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Senator Alan Austerman
Kodiak

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Board of Fish to Hold Public Hearing **Per Austerman's Request, Testimony Will be Heard on King Limit**

(JUNEAU) — Board of Fish Chairman Ed Dersham and Vice-Chair Dan Coffey confirmed Wednesday they will hold a public meeting in Kodiak on April 3, to discuss a recent ruling which limits Alaskan anglers to only five king salmon per year.

The public meeting comes at the request of Sen. Alan Austerman (R-Kodiak), who describes reaction to the limit as an uproar stretching from Cook Inlet to Seward to Kodiak.

“In my eight years as a state legislator, I have never received as many calls from constituents as I have over this king salmon ruling,” said Austerman. “I think it is not just right, but imperative for the Board of Fish to come to Kodiak and justify this decision to restrict the fishing rights of Alaska’s resident fishermen.”

Austerman, who fears this decision will eventually be applied to other areas of the state as well, says he wants to see some sound scientific reasoning behind the limit and feels those affected must be given an opportunity not just to be heard, but also to be part of producing a reasonable alternative.

The public meeting will be held at the Fisherman’s Hall in Kodiak on Wednesday, April 3, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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