

My name is Mark Stopha, and I am an Alaska resident of Juneau. I'm writing in opposition to proposal 242, which would eliminate the commercial red king crab fishery in District 111a. The proposal indicates that the benefit of a few commercial fishermen should be outweighed by a greater number of personal use fishermen, of which I am one.

What is lost in this argument is the Alaska (i.e., Juneau) resident, who, because of income, age, ability or any other reason, cannot access crab through the personal use fishery, but who still, as a resident of the state, is an owner of the public resource of the king crab stock, and whose access to those crab is through buying them off the dock from the commercial fishermen who catch the crab in proxy for them.

As a former commercial salmon troller who sold my fish directly to Juneau residents, I know that many Juneau residents are tied to the local fisheries resources through the commercial fishermen they buy from, and that it is one of the reasons that make living here a privilege. As most any direct seafood commercial fishermen seller in town will tell you, Juneau has a ready population of seafood consumers eager to buy fresh, high quality seafood - be it salmon, halibut, crab, shrimp or black cod. And alot of the

king crab caught by local fishermen is sold directly to residents across the dock.

Please consider all the residents of Juneau that buy red king crab from the commercial fishermen when they are allowed to fish in 11A who are unlikely to testify about this proposal because they aren't part of the harvesting groups involved in most of the fish and game proposal hearings.