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Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Proposal 121 – This proposal asks the Board of Fisheries to recommend to the legislature, as per AS 16.05.251 (a)(1), that a refuge area be designated.

SUPPORT

Dear Board members,

As co- chair of Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (ABHA), I am writing on behalf of our membership to express our support for proposal 121 in word and concept. ABHA is a dedicated group of hunters and anglers seeking to ensure Alaska's outdoor traditions in a manner that promotes the importance of *wild places for wild animals and fish* that has so come to define our "Last Frontier" state.

Alaska's hunting and fishing heritage is an immeasurable resource, and one that needs to be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. With the ongoing discussions concerning resource extraction in the Bristol Bay drainages, we urge the board to adopt proposal 121 and consider all suggestions to broaden the scope of the proposed refuge to include all waters of the Bristol Bay drainage.

Proposals to protect the spawning and rearing waters of the Bristol Bay watershed, waters that are vital to the tradition and economy of thousands of Alaskans, are nothing new, but we believe that now is the time to make protection of this irreplaceable resource a reality.

Placing this vital fish habitat in a refuge will ensure that foremost consideration will be given to the health and welfare of one of Alaska's unique and valuable treasures as the potential development of mining interests goes through the mandatory permit process.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

Dave Lyon

Co-Chair - Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers