

# **\* \* \* ACTION ALERT \* \* \***

## **PROTECT YOUR WILD SALMON RESOURCES!**

**BACKGROUND:** Governor Parnell has introduced bills (HB 77 & SB 26) designed to expand Government power and strip Alaskans of their rights to clean water and healthy fisheries. One proposal is especially damaging – it would deny Alaskans the right to keep water in streams for salmon. Under current law, Alaskans can file for “instream flow rights,” to secure enough water in salmon streams for healthy fisheries. Mining, oil and gas corporations, however, want unfettered access to Alaskan waters – regardless whether they support wild salmon. So Governor Parnell is cutting everyday Alaskans from the loop. Read Inletkeeper’s [post](#) to get a better idea about instream flows.

### **TAKE ACTION!**

Contact our elected officials and tell them to protect our salmon. Find your legislator [here](#), then get phone numbers and email address [here](#).

### **TALKING POINTS:**

- Alaskans have a right to healthy salmon and an obligation to protect them. Don’t strip away our rights to keep water in our streams for healthy fish.
- Put fish first! When allocation decisions are made in streams, wild salmon should get a priority over other out of stream uses.
- We need more balance in our fish management decisions. DNR routinely processes water use applications for mining, oil and gas corporations, but it almost never processes the instream flow applications needed to keep water for fish.
- Governor Parnell has repeatedly promised he would “never trade one resource for another.” Tell him to be a man of his word, don’t trade the water our sustainable, wild fish need for one-time development projects.
- Alaska salmon streams are warming, and salmon are becoming more vulnerable to pollution, predation and disease; that’s why it’s more important than ever to keep water in streams to ensure healthy fish.

### **MORE INFO:**

[Alaska Department of Natural Resources: Reserving Water for Instream Use](#)  
[Cook Inletkeeper: When it comes to allocating Alaska’s waters, put fish first!](#)

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