

RC 53

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Session:*  
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Alaska Board of Fisheries Chairman Johnstone,  
Board Members Kluberton, Jensen, Johnson, Huntington, Jeffrey, and Morisky,

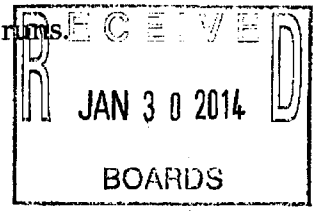
First, I wish to thank you for your service on one of the most important boards in Alaska government.

For my legislative district, I would be hard-pressed to identify many issues of more importance to my district, indeed, my region, than the ability to access salmon resources. Salmon is not only a major protein with which we fill our freezers and our pantries, it is also an important part of our lifestyle—one of the reasons for which many chooses to live in the Matanuska and Susitna valleys.

Reflecting the views of my constituents, as well as my own, it is our belief that northern district stocks have been managed as subservient to the central district commercial sockeye harvest for a long time. We must redefine the mixed-stock fishery to allow for Susitna Basin escapement. These stocks have been dangerously depressed for over a life-cycle of the fish. I believe the time to make this decision is sooner, rather than later. If not irreparable, irreversible damage to the scientific diversity of these stocks is almost certain.

Many of the people I represent also feel very strongly that we must move to a more terminal harvest regime for the dominant Kenai and Kasilof sockeye runs.

DISTRICT 11  
BUTTE • CHUGIAK • EKLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP  
KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK



I am somewhat concerned by the mission results targets which the Office of Management and Budget lists for the Department of Fish and Game:

*Commercial Fisheries "TARGET #1: Maintain total annual value of commercial harvests and mariculture production at over \$1 billion annually."*

*Sport Fisheries "TARGET #1: Return sport fishing license sales and revenue collection to 2008 levels to ensure excellence in fisheries management and research for the benefit of recreational anglers, the state's economy, and future generations of Alaskans."*

While industry is viewed as an important part of the economy, the other is viewed as a source of revenue. While I appreciate the goal of promoting one aspect of an industry, I am very troubled by the seemingly disparate goals and stated priorities.

In closing, we must do a better job of providing more reasonable opportunities for the tens of thousands that participate in our Alaska resident-only personal use fisheries. We must honor the priority in the management plans that call for recreational priority for the use of King Salmon, Susitna Coho, and the management of northern district stocks to their natural streams.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on behalf of myself as well as the vast majority of my constituents. My best wishes to all board members and to your support staff as you make these important decisions.

Sincerely,



Bill Stoltze