

Please See RC 39

Hello Chairman Jensen and Members of the Board of Fisheries,

My name is Frede Stier, I am a retired teacher, who lives near Palmer, Alaska. My dad got me started fishing when I was very young, and as long as I can remember, my family and I have always enjoyed catching and eating fish.

Early in my ^{early 80's} teaching career when, I lived at Kodiak, where it was often easy for me to catch a limit of nice salmon in the morning, and have time to take care of them, before I went to my teaching job. When my parents visited we could drive to the Buskin River, in just a few minutes, and my Dad (who by that time had had a series of strokes and heart attacks) could still catch some salmon as well.

I also taught at Chignik and while at that location, it was easy for me to walk to the river where I often caught a limit of 5 large silver salmon. Once again, when my parents came to visit, the fishing was good enough that my father could catch his salmon from the bank.

I finished my teaching career in Wasilla, but catching salmon is more problematic in portions of the Mat-Su Valley. There is a much larger population that likes to catch and eat a portion of the limited salmon numbers that reach Mat-Su Valley Rivers. In most cases I have a round trip drive of at least 40 miles to participate in these fisheries. I've been able to harvest a few salmon at the Eklutna Tailrace fishery where the Department of Fish & Game has stocked salmon. This is a heavily used fishery, though, and many times I do not even get a bite.

There are 3 small streams in the area that are open only on weekends and only for 12 hours per day. My brother and sister-in-laws' family fishes these streams, but often don't have much luck, partially because of the amount of fishing pressure in the small areas open to salmon fishing. My nephew and I have submitted proposals 234 & 235 requesting that salmon fishing be allowed 5 more hours per day on Saturdays and Sundays.

The place I fish most often is Little Susitna River, and while I've had better luck catching king and silver salmon at this location — it requires a 100-mile round-trip drive. Once people reach the parking lot there is a parking fee. The fee has been \$5, but the Department of Fish and Game is proposing to increase parking fees, since use of this area has been declining and fees collected do not cover the staffing and maintenance of the facility. Part of the reason angler numbers have declined at the Little Susitna River is the number of emergency restrictions placed on the river. Every year, for the past 5 years, there have been severe emergency harvest restrictions and or closures during the king salmon season. Last summer after the king salmon season closed, another emergency order prohibited people from fishing bait to catch silver salmon. Normally this is one of the most heavily utilized sport fisheries in the entire Mat-Su Valley, with hundreds or thousands of Alaska residents using it to harvest fish for winter. Even during good times the Little Susitna River harvest is often less than one salmon per person per trip. Please recognize the importance of this fishery for so many Alaskan residents. Please provide a reasonable harvest opportunity for a maximum number of Alaskans.

I request that you allow more Little Susitna River king and coho salmon to migrate upriver, by **At Least** prohibiting commercial harvest within one mile of the river mouth **ANYTIME** sport king or silver salmon fishing is restricted to no bait in the river. I support Proposals 213, 214, 215, 216.

Frede L. Stier