

From: Ted Bryant
To: Haight, Glenn E. (DFG)
Subject: Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries
Date: Thursday, March 02, 2017 6:18:39 PM

Dear Director Haight,

It is an unfortunate fact that sport fishermen have but a small voice for such an enormously large group, to also include all the tourists that come to Alaska as well. We do not have the political action committees or lobbyists or financial backing or any of the other things organized commercial fisheries have. The sport fishermen has a very small impact on the salmon harvest relative to the commercial fisheries, yet we are the ones who suffer (emergency closures, fishing restrictions, limit restrictions, bait restrictions, etc...) the most when our fisheries are mis-managed. Alaska has almost destroyed the most coveted King Salmon fishery in the world (The Kenai River) and is well on its way to decimating the rest of the Upper Cook inlet fishery with the new regulations proposed by the Board of Fisheries. Once again we are bending over for the commercial fishermen and once again we are headed down the path of no return, no salmon returns. The Board is far from neutral and I fear the future generations will not know the fisheries as I have known them, if the fisheries even exist by then. While I understand and appreciate the importance of the commercial fishery, it's unrelenting desire for more fish is unsustainable. Meanwhile, as we ruin the salmon runs, we reduce or diminish the \$1.5 BILLION sport fishery and tourism. It is a lose-lose. We have to draw the line. We need to let our streams recover. The only way to achieve that is via the commercial fisheries. Last minute restrictions on sport fishermen, when we realize too late that we won't reach escapement goals, is too little too late. It's a drop in the bucket and poor planning. I ask you and all involved to be the Good Stewards of Alaska and do what is right for the state, the future, and not what is good for the insatiable demand of the processors.

Our voice is small because we are individuals. Our pockets are thin. But we elected our representatives to do what is right for the state, not for special interests, not for out of state fishermen, or over zealous quotas. Our fisheries are hurting. Halibut, Salmon, and everything associated with those fisheries is hurting too. Please act correctly before it is too late.

Sincerely,
A concerned Sport Fisherman, Alaskan, and Father,
Theodore Bryant