and since retirement the Alaskan trip is one thing off my 'bucket list'. Sadly many of my fishing buddies will not be able to cross that trip of a life time off their list because they will see that a trip to the Kenai to catch a big King would be pointless. all the best with your campaign.

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:

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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 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:

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

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

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Far too many species of wildlife be it bird, mammal or fish have been lost in recent times due to man's greed and lack of action. Any limits that may restrict commercial gain in one area may well be gained in other areas, eg tourism and includes the likes of myself who enjoyed the hospitality of many Alaskans.

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,

Royce D. Jamieson

Royce Jamieson  
8 Rawhiti Street, Termuka  
Timaru, AK 7920

Email address: [royce.jamieson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royce.jamieson@xtra.co.nz)

Phone number: 03.6155465

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler





Natalia Aulenbacher  
502 Lake street suite 2  
Kenai, AK 99611

December 7, 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 was a fly-fishing guide for 7 years based out of Cooper Landing Ak. So King Salmon is not the only fish that I would catch. I guided for King Salmon mainly on the Kasilof river. Regardless though what is happening on the Kenai Kings affects the neighboring fisheries. My concern is that I have seen low number in both rivers - and on a day to day basis in the summer, if the Kenai was slow the Kasilof would get slammed with more boats than usual. I don't think that helps create a balance that we are looking for. It throws off numbers, on both rivers and affects what Fish and Game thinks is happening because their numbers are so skewed. The worst was when the Kenai would be open for catch and release of Kings which CLEARLY was done so that the fishery would not be entirely closed down and the commercial fishermen could continue fishing!

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.

It is also been made very clear that the management of our fish is no longer to try and get the highest escapements, but rather the bare minimum!! So if we just meet the minimum escapement, management lightens the regulations so more fish could be caught etc.. rather than trying to see if more than the minimum escapement could be reached. The fishery these days in my eyes is being managed for the good of the People not the fish!!! These fish have a number of things causing their decline, not



just people - I believe the climate change is affecting their returns, the kings food source in the ocean being targeted commercially, and currently the leaking nuclear plant in japan that has now hit Alaska's shores. So with all these other variables affecting the fish the very least we can do is take action and do what we can to help save the Kenai Fishery!

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,

---

Natalia Aulenbacher

Natalia Aulenbacher  
502 Lake street suite 2  
Kenai, AK 99611

Email address: natalia@century21.com

Phone number: 9078301069

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen





Richard W. Arrowood  
45 N. BOBWHITE RD  
Wildwood, FL 34785

December 7, 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 was stationed at Fort Richardson from 1976 to 1979 and fished the Kenai every summer. I return whenever my finances and health permit.

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:

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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:

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

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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,

R.W. ARROWOOD

Richard W. Arrowood  
45 N. BOBWHITE RD  
Wildwood, FL 34785

Email address: [rwarrow@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rwarrow@cfl.rr.com)  
Phone number: 352-748-2907  
Additional information about me:  
I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler





Red Bradley  
PO Box 240244  
Anchorage, AK 99524

December 6, 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.

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.

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Protecting the Cook Inlet fisheries should be paramount on your agenda. Your policies and decisions should not be based on tourism, commercialization, or monetary gain or loss. What should be done is what is right for the resource - not the individuals or organizations that stand to gain or lose. Make the resource your priority and nothing else.

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,

red bradley

red bradley  
PO Box 240244  
Anchorage, AK 99524

Email address: red\_bradley@me.com  
Phone number: 907.830.5862  
Additional information about me:  
I am a Resident Concerned Citizen







John Joseph  
PO Box 444  
Sterling, AK 99672

December 6, 2013

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

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PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



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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 fishing the Kenai River since 1983, and a Kenai River Guide since 1989. I have witnessed the drastic reduction in second run Kings. I am worried it may be too late to save the special genetic strain that that gives the Kenai River the largest King Salmon in the world.

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 am about ready to retire, so my concern is for the future. If the second run Kings are to survive immediate action needs to be taken by the Board of Fish. I would like to see a natural run without resorting to a hatchery for tied stocks. In this regard I would like to see the Board of Fish stop CIAA from dumping nearly a million Sockeye smolts into Hidden Lake each year.

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,



John Joseph

John Joseph  
PO Box 444  
Sterling, AK 99672

Email address: [silverb@alaska.net](mailto:silverb@alaska.net)

Phone number: (907)262 0887

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler



Ron Woods  
1716 w. 2nd st  
Arlington, TX 76013

December 6, 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 fish the Kenai ever other year for kings as sport, then reds and silvers., for personal use.

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

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.

I support proposals:

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

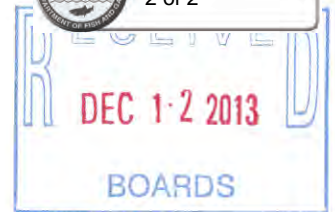
#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

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,

Ron woods

Ron Woods  
1716 w. 2nd st  
Arlington, TX 76013

Email address: woody2san@me.com

Phone number: 8179642868

Additional information about me:

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

Adam Extrand  
11486 Sorenson Lake Lane  
Merrifield, MN 56465

December 6, 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.

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

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

#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 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,

Adam Extrand

Adam Extrand  
11486 Sorenson Lake Lane  
Merrifield, MN 56465

Email address: [ajx137@yahoo.com](mailto:ajx137@yahoo.com)

Phone number: 218-851-0059

Additional information about me:

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





William Krisko  
15153 Twilight Rd  
Onamia, MN 56359

December 6, 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 am a Minnesota resident since I was born in 1944. I feel fortunate that my parents and grandparents introduced me to fishing when I was 3 years old. It instilled in me the joys of spending many years fishing with friends and family. About 15 years ago I treated myself and my son to a dream trip to Alaska to see the sites and to fish the legendary waters of Alaska. The highlight of our trip was fishing on the Kenai river with a guide. We each caught a King salmon that was over 50 lbs. This experience caused me to return to Alaska a few years later with my new wife on our honeymoon. Again, I/we experienced a wonderful fishing experience on the Kenai. After our retirement in 2007, we decided to drive our new RV from Minnesota to Alaska. We left in early July and stayed in Alaska until early September. This proved to be a trip to remember. We camped in Soldotna near the Kenai River. We caught Kings, Sockeye, Rainbows, Dolly Varden, etc. My wife caught a 46 lb King.

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

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



Because my wife and I have grown to love Alaska and would love to see our kids and grandkids experience the fishing as we have, we have become very concerned hearing about the decline of the fishery. We now have friends who are Alaska residents and have a "fish camp" close to the Kenai River. Since our last trip in 2007, we have heard from these friends that the Kenai King Salmon fishing is being ruined. I hope that the Alaska Board of Fisheries can be successful in restoring this wonderful resource. 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,

Bill & Vickie Krisko

William Krisko  
15153 Twilight Rd  
Onamia, MN 56359

Email address: [vkrisko@msn.com](mailto:vkrisko@msn.com)  
Phone number: 952-454-7224  
Additional information about me:  
I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



Roy Kutter  
43892 Sylvia Crest Rd  
Melrose, MN 56352

December 6, 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 to Alaska a couple time and fished the Kenai River and it was one of greatest experience of a life time. To stop that would be just not right. Alaska is noted for the King's. We have been hoping the runs would be getting better and so far nothing. You have a great thing going with the runs, why not keep them stocked to encourage future fishing and give others the experience too. To not stock the river would be the greatest disappointment ever.

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

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

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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#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,

Roy Kutter

Roy Kutter  
43892 Sylvia Crest Rd  
Melrose, MN 56352

Email address: [skutter@meltel.net](mailto:skutter@meltel.net)

Phone number: 320-256-5177

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen





Tomas J Tabisola  
19005 104th Ave E  
Puyallup, WA 98374

December 5, 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 was stationed in Alaska as a soldier in the Army 1982-1986 and 1989-1993. I fished the Kenai River for the first time in 1983 and all the subsequent summers I was in Alaska. I remember how great the fishing was for king salmon during those years. It was still good when I visited in subsequent years after I left Alaska but easily realized the diminishing numbers after 2002 and every year after that. This saddens me. We do need to do something about it and hopefully my voice will be heard in this endeavor.

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 strongly think Alaska should take a similar stand as was taken for the Atlantic Striped Bass in the east coast. Their numbers are strong now but only because of the strong action taken by the Federal and State levels. Surely this would be a small price to pay so that this great King Salmon of the Kenai River can once again be in the numbers of 2 to 3 decades ago and still be available for generations to come. 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,

Tomas J Tabisola

Tomas J Tabisola  
19005 104th Ave E  
Puyallup, WA 98374

Email address: [flyfishingguy@gmail.com](mailto:flyfishingguy@gmail.com)

Phone number: 2535496177

Additional information about me:

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



Jim & Linda Schwanke  
17428 Toakoana Drive  
Eagle River, AK 99577

December 5, 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.

As a thirty plus year Alaskan residents we have fished and entertained fellow Alaskan and lower 48 relatives/friends on the Kenai River. The ultimate experience for those folks was to catch a Kenai King. Due to mismanagement of Kings we have not fished them for the past two years. In fact, it disheartens us to see fellow fishermen trying to catch a King when the runs have been dismal. We no longer encourage lower 48 friends/relatives to even come fishing and that means loss of dollars not only to the Kenai River businesses but all of Alaska. Some tough decisions have to be made to restore our Kings even if it means closing the Kenai River to sport fishing for a season or two. Similar restrictions would have to be applied to the commercial fishing industry. We feel that strong King runs will return but drastic measures have to be taken sooner than later.

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

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

We do rely on the Kenai River reds to fill our freezer via sport fishing and personal use. Alaskans need to be taken care first and commercial fisheries interests second!

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,

Jim & Linda Schwanke

Jim & Linda Schwanke  
17428 Toakoana Drive  
Eagle River, AK 99577

Email address: [jlschwanke@gci.net](mailto:jlschwanke@gci.net)

Phone number: 907-250-4201

Additional information about me:

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





George Veney  
PO Box 39598  
Ninilchik, AK 99639

December 5, 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. I am 65 years old and enjoy fishing and hunting in my area, it seems I may have fished for my last King unless something is done soon. Please let me feel the excitement of having a King on the line again. 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:

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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 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,

George Veney

George Veney  
PO Box 39598  
Ninilchik, AK 99639

Email address: [gveney@vcn.com](mailto:gveney@vcn.com)

Phone number: 9072520946

Additional information about me:

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







Clarence Everingham  
5001 Hovey drive  
Wasilla, AK 99654

December 4, 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.

Commercial By Catch has got to be reduced drastically....Until that is done, all other methods of conservation will be fruitless.

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

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.

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

FAIRNESS plain and simple.

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,

Clarence Everingham

Clarence Everingham  
5001 Hovey drive  
Wasilla, AK 99654

Email address: [klink22hank@mtaonline.net](mailto:klink22hank@mtaonline.net)  
Phone number: 907-373-5188  
Additional information about me:  
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen





Phil Goldstine  
4680 Hiland Road  
Eagle River, AK 99577

December 5, 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 am a retired Army Soldier, with 24 years of service, and two combat tours. I am a full-time Alaska resident, and have been in the state for a total of 14 years. I have lived on Fort Richardson, Fort Wainwright, and now, Eagle River. I currently serve as a defense contractor on JBER. I am also a lifelong avid sportfisherman. I have fished all over the world (literally). I am also a (primarily on the Kenai and Mat-Su rivers) sportfishing guide and local business owner (Fish Ranger!, Inc.) . It is important to understand how incredible our fish and fisheries are and how much economic value they provide, \$1.4b annually was the last number I saw. With the exception of the Florida Keys, I have never seen this level of sportfishing or economy anywhere in the world. We won't sustain revenue like that, nor will we sustain our jobs - most of us, if we cannot do something to take care of our fish, particularly Kings, Sockeye, Rainbow Trout, and Halibut. Please take decisive action, with what is best for sustainable returns and resident populations of our iconic fish, in mind.

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

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

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

As previously mentioned above. Certainly, (among other issues) we cannot sustain over 100,000 Chinook caught in bycatch annually (something like 120,000+ in 2008). This wanton practice must be having a terrible effect on our returns.

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,

Phil Goldstine

Phil Goldstine  
4680 Hiland Road  
Eagle River, AK 99577

Email address: fishrangerbiz@gmail.com  
Phone number: 907-952-0293  
Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen





Kurt Beamesderfer  
1201-H Technology Drive  
Indian Trail, NC 28079

December 4, 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.

My family has been fishing the Kenai river for the last 11 years. It is getting tough to justify spending \$10,000 to \$25,000 dollars to take my family fishing in Alaska. Because of the decline in the run over the last 3 years it has been tough. We spend all that money and then have the season closed on us. I understand that something needs to be done to protect such a wonderful fish but it seems the ADF&G doesn't take into consideration that people are already paying for air travel, lodging and licenses among other expenses to get there. I understand that the king season may be closed due to a low run and support that but I don't understand how the commercial guys can still put their nets out and say they aren't catching many Kings. ADF&G close King season while we are there and still let the nets out so we can't even catch a sockeye. For the first time in 11 years my family is seriously contemplating not fishing in Alaska. We have fished with the same guy and stayed at his cabin every year we have gone. I hope ADF&G puts a lot of thought in their next step to protect non-resident fishermen from getting stuck on the bank. Please save the King salmon run but give us notice. Kurt B

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 point 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

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.

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:

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Simple, I love fishing in Alaska and would like to share the experience with my grand children someday.

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,

Kurt Beamesderfer

Kurt Beamesderfer  
1201-H Technology Drive  
Indian Trail, NC 28079

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Phone number: 704-309-3435

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler





Richard Zweig  
3601 Ironwood Rd  
Excelsior, MN 55331

December 4, 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 an avid freshwater and saltwater fisherman. I live on a lake in Minnesota and fish during the summer months almost every day. In the winter my saltwater fishing experiences are in both Florida and Mexico. As you may have noticed, my favorite hobby is fishing. I make the trip to the Kenai River at least every two years in search of king and sockeye salmon as well as halibut.

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

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

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

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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

As a sports fisherman I support the conservative management of all species of sport fish. In a few freshwater lakes in Minnesota I have witnessed the decimation of the walleye population due to over harvesting of the fish. I have also seen this trend reversed through legislation and proper management. The Kenai River king salmon fishery can be saved!

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,

Rick Zweig

Richard Zweig  
3601 Ironwoo Rd  
Excelsior, MN 55331

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Phone number: 952-474-1873

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen







Angela Jensen  
9599 Brayton Dr. #466  
Anchorage, AK 99507

December 2, 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 fish the Kenai each summer with my parents and have never gotten a chance to catch a king salmon because the river is always closed to king salmon fishing.

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.

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.

I want to catch a king someday, but the middle river is always closed!



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,

Angela Jensen

Angela Jensen  
9599 Brayton Dr. #466  
Anchorage, AK 99507

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Phone number: 907-344-0418

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen





Austin Jensen  
9599 Brayton Dr. #466  
Anchorage, AK 99507

December 2, 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 fish the Kenai River each summer and I want to catch my first king salmon without the river being closed like it has been the past few years.

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:

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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:

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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.

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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

I want a chance to catch my first king salmon.

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,

---

Austin Jensen

Austin Jensen  
9599 Brayton Dr. #466  
Anchorage, AK 99507

Email address: [superstarjwj@hotmail.com](mailto:superstarjwj@hotmail.com)

Phone number: 907-344-0418

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen



Inna Jensen  
9599 Brayton Dr. #466  
Anchorage, AK 99507

December 2, 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 fish the Kenai with my husband and family every summer and we have watched the kings become less and less existant. Please stop the abuse.

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.

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.



I want my children to be able to enjoy these fish as so many in the past have. 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,

Inna Jensen

Inna Jensen  
9599 Brayton Dr. #466  
Anchorage, AK 99507

Email address: [superstarjwj@hotmail.com](mailto:superstarjwj@hotmail.com)

Phone number: 907-344-0418

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen



James Jensen  
9599 Brayton Dr. #466  
Anchorage, AK 99507

December 2, 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 grew up on the Kenai River in the 1980's, and we used to have excellent king salmon fishing, People in our family and friends came from all over the U.S. and world each summer to fish for these iconic monsters. My grandfather lived on the Kenai since the 1960's and has seen awesome king fishing over the years. But the mismanagement and overfishing of kings by commercial fisherman have rendered these fish near extinction and my children may never get a chance to catch a king salmon due to the abuse of commercial fisherman, many of whom are not even residents of Alaska. This is unacceptable! 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

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

Because the Kings are dying off in the name of commercial fisherman making money so they can lay around for the rest of the year, in Seattle or where ever they live. Sport fishing has been restricted beyong belief for many years now, and businesses and famalies are suffering because of that. AK dept. of Fish and Game is completely inept and incompetent to sustain the king salmon fishery and they have demonstrated that until now when the fish are nearing extinction. They shoot for their minimum escapement goal and couldn't care less who suffers from there lack of ability to do the job they are payed to do. They get payed no matter what the outcome of the fishing season is, which is a huge part of the problem! And I question the accuracy of their weir counts, which can't be depended on. 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,

James Jensen

James Jensen  
9599 Brayton Dr. #466  
Anchorage, AK 99507

Email address: [superstarjwj@hotmail.com](mailto:superstarjwj@hotmail.com)

Phone number: 907-344-0418

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Concerned Citizen





Kyle Phillips  
105 Haida Dr  
Kenai, AK 999611

December 2, 2013

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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.

Moved to Kenai 5 years ago and vacationed here and other Alaska locations multiple times in my life. Over the years it has become a sad truth that sport/commercial fishing for king salmon and other fish without appropriate regulations has destroyed the Kenai/Kasilof River populations. As a sport fisherman I have used the lightest and least destructive tackle possible when fishing for all fish. As of this past year I have stopped fishing for kings all together and encourage all others (commercially as well) to stop fishing where kings can be caught by accident or as by catch.

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.

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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

These issues are important to me personally as the Alaskan king salmon is a majestic creature as all fish and animals are. Stiffer regulations for both personal, sport and commercial fisheries are the only way to curb the steep decline in king salmon numbers here in the Kenai and Cook Inlet area. It is with great



hope that this may help the local fishery survive and let future generations of Alaskans, fisherman and visitors enjoy what I got to enjoy as a young man but no longer can as an adult.  
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,

Kyle Phillips

Kyle Phillips  
105 Haida Dr  
Kenai, AK 999611

Email address: [kphillips555@gmail.com](mailto:kphillips555@gmail.com)  
Phone number: 907 598 3535  
Additional information about me:  
I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen

