

Kenai Peninsula Borough 144 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669	City of Soldotna 177 N. Birch Street Soldotna, AK 99669	City of Kenai 210 Fidalgo Avenue Kenai, AK 99611
---	--	---

December 10, 2007

RECEIVED
 DEC 10 2007
 BOARDS

Alaska Board of Fisheries
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: ***KENAI RIVER WORKING GROUP JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2007-02 --
 Requesting the Board of Fisheries to Adopt Regulations to Reduce
 Hydrocarbon Discharge at the Mouth of the Kenai River During the Month
 of July***

Enclosed please find Kenai River Working Group Joint Resolution No. 2007-02
 submitted jointly by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, City of Soldotna and City of Kenai.

We look forward to discussing this important issue further with you.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Grace Merkes

Grace Merkes, Assembly President

CITY OF SOLDOTNA

David R. Carey

David R. Carey, Mayor

CITY OF KENAI

Pat Porter

Pat Porter, Mayor

**KENAI RIVER WORKING GROUP
CITY OF KENAI
CITY OF SOLDOTNA
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2007-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCILS OF THE CITY OF KENAI AND CITY OF SOLDOTNA AND ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH REQUESTING THE BOARD OF FISHERIES TO ADOPT REGULATIONS TO REDUCE HYDROCARBON DISCHARGE AT THE MOUTH OF THE KENAI RIVER.

WHEREAS, the Kenai River is a world-class commercial, sport and personal-use fisheries resources supporting sustainable economic development and a spectacular natural wonder; and,

WHEREAS, the local governments recognize the importance of the Kenai River for the preservation of the quality of life, tax revenue and the local economy; and,

WHEREAS, for a number of years, the Kenai River has been documented to exceed State of Alaska water quality standards in the month of July as defined by 18 AAC 70 for Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons (TAH collectively known as Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylene-BTEX); and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has recommended to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for designation as an impaired river under the Clean Water Act and,

WHEREAS, the Kenai River is the first water body on the Kenai Peninsula to be listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Kenai River from the Warren Ames Bridge to the mouth of the Kenai River is outside of the KRSMA boundary and therefore not subject to the DNR regulations; and,

WHEREAS, the area from the Warren Ames Bridge to the mouth of the Kenai River has a similar hydrocarbon discharge problem as the rest of the Kenai River; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Fisheries has the authority to regulate fishing means and methods at the mouth of the Kenai River in order to protect the fisheries that rely on the health of the river.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCILS OF THE CITIES OF SOLDOTNA AND KENAI AND THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH, that in order to protect the fisheries reliant upon the health of the Kenai River, the Alaska Board of Fisheries should enact regulations applicable from the mouth of the Kenai River to the KRSMA boundary on the Kenai River, and that as of January 1, 2008 personal use dip netting and sportfishing during the month of July on the Kenai River from a vessel that has on board a motor that is not a four-stroke, direct fuel injection two-stroke, electric, or diesel is prohibited.

KENAI RIVER WORKING GROUP
JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2007-02

DATED this 5th day of December, 2007.

CITY OF KENAI
Pat Porter
PAT PORTER, MAYOR

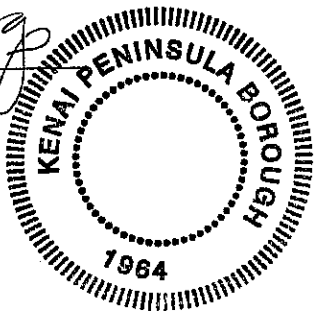
ATTEST:
Carol L. Freas
Carol L. Freas, City Clerk

CITY OF SOLDOTNA
David R. Carey
DAVID R. CAREY, MAYOR

ATTEST:
Teresa Fahning
Teresa Fahning, City Clerk

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
Grace Merkes
GRACE MERKES, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

ATTEST:
Sherry Biggs
Sherry Biggs, Borough Clerk



RECEIVED

DEC 11 2007

BOARDS

11/28/07

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
P.O.Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Dear B.O.F. Members:

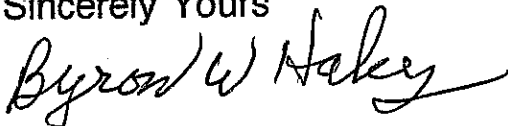
The Chitina Dipnetters Association very strongly support the Dip Netters of the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers and do not support any proposals that would restrict there Dip Netting. As residents of the State of Alaska they are putting food on there tables and also there friends who are not able to go and dip net for salmon that they may share some Salmon with them. As long as escapement goals are met there dose not seam to be any reason to restrict the dip netting and if any restriction is needed the commercial Fishery should be restricted first. The salmon belong to the people of Alaska and they should have the first needs for these Salmon because they are food gathers and not commercializing the Salmon for money.

The following proposals in BOF Orange Book 2007/2008 for Upper Cook Inlet Finfish . The CDA oppose or support as listed below.

Proposals that the CDA oppose are 211, 212, 213,217, 219, 220,, 221, 222 &223.

Proposals that we support 214, 215,, 216, 224

Sincerely Yours



Byron W Haley President
Chitina Dipnetter's Association
1002 Pioneer Rd.
Fairbanks, AK. 99701-2818

CC to Mel Morris Chatr
Bonnie Williams

COMMENT# 7

Proposal 74

This is my proposal and I strongly support it. We passed this back in 2002 I believe. The board questioned almost every fisherman who gave public testimony and the vast majority, were in favor of this proposal.

Spotter aircraft are notorious for spying on other boats' nets. If you find some good fishing, and the planes are flying, it won't be long till you are surrounded by boats. I also have talked to some spotter pilots who kept an eye out for enforcement during restricted openings, so their boats can safely fish over the line.

As far as I know, Cook Inlet is one of the only areas, if not the only area, in the state where spotting for salmon is allowed. Spotters are bad for our fishery.

Proposals 96 & 97

I support these. Anything we can do to spread the harvest out, should improve quality.

Proposal 125

I oppose this. I don't have a problem letting two permit holders have extra gear on the same boat, but to let them fish when the rest of the fleet is not will be very contentious.

Chris Kempf
Box 521
Kenai, Ak. 99611

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2007
BOARDS

COMMENT# 8

KENAI AREA FISHERMAN'S COALITION

PO Box 375 Kenai, Ak. 99611 * (907) 283-1054 * dwimar@gci.net

Board of Fisheries
ADF&G / Board Support
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Ak. 99811-5526

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2008

BOARDS

Dear Chairman Morris,

The Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition (KAFC) is pleased to provide the attached comments on the Upper Cook Inlet fish proposals to be discussed starting on February 1, 2008.

We have made comments on individual proposals (attached spreadsheets) but feel that the Board of Fisheries (BOF) should establish parameters to evaluate these complex and convoluted proposals. Many have the potential to significantly change the management of UCI fisheries and we attempted to provide guidelines for our members in evaluation of these proposals. We would like to share those guidelines with you for your consideration.

Guideline 1- Habitat protection takes priority over all user needs. The rivers of UCI are being stressed by increased users as a function of population growth, commercialization, and urbanization.

There is no better example than the Kenai River and the violation of State/EPA hydrocarbon standards to protect fish and wildlife resources. In addition, the river is experiencing increased turbidity (state standards have also been violated) and erosion as a result of increased use in the July fisheries. The personal use fishery is also putting additional pressure on wetlands and beach habitats at both the Kenai and Kasilof River locations.

There is no easy solution to these problems but the KAFC does not support increased growth of fisheries if additional habitat damage takes place. In that context, we have supported additional drift boat days on the Kenai River, reduction of 2 stroke engines (not DFI) in July, and would request that the BOF realize that growth is not unlimited or without resource costs in UCI.

Guideline 2 – Management must be for escapement goals, not catch rates, opportunity, or entry patterns of fish. The foundation of Alaska fishery management is the recognition that escapement goal management gave a priority to the resource and not the users. Thus catch rates were secondary to spawning needs. This has resulted in Alaska being used as a model of salmon management through-out the world.

There are a number of proposals that want to change escapement goals or make them a lower priority relative to mandated fishery restrictions. The K AFC has reviewed the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Escapement Goal report and we agree with the recommendations of ADF&G relative to maintaining the existing goals. We do have some concerns about Fish Creek as that system has been violated by hatchery practices and urbanization impacts but we will discuss those at the meeting. Therefore, all proposals that wants to change the escapement goals for UCI systems we rejected as not being based on new or defensible data.

We would clarify that we support the concept of allocations being added to the spawning goals – therefore if the BOF wants to increase in-river goals for additional harvest above the counting sites we would not object to that concept as it is still escapement goal management.

Proposal (132) submitted by the Kenai River Sport Fishing Association has language that would make limitations on ADF&G emergency order authority and fishery closure windows take priority over not exceeding the upper end of any escapement goal. We strongly oppose this proposal as a dangerous philosophical change to Alaska salmon fishery management.

Guideline 3 – adaptive fishery management is preferred. The term adaptive fishery management means that management actions are done in a way that allows their effects and effectiveness to be measured and assessed objectively and management changes made accordingly. The State of Alaska salmon management approach of local area management biology combined with in-season emergency order authority is a prime example of adaptive fishery management. As the season progresses and local managers gather data on run strength, timing, harvest, escapements, use patterns, and other environmental conditions they can adjust fishing time and methods to meet escapement objectives. K AFC strongly supports the concept of adaptive fish management as opposed to fixed fishing periods or closures.

Since 2000 in UCI the BOF has moved away from adaptive fishery management and put into regulations significant limitations on commercial fishing in both time and area. These adjustments have violated the concept of adaptive fish management in two ways.

First, the limitations have significantly removed the local area management biologists from making critical in-season decisions. Commissioners now make the decision on when to use emergency order authority to change the BOF regulations and those decisions have been based in some years on a political rationale rather than biological. This has led to a violation of the principles of escapement goal management and the concepts of MSY.

Second, the limitations have resulted in altered fishing patterns of the commercial fleet which cannot or have not been assessed for effectiveness in an objective manner. The BOF has put these limitations in place without any programs for an objective evaluation or passed these regulations without an objective evaluation. This has resulted in a chaotic

approach to management by ADF&G and confusion by the public on how the fisheries are managed by ADF&G.

The K AFC strongly rejects proposals that would increase limitations on the flexibility of local ADF&G management biologists to adapt to in-season conditions and make critical management decisions in a timely manner. We would recommend to the BOF to establish goals for the ADF&G to achieve and let ADF&G manage for those goals with the best practices approach. We urge the BOF not to micro-manage the UCI fisheries.

Guideline 4- regulations should be enforceable and clear in intent. The K AFC rejected proposals that were not clear in their intent or are not enforceable or outside the regulatory authority of the BOF.

In this context, the K AFC has reviewed the Brown decision (Case No 3KN-04-531 CI Memorandum order denying preliminary injunction Cook Inlet Fisherman's Association vs State of Alaska) on the escapement goal authority of ADF&G and agree with his comment " *In other words, the language in the regulations purporting to limit the Commissioner's EO authority should be ignored as unenforceable.*" It is our opinion that maintaining language in regulations that are not enforceable only confuses the public creates unrealistic expectations and therefore does not serve a public purpose. We would suggest to the BOF that language which limits the emergency order authority of the Commissioner of ADF&G be removed from regulations.

In addition the BOF in recent meetings has adjourned the UCI meetings without clear intent language for certain regulations. This has led ADF&G and the public to question exactly what the BOF was trying to accomplish (some of the proposals in the packet deal with this confusion or misunderstanding). We would recommend that the BOF write findings for significant regulatory actions that clearly state the intent of the BOF and the rationale for that intent.

Guideline 5 – regulations changes should be made that are effective and measurable. The experience of K AFC members and scientist with previous BOF meetings is that the political pressures of UCI require action for action sake. We strongly suggest to the BOF to resist this approach and that changes to regulations be made that are significant, meaningful, and the effect measurable.

K AFC does not support the concept that everyone is upset so the BOF must have done something right. We believe that good fishery management is done for the best interest of the citizens of the State. Therefore, in this context, one user group may win a debate and another lose. However, on balance one would hope that resource use would be achieved in a fair and impartial manner.

We thank the BOF for the opportunity to comment and are available for questions at anytime on our positions and comments.

Dwight Kramer, KAFC Chairman

Cc: Sen. Tom Wagoner
Rep. Mike Chenault
Rep. Kurt Olson
Rep. Paul Seaton
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of ADF&G
Tom Irwin, Commissioner of DNR
Mayor John Williams, Kenai Pen. Borough
Mayor Pat Porter, City of Kenai
Mayor Dave Cary, City of Soldotna
Robert Rufner, Kenai River Watershed Forum

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition
08 UCI BOF Commercial Fish Proposal Comments

Proposal Number	Position	Comment
73	No opinion	
74	No opinion	
75	No opinion	
76	No opinion	
77	Oppose	Reduces effectiveness of management tool to harvest kasilof bound sockeye salmon
78	No opinion	
79	Oppose	Dept has EO authority to open early. end date discussion needs to include sockeye and pink salmon management and potential harvestable surplus of coho salmon
80	Oppose	
81	Oppose	
82	Oppose	
83	Oppose	
84	Oppose	
85	Oppose	
86	Oppose	Season ending date provides clarity for all users.
87	Oppose	Restricts abundance based management
88	Oppose	Eliminates aug 10 end date
89	No opinion	
90	Oppose	Creates targeted fishery on cohos. Potentially increases exploitation rates to non-sustainable levels
91	Support	Closures can be implemented by EO if needed; removal of closure dates increases options for abundance based fishery management
92	Support	
93	Oppose	Will result in increased harvest of Russian River sockeye salmon without in-season management tools. Will increase harvest of Kenai and Kasilof early run chinook salmon
94	Oppose	
95	No opinion	
96	Oppose	Can be implemented by EO if needed; mandatory dates decrease options for abundance based fishery management
97	Oppose	
98	No opinion	Allocative between commercial gear types
99	No opinion	Allocative between commercial gear types
100	Oppose	Lack of data on Tuxedni Bay chinook stocks makes this high risk.
101	Oppose	Lack of data on Tuxedni Bay chinook stocks makes this high risk.
102	No opinion	
103	No opinion	
104	No opinion	
105	Oppose	An increase in the amount of gear in the commercial fishery is not necessary to harvest at needed exploitation levels
106	Oppose	
107	Oppose	
108	Oppose	
109	No opinion	Untested method; needs more specific description of new gear
110	Oppose	Untested method
111	Oppose	Reduces adaptive management tool and set net exploitation rate. ADF&G study did not show differences in travel patterns between sockeye and chinook salmon
112	Oppose	Increases effort in northern district
113	No opinion	
114	No opinion	

115	Oppose	Reduces adaptive management options
116	Oppose	not implementable in-season, requires ADF&G to define user needs
117	Oppose	Requires in-season identification of hatchery fish; hatchery contributions to Cook Inlet stocks very minimal
118	Oppose	1997 plan does not recognize variable escapement goals for different total returns of Kenai River sockeye
119	Oppose	Reasons for the decline in Susitna Stocks is not known. Establishing a corridor reduces adaptive management capability
120	Oppose	no data to suggest chum salmon stock of concern
121	Oppose	A change in the Yentna River escapement was not recommended by ADF&G Esc Goal Committee and is therefore not biologically based
122	Oppose	
123	Oppose	There is no biological justification for this action. There will be a loss of sockeye production. This action is not within the purvue of the BOF
124	withdraw	plans need to be made more simple and readable
125	Oppose	Oppose the major alterations to the existing plans
126	Support	Clarifies Emergency Order authority of ADF&G Commissioner
127	Oppose	Not possible as written - all goals cannot be met in most years
128	Support	Clarifies Emergency Order authority of ADF&G Commissioner
129	No opinion	Not needed if 128 is passed
130	Support	Clarifies Emergency Order authority of ADF&G Commissioner. See proposal 128
131	No opinion	see 128
132	Oppose	Eliminates adaptive management of salmon stocks to achieve escapement goals. Eliminates EO authority.
133	Oppose	ADF&G has no tools to accomplish this - define high quality
134	Oppose	
135	Oppose	No changes in the management plan are required to accomplish the stated goals of the proposals
136	Oppose	
137	Oppose	
138	Oppose	Not adaptive fishery management, too restrictive, not based on data
139	No opinion	This appears to be a sport fish proposal
140	Oppose	Not adaptive fishery management, too restrictive on ADF&G to make trade-off
141	No opinion	
142	Oppose	Creates targeted fishery on cohos. Potentially Increases exploitation rates to non-sustainable levels
143	Oppose	
144	Oppose	Option already available through Emergency Order authority
145	Oppose	
146	No opinion	Do agree conceptually with efforts to increase chinook harvest to BOF cap, or discussion of whether the cap is appropriate or needs to be changed
147	No opinion	
148	Oppose	Targets larger, older age classes of chinook salmon
149	No opinion	Do agree conceptually with efforts to increase chinook harvest to BOF cap, or discussion of whether the cap is appropriate or needs to be changed
150	No opinion	
151	Oppose	The increased harvest by drift gill nets is not needed for management of the stocks
152	Oppose	No data to support sustainability of increased harvests; increases the chinook harvest cap
153	Support	Housekeeping
154	No opinion	
155	No opinion	Support elimination of current pink salmon plan and establishment of an adaptive management strategy that includes sockeye and pink and coho salmon management issues
156	No opinion	
157	No opinion	
158	No opinion	
159	Support	Agree with this concept - plan is not required if ADF&G has e.o authority
160	Oppose	
161	Support	

162	Support	Support addaptive management and maximum flexibility for managers to meet goals
163	Oppose	
164	Oppose	
165	No opinion	Proposal needs specific regulatory language. Also, data regarding participation and harvest levels is necessary to evaluate merits
166	Support in concept	Removing windows is consistent with adaptive fisheries management. Escapement goal changes not recommended by ADF&G esc. Goal committee.
167	No opinion	Allocative between commercial gear types
168	Oppose	Kasilof Plan needs to be reworked but this proposal is not the solution
169	Oppose	Removing windows is consistent with adaptive fisheries management. However, this proposal is too restrictive for adaptive management strategy
170	Oppose	not consistent with purpose of terminal fishery to reduce effort in traditional areas
171	No opinion	
172	Oppose	Support adaptive management strategy that relies on traditional time and area fishing when effective to meet escapement goals
173	Oppose	concurrent openings defeats purpose of terminal area
174	Oppose	eliminates terminal area
175	Oppose	Oppose to concept of windows - ADF&G has flexibility close the terminal sockeye fishery if chinook harvest is not sustainable
176	Oppose	
177	Oppose	Support in concept but language and complexity of fishery needs further discussion
178	Oppose	Change in goal not recommended by ADF&G esc goal committee - ADF&G has flexibility close the terminal sockeye fishery if chinook harvest is not sustainable
179	Oppose	
180	Oppose	Removing windows is consistent with adaptive fisheries management, but ADF&G needs flexibility of the terminal area
181	No opinion	Allocative between commercial gear types
182	No opinion	
183	No opinion	
184	No opinion	
185	No opinion	
186	No opinion	
187	Oppose	Changes in escapement goals and/or actions based on total return levels not necessary at this time
188	Oppose	
189	Oppose	
190	Oppose	
191	Oppose	
192	Oppose	
193	Oppose	Tied to run strength - has merit if based on escapement
194	Oppose	Changes in escapement goals not necessary at this time
195	Support	Removing windows is consistent with adaptive fisheries management.
196	Oppose	Changes in escapement goals and/or actions based on total return levels not necessary at this time
197	Oppose	
198	Oppose	
199	Oppose	
200	Support	Removing windows is consistent with adaptive fisheries management.
201	Oppose	Changes in escapement goals not necessary at this time
202	Oppose	Oppose concept of windows
203	Oppose	Reduces flexibility of ADF&G to manage stocks - increases probability of large esc.
204	Oppose	Language gives direction to ADF&G
205	Oppose	Differential harvest capabilities between fisheries makes this proposal impossible to implement without major changes in harvest techniques
206	Oppose	Support if ammended to assure that dept will meet low end of OEG

COMMENT# 9

7 of 13

207	Oppose	Support if ammended so that harvest tied to escapement levels
208	Oppose	
209	Oppose	
210	Oppose	Option already available through Emergency Order authority
210	Oppose	There is typically a harvestable surplus of early run Russian River sockeye salmon but a new fishery would have to be very restricted as there is no option fro inseason management based on weir count
211	Oppose	Delayed start to fishery will reduce harvest

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition
08 UCI BOF Sport Fish Proposal Comments

prop No.	fishery	K AFC posn	issue	comments
206	UCI Kenai Late Run Sockeye Plan		Amend Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon plan	
207	UCI Kenai Late Run Sockeye Plan		Allow the commissioner to increase the bag limit up to 12 sockeye salmon if abundance exceeds 4,000,000 salmon	
208	UCI Kenai Late Run Sockeye Plan		Allow additional harvest opportunity when in-river sockeye abundance warrants	
209				
210				
211	Personal Use	Oppose	Prohibit dipnetting on the Kenai River until BEG is met	
212	Personal Use	Oppose	Prohibit Personal Use dipnet fishery on Kenai River until escapement goals met	
213	Personal Use	Oppose	Link Personal Use dipnet openings to escapement numbers	
214	Personal Use	Oppose	Extend dipnet season on Kenai River	
215	Personal Use	Oppose	Increased harvest opportunity in Personal Use fishery in Kenai and Kasilof riversivers	
216	Personal Use	Oppose	Increase Kasilof River Personal Use household limit	
217	Personal Use	Oppose	Reduce Personal Use fishery limit to 5 salmon per person, 25 per household	
218	Personal Use	Oppose	Lower annual limits for Personal Use salmon harvest to 20 for head of household and 5 for each dependent and no more than 50% of limit may be taken from the Kenai River	
219	Personal Use	Oppose	Lower annual limits for Personal Use salmon harvest to 15 for head of household and 5 for each dependent	
220	Personal Use	Oppose	Prohibit Personal Use dipnets with mesh size over 2 1/2 inches	
221	Personal Use	Support as Amended	remove two-stroke outboards from the Personal Use fishery	Amended as follows: "Beginning in 2008, only vessels powered by 4 stroke or 2 stroke DFI motors may participate in the Kenai River motorized Personal Use dip net fishery". We are also interested in providing viable alternatives to harvest additional Sockeye such as allowing dipping from shore or non-motorized boats in the river above the Warren Ames Bridge.
222	Personal Use	wirhdraw	Remove two strokes from the Personal Use fishery	
223	Personal Use	wirhdraw	Require motorized boats utilizing the Personal Use fishery to be anchored or without power while fishing	
224	Personal Use	Oppose	Rod and reel as acceptable gear only	
225	Kasilof Chinook	Support	Keep wild fish on Tuesday, Thursday and saturday	Puts ADF&G management by EO into regulation
226	Kasilof Chinook	Support	Change bag limit to wild fish days- one clipped, one wild, or two clipped. Non wild days two clipped	Biologically sound and takes advantage of the surplus of hatchery fish. '06 and 07 naturally produced escapement was within the goal range of 650-1400, but 500-1000 hatchery fish also escaped the fishery in 06-07
227	Kasilof Chinook	Support as Amended	Prohibit fishing after retention	Amend to fly fishing only after retaining limit of chinook salmon
228	Kasilof Chinook	Neutral	Spawning sanctuary above bridge	Support 231 as amended; does nothing since fishing for chinook salmon is currently illegal above the bridge
229	Kasilof River	No Action	Limit power boats to below old kasilof landing	Not specifically withing BOF authority
230	Kasilof River	Oppose	Limit power boats to below slackwater	Presumed that 'slackwater' means from Tustumena Lake down
231	Kasilof River	Support as Amended	No fishing from boat above bridge until August 15	We agree that fishing for kings above the bridge should remain illegal, but have concerns about opportunity to fish for other species. Amend to fly fishing only to prevent fishing for chinook and allow fly fishing for resident species and sockeye
232	Kasilof River	Oppose	Repeals motor prohibition	COMMENT# 9

233	Kasilof Chinook	Oppose	Allow anchoring only in the people hole for fish landing	Maintain status quo
234	Kasilof Sockeye	Oppose	Increase daily (to 12) and bag (24) limits	ADF&G has the authority by EO when warranted
236	Kenai rainbow trout	Oppose	Bag and possession limit of 5 rbt in lakes and ponds of the Kenai River and kenai lake drainage	Current ADF&G strategy is to have the same regulations in place for all running waters and lakes connected to running waters that enter the Kenai River. We Support the Dept's. efforts to maintain continuity of regulations. The more liberal bag limit was instituted for land-locked/current or potential stocked lakes and should continue to have more liberal harvest.
237	Kenai rainbow trout	Oppose	Add lakes connected to the kenai to the 5 rbt bag limit	
238	Skilak Lake outlet	Oppose	4/15-6/11 rainbow trout spawning closure to upper killey river	we a Support a spawning closure from mid-May to mid-June; see proposal 239
239	Upper Kenai River rainbow trout	Support	Reduce spawning closure in upper river to 5/15-6/11	See Dept. figure that shows spawners by time period.
240	Upper Kenai River rainbow trout/dolly varden	Oppose	Prohibit all fishing prior to 6/15	Too vague Implies no fishing of any kind on the river from ?? Through 6/15
241	Upper Kenai River rainbow trout	Oppose	Prohibits removal of rbt from the water from may 2 through june 10	We Support a spawning closure from mid-May to mid-June; no data Supporting conclusions
242	Upper Kenai River rainbow trout/dolly varden	Oppose	In Kenai River, rbt and dv may not be removed from the water	Oppose; social issue; no data Supporting conclusions
243	Upper Kenai River rainbow trout/dolly varden	Neutral	Barbless hooks only above lower Killey River	Social issue. From barbed vs barbless meta-analysis by Schill and Scarpella: 1) Of 11 studies, 10 showed no sig. Differences; 2) Mean mortality (flies, lures combined)- 4.5% for barbed, 4.2% for barbless; 3) For rainbow pops with typical natural mortalities of 30-60%, this difference is irrelevant, even when fish are subjected to repeated capture.
244	Kenai River Rainbow trout/dolly varden	Neutral	Barbless hooks only	
245	Kenai River rbt/dv	Neutral	Barbless hooks only above moose river	
246	Kenai River rbt/dv	Neutral	Ban anchoring in the swan sanctuary (skilak outlet)	Social issue
247	Kenai River dv	Oppose	Limit harvest to one in posession and bag- any size	Support Dept position of limited harvest of pre-spawners and provide consistency in harvest strategy river-wide
248	Cooper L Arctic char	Support	Increase arctic char/dolly varden bag and possession limit to 5	Currently underutilized; 100K+ population of 'small fish'
249	Hidden L lake Trout	Support	Reduce lake trout bag limit to one	Effort relatively constant in last 3 years; catch and harvet decline. Last two years harvest 05-06 below yield potential (calculated in early 80's)
250	Northern Pike	Support	Add arc and scout lakes to 5-lines permitted lakes	ADFG proposal
251	Northern Pike	Support	Add Stormy Lake to 5-lines permitted lakes	ADF&G is currently examining ramifications to other species and may Support with seasonal limits that reduce by-catch (winter only fishery). Support if amended
252	Northern Pike	Support	Prohibit release of Northern Pike in any fishery	wanton waste issue; Support if ADF&G provides exemption
253	Upper Kenai River	No Action	Prohibit fishing from boats in proximity to ferry cable	Documentation of a problem?
254	Upper Kenai River	No Action	Increase size of youth fishing area at Kenai/russian river confluence	Documentation of a problem?
255	Kenai Chinook	Support as amended	Change bag limit 10 fish <20", 1 between 20-28", 1 > 28"	A moderate increase in the harvest of 1.2 fish is justified in the early run since there is an underharvest relative to the proportion of 1.2's in the return. The late run harvest is proportional to total return we Support a limited harvest of fish < than 28" with recording requirements (limit of 1 per person per season not counted against two fish limit, that does count against 5 king limit) No fishing from a boat after taking a King salmon 20in or longer.
256	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Change jack size limit to <28"	
257	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Change bag limits: jan1-july31, 1 per day under 30"; jan1-june30, 1 fish over 30"/under 44"/over 55"	
258	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Total annual limit of 5 25" or longer	
259	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Allow additional harvest of any fish 20+" missing an adipose fin	Presumed by authors to be kasilof strays;dept data indicates a very small straying rate in slikok creek, funny or killey. Also, a small portion of any run has a naturally occurring missing adipose fin
260	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Allow additional harvest of any fish missing an adipose fin	
261	Kenai Chinook	Opposed	Repeal slot limit in early run	Summary of inriver return, and harvest by age class suggests that slot is accomplishing its goal. there may need to be a discussion of whether to adjust the lower end to decrease the harvest of 1.3 fish

262	Kenai Chinook	Opposed	Repeal slot limit in early run	(increase the lower end of the slot). Questions about additional protection in July are whether the additional protection is warranted (early run fish are still in the mainstem), and whether there is disproportionate harvest of mainstem early run spawners. With regard to extending the slot in July, distribution on spawning beds is as important as total numbers in the river. The 20% mainstem spawners are being harvested disproportionately to other early run components. Also, need assessment of likely opportunity loss to fishery.
263	Kenai Chinook	K AFC proposal- Support	Keep slot limit in effect in middle river until end of chinook season (July 31)	
264	Kenai Chinook	Support	Keep slot limit in effect in lower river until July 14	
265	Kenai Chinook	Support	Keep fish intact (thru July 14) for measuring purposes	ADF&G proposal; puts current EO into regulation
266	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	No bait above Moose river from Jan 1- June 30	there is adequate protection for chinook salmon if the slot limit and closed waters at spawning stream mouth extensions are instituted; rbt restrictions should be in differing form if there are population concerns.
267	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Allow bait in the early run fishery starting May 1 or June 1	Currently done by EO; current exploitation rate approx 25% since 1999. new esc goal needs time to determine if EO inclusion of bait is chronic and needs to be fixed in regulation
268	Kenai Chinook	K AFC proposal- Support	Extend funny river, Slikok creek, and lower Killey river sanctuary closures thru end of king season	Also closes these areas to sockeye and rainbow trout fishing from boat although regs allow fly fishing only from shore. Can we advocate allowing fly fishing only from boats as well?
269	Kenai Chinook	Support	Extend Funny River, Slikok Creek, and Lower Killey River sanctuary closures thru end of chinook season; add mouths of Upper and Middle Killey	
270	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Extend season through August 7	EO option currently available
271	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Close sport fishing when commercial fishing closes	Current management strategy provides sockeye harvest opportunity and season end to meet escapement objectives. There are restrictions in place to limit commercial fishing if the chinook escapement is lagging
272	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Cook Inlet fisheries managed for a minimum in-river escapement of 35,000	
273	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	variety of changes	
274	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	remove provisions that restrict reducing the closed waters at the mouth of the Kenai if the inriver return is less than 40,000	
275	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Limit king tags issued to non residents to 1/2 of the projected harvest	Implementation issues
276	Kenai River salmon	Oppose	Set season bag limit of 1 chinook, 12 sockeye, 4 coho	Will need individual harvest record
277	Kenai River salmon	Oppose	Set export limit of 125 lbs	Implementation issues
278	Kenai River salmon	Neutral	Allow sockeye salmon not hooked in the mouth to be retained	Biologically and socially sound; potentially reduces crowding; increases harvest opportunity for anglers. May support if amended to provide a tool for liberalization when escapement exceeds goal
279	Kenai Peninsula coho	Oppose	Increase bag and possession limit to 3	Coho exploitation rate 84% in 1999 and range of 36% to 44% from 2000-03 with overall average of 44%. However, the dept has discontinued annual population estimates so there will be no estimates of exploitation rate in the future. the dept needs to provide an estimate of the increase in exploitation rate that might be expected for a 3 fish bag limit. the dept.'s current position leaves fish on the table from previous dept testimony that 60% is sustainable fixed exploitation rate; by extension the dept must revise their position to only 50% is sustainable harvest or discuss how to allow exploitation rate to increase to 60%. the department should also provide backup for their assertion that '05 liberalizations increased harvest by 10-15%.
280	UCI coho	Oppose	Increase bag and possession limit to 4	
281	Kenai River coho	Oppose	Increase bag and possession limit to 5	
282	Kenai River coho	Support	Change season closure from Oct 31 to Nov 30 in Skilak lake and Kenai River below Skilak	Coho exploitation rate 84% in 1999 and range of 36% to 44% from 2000-03 with overall average of 44%. Currently these river sections account for approx 80% of harvest and 75-96% of spawners
283	Kenai River	Support	Add one drift boat only day for guided and non-guided anglers	Similar to 285

284	Kenai River	No Action	Add one drift boat only day (Thursday)- for nonguided anglers	Support moving non-guided proportion of harvest toward 50%, but also want guides to have the opportunity to book clients for a drift only day
285	Kenai River	Support	Add one drift boat only day (Thursday)	
286	Kenai River	No Action	Add one drift boat only day (friday)- non guided	Support moving non-guided proportion of harvest toward 50%, but also want guides to have the opportunity to book clients for a drift only day
287	Kenai River	Oppose	Add one drift boat only day (tuesday) from skilak to soldotna bridge	
288	Kenai River	Oppose	Sunday, Wednesday, Friday drift only days	
289	Kenai River	Oppose	Phase in drift boats only over 6-yr period, one day per week each yr- July only.	
290	Kenai River	Oppose	Drift only pollution problem fixed or wake study complete	Too vague
291	Kenai River	Oppose	July (08,09) and year-round (2010) 4-strokes or dfi only	None of these proposals allows 2 stroke use during Aug1-June 30 when there are no measurable levels of TAH; there is some biological basis for complete removal with reports that show effects on juv rbt at levels as low as 1ppb, however, our orgaization currently Supports use of 2 strokes from aug1 to June 30 and believes that attrition will ultimately remove most or all of the two strokes from the river over time
292	Kenai River	Oppose	Phase in 4 strokes or dfi; no time line	
293	Kenai River	Oppose	Phase in 4 strokes or dfi; no time line	
294	Kenai River	Opposed	Resolution from local govts to address hydrocarbon issues in Personal Use and inriver fisheries. Solutions may include but are not limited to: 1. Changes in means and methods that limits motorized run time. 2. Limit the total number of motorized boats operating at any one time on the river with a complete phase out of non-direct fuel injected (DFI) 2-strokes. 3. Increase use of electric motors or drift boats.	
295	Kenai River	No Action	Reduce fishing hours or restrict motorized use to reduce hydrocarbon discharge	Very broad; too vague
296	Kenai River	Oppose	Reduce outboard motors to 35 hp; reduce guide days, add drift only days	Technically not within BOF authority
297	Kenai Chinook	Oppose	Prohibit chinook fishing from boats from 6am Wednesday through 6am Friday from june 25 thru july31	
298	Kenai River	Oppose	Prohibit non-residents from boat fishing unless accompanied by 2nd degree kindred relative from 6pm to 6am	see proposal 312
299	Kenai River	Oppose	open all waters below soldotna bridge during chinook season	K AFC position is that sections of river adjacent to spawning tribs should receive protection
300	Kenai River	Oppose	Require power boat safety course	Oppose this because there are no details, no provisions for experience exemptions. Also, boating safety is a statewide issue and not within the BOF authority
301	Upper Kenai River	Support	restrict motor boat use from kenai lake to dept marker at princess rapids	the intent of the original opening was for transportation, not fishing
302	Kenai and Kasilof rivers	No Action	Institute limited entry program for guides	Conceptually agree with guide limitations and support ADF&G efforts to promulgate regulations to that effect. However, we think this is outside BOF authority
303	Kenai River	Support	Modify guide hours to 7am-7pm	same as 304 K AFC proposal
304	Kenai River	Support	Modify guide hours to 7am-7pm in may-july	May help alleviate problems from proposals 306-7; helps goal of achieving 50% harvest to non-guided anglers
305	Kenai River	No Action	Modify guide hours to 8am-8pm in june-july	Similar to 304 so support intent but not the hours
306	Kenai River	Support	Prohibit guides from being in 'holes' 10 minutes before starting time (6am)	Support because it provides a placeholder for discussion of guides holding places in popular fishing holes prior to the start of fishing
307	Kenai River	Support	Prohibit guides from being on river more than 1/2 hour before starting time (6am)	Amend to read that no guide boat can impede the fishing activities of non-guided anglers prior to legal fishing hours; not impede should mean that guides must yield right of way to fisherman currently fishing

308	Kenai River	No Action	Monday (non-guide)/Thursday (guide) drift day; all other days- odd numbered days guides 1am-11am; unguided 1pm-11pm; reverse on even days	Placeholder to give BOF opportunity to find ways to restrict number of boats on river in July. Support conceptually to reduce crowding and conflict between guided and non-guided anglers
309	Kenai River	No Action	Prohibit guides from river on thursdays in June and July	Support concept of increasing non-guided portion of the harvest
310	Kenai River	No Action	Prohibit guides fishing on sundays in July	See proposal 312
311	Kenai River	No Action	Prohibit guides fishing on sundays in July	
312	Kenai River	Support	Prohibit guides from boat fishing unless with 2nd degree kindred relative during non-guide hours	
313	Kenai River	No Action	Limit guides to one group per day in July	Support as a method for reducing guided effort that helps equalize harvest between guided and unguided anglers; also decreases wake activity and hydrocarbon issues. Support amendment to allow guides alone or with other guides
314	Kenai River	Support	Limit guides to one group per day in June and July	
315	Kenai and Kasilof rivers.	No Action	Limit guides to one group per day on either river	
316	UCI rivers	No Action	Limit guides to one group per day	
317	Kenai and Kasilof rivers.	No Action	Restrict guides from registering to fish on both rivers	
318	Kenai and Kasilof rivers.	No Action	Eliminate same day fishing on both rivers	
319	Kenai River	No Action	Prohibit registered Kenai guides from fishing the Kasilof during kenai closures	
320	Kasilof River	Support	Prohibit guided angling from boat on Mondays from Jan1 thru July 31	Guides currently prohibited from operating on sundays in July only. Support concept of one day of non-guided fishing on the kasilof in May and June
321	Kenai River	Oppose	Return to 1998 guide hours: no Mondays May-July, 6am-6pm June-July; no sundays	
322	Kenai River	Oppose	Repeal prohibition of guides from Monday fishing	
323	Kenai River	Oppose	Allow guides to fish on Mondays from drift boats	
324	Kenai River	Oppose	Increase number of anglers allowed in guide boat to 5 (6 with guide)	
325	Kenai River	Oppose	Designate one day per week for guided anglers only	
326	Kenai River	Oppose	Allow guided angling 7 days/wk with individual guides allowed 5 days/week	
327	Kasilof River	Oppose	Eliminate Sunday closure for guides	Currently only in July
328	Kenai River	Support	Allow guides to operate a rod when fishing with disabled clients	ADF&G proposal
329	Kenai River	Support	Boat registration remains valid until deregistered with DNR	ADF&G proposal



Chickaloon Village

Traditional Council
(Nay'dini'aa Na')

RECEIVED
JAN 07 2008
BOARDS

Katherine Wade,
Clan Grandmother

Gary Harrison,
Traditional Chief

Doug Wade,
Chairman/Elder

Rick Harrison,
Vice-Chairman

Penny Westing,
Secretary/Elder

Albert Harrison,
Elder Member

Jesse Lanman,
Elder Member

Burt Shaginoff,
Elder Member

Larry Wade,
Elder Member

Jennifer Harrison,
Executive Director

To:
The Alaska Board of Fisheries
ATTN: BOF Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

In reference to proposals: 147, 148, 150, 151, and 348.

Proposal Number: 348 (5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.)

Subject: Extend waters open to King Salmon fishing near Eklutna Tailrace

Position: Oppose

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council opposes proposal #348 (in "The Alaska Board of Fisheries 2007/2008 Proposed Changes in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik Areas Finfish Regulations...") which calls for extending waters open to king salmon fishing near the Eklutna Tailrace.

Chickaloon Village has spent several years and nearly one million dollars implementing stream habitat and salmon population restoration efforts to bring Moose Creek salmon populations back to their historic levels. Extending waters open to king salmon fishing near the Eklutna Tailrace will lead to interception of Chinook salmon bound for Moose Creek. In an effort to see a maximum return from our investments in restoring Moose Creek habitat and Chinook salmon escapement we ask that the Board of Fisheries not pass proposal #348.

Background

The Chickaloon Native Village is a federally recognized Tribe based along the Matanuska River, one of the headwaters of the Upper Cook Inlet. The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (Chickaloon Village) is the governing body of the Tribe, which strives to maintain, restore and protect the fish within our traditional territory, as the well-being of all fish species inhabiting the territory determines the economic, physical, social, cultural and spiritual well-being of the Tribe.

During the coal boom of the 1920's, Moose Creek's alignment was straightened to

allow a railroad spur-line to be built along the creek within the floodplain (a hand-drawn railroad alignment map from 1927 confirms the creek was straightened). The channel banks were diked sufficiently to prevent channel migration (in some areas the dikes still remain more than 80 years later) and the creek became swift, steep and narrow. These alterations to the creek disabled the natural stream processes of flood-control and enabled hydraulic forces to erode the stream channel bed into bedrock waterfalls at several locations. Over time these waterfalls became impassable to fish migrating upstream. Though the railroad spur along Moose Creek was abandoned in the 1940's, fish passage remained blocked until restoration efforts occurred in the 2000's.

Chickaloon Village, along with state and federal agencies, restored fish passage on Moose Creek by bypassing the waterfall barriers and restoring historic meander bends to the creek. Though the railroad construction and maintenance actions removed many ecological attributes of the creek, such as rearing habitat, spawning gravels, and floodplain connectivity, it was determined that restoring fish passage would significantly enhance the creek's ability to support large numbers of pacific salmon by restoring access to more than 5 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitats.

In October 2006, the Alaska Railroad implemented a restoration project at the mouth of Moose Creek. They removed in-stream pilings and bridge abutments that were installed by the railroad around 1918. These abutments and pilings constricted Moose Creek to a narrow, high-banked channel and the pilings accumulated woody-debris creating difficult migration barriers. In addition, the wood material used for the pilings and abutments was soaked in creosote to prevent decay. The restoration was completed and the disrupted floodplain was re-vegetated with dormant willow cuttings and a perennial/annual grass seed mix.

During the summer of 2007 Chickaloon Native Village implemented a salmon population restoration project on Moose Creek. The goal of this project is to attempt an increase in salmon escapement and habitat utilization on Moose Creek of Chinook salmon to evaluate population recovery through evaluation and use of moist air incubation, otolith marking for assessment, and eyed-egg planting back into Moose Creek. These technologies eliminate chemical use, dramatically reduce cost and use of high water flows for incubation, otolith mark 100% of affected stocks at almost no cost, utilize stocks indigenous to the watershed and preserve more of the natural life cycle of the salmon than any other assisted (hatchery) process in use today. These benefits are all valuable to the Tribe's culture and to physical (stewardship) responsibility. Monitoring the results of this project will be ongoing for the next five to ten years.

Proposal Number: 147 (5 AAC 21.366(2). Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.)

Subject: Add Thursday to the allowed king salmon fishing periods in the Northern District as follows:

(2) fishing periods are from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

Position: Oppose

WHY

The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council opposes proposal #147 for the same reasons listed above in opposition to proposal #348. Interception of Moose Creek king salmon may greatly impact our efforts to rehabilitate salmon escapement in Moose Creek to historical numbers.

Proposal Number: 148 (5 AAC 21.366(4). Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.)

Subject: Increase maximum king salmon net length and mesh size in the Northern District as follows: (4) set gill nets may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and eight [SIX] inches in mesh size.

Position: Oppose

WHY

The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council opposes proposal #148 for the same reasons listed above in opposition to proposal #348. Interception of Moose Creek king salmon may greatly impact our efforts to rehabilitate salmon escapements in Moose Creek to historical numbers.

Proposal Number: 150 (5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.)

Subject: Modify fishing periods in the Northern District as follows:

Except as provided in (8) of this section, the season will be from May 25 until June 24; fishing periods are from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm on Mondays and Fridays only;

Issue: Remove the limitation on three fishing periods and add a second regular period per week.....

Position: Oppose

WHY

The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council opposes proposal #148 for the same reasons listed above in opposition to proposal #348. Interception of Moose Creek king salmon may greatly impact our efforts to rehabilitate salmon escapements in Moose Creek to historical numbers. Additionally, the commercial harvest allocation (cap) is set at 12,500 king salmon for the Northern District, however there is little escapement data and very few escapement goals in the river systems to which these king salmon are returning. It is poor management to allow specific harvest allocations without specific escapement information. Please increase data collection and escapement understanding before allowing increases in catch opportunity.

Proposal Number: 151 (5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.)

Subject: Allow drift gillnets during May and June in west side fishery as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 21.366(4) as follows:

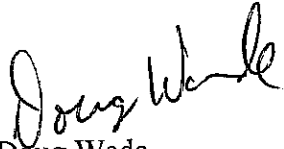
(4)(a) Drift gillnets will not exceed 100 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh size.

Position: Oppose

WHY

The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council opposes proposal #148 for the same reasons listed above in opposition to proposal #348. Interception of Moose Creek king salmon may greatly impact our efforts to rehabilitate salmon escapements in Moose Creek to historical numbers. Additionally, the commercial harvest allocation (cap) is set at 12,500 king salmon for the Northern District, however there is little escapement data and very few escapement goals in the river systems to which these king salmon are returning. It is poor management to allow specific harvest allocations without specific escapement information. Please increase data collection and escapement understanding before allowing increases in catch opportunity.

Tsin' aen,
(Thank You)


Doug Wade
Chairman

January 12, 2008

Att: Dept of Fish & Game
BOF Comments
PO Box Board's Support Section
Juno, AK 99811-5526

To whom it may concern on the Board of Fish:

It has come to my attention that after the last King Salmon count on Alexander Creek, Fish & Game has intentions of closing King Salmon season entirely, or leaving a partial Opener of 2 - 3 days per week.

I've been on Alexander Creek for approximately the past 15 years, own a home on Alexander Creek, and pay taxes to the State of Alaska, which is why I hope my comments and suggestions weigh heavily on this Board.

I've seen the good years and the bad years. I'm aware of the Pike, I'm aware of the European clientele, I'm aware of the commercial fishing - I'm aware of all of the problems affecting the King Salmon fishing in the Susitna Valley.

I have 3 children that come to Alaska to fish and visit regularly from King Salmon season through Silver Salmon season. I would like this Board to leave Alexander Creek open to a 3 day a week fishery, as opposed to closing it completely. I also counted the King Salmon from Sucker Creek to Granite Creek on August 21st, 2007 and came up with a total of 674 King Salmon, and counted 150 spawning pairs that same day, with a total count of 674 fish.

I know you only include a partial count in your numbers, so your count of 240 fish is an estimate of approximately 40% of what I saw. I strongly urge Fish & Game to leave this fishery a 3 day fishery for King Salmon from the confluence of the Alexander and the Susitna to ¼ mile up the Alexander, as this will be fair for all - fair for the fish, fair for the people who live on Alexander Creek that use these fish for subsistence, and fair for the people who fish for the sport & fun. 90% of the fish my family & I catch are released, as we catch & release and fish for the joy, fun, and sport. I'm sure you're aware that most of the commercial lodges that were on Alexander Creek - including Gabbert's, Alexander Creek Lodge, Black Fox, and Mount Susitna Lodge - have all gone out of business so therefore, the pressure on this river is very light at this time. With a 3 day Opening, there will be no incentive for European clientele or anyone to come down from the Susitna Valley to fish Alexander Creek, when there is much more opportunity above the Alexander.

I truly appreciate your consideration in this matter, as I would love to be able to fish where I live for 3 days a week, as opposed to leaving Alexander Creek to fish the Deshka River, the Yetna River, or any other river above the Alexander - especially with \$3 per gallon fuel prices that has to be hauled down the Susitna River from Deshka Landing.

Thank you very much,

John Andrighetti
PO Box ACR
Alexander Creek, AK 99695

RECEIVED TIME JAN. 13. 5:43AM

PRINT TIME JAN. 13. 5:44AM

COMMENT# 11

Dear member of the ADFG Board,

This letter is to show support for proposals coming up at the meeting in Feb. Concerning Cook Inlet Salmon regulations.

Proposal #143 and #145 should pass because the East side does not catch Fish bound for the counter on the Yentna River. If the east side is passively managed they can still shut us down with emergency closure.

Proposal #147 should pass because the Northern district doesn't come close to catching the amount of King salmon that has been determined by the Biologists to be harvestable.

Thank you for serving on this board, it can't be easy.

Michael and Susan Carlson
Permit holders from the Northern district.
#4H61201R and #4H60775Q

1051



RECEIVED
JAN 14 2008
BOARDS

January 8, 2008

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska, 99811-5526

Attention: Alaska Board of Fisheries (ABOF)

InRe: Anchorage Meeting, February 1-12, 2008

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board Members,

I have been sport fishing on the Kenai River and other Alaska streams and lakes since 1986, and have been a resident of Soldotna since 1997. I have also sport fished much of the Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, Resurrection Bay and other Alaska salt waters for halibut, salmon, and rock fish. I am conservation-minded and believe that water quality and habitat protection should be at the forefront of priorities for all healthy fisheries. Without healthy habitats, eventually we will have a decline of our fisheries. (Please note ADN, LTE, 1/9/08, on the dramatic sockeye decline in the Fraser River in British Columbia since 1999).

Since this Board is responsible for Alaska fisheries, it would seem that your interests would (should?) be broader than just fish allocation, and fishing methods and means. I believe that your publicly stated policies on fishery habitats are every bit as important as fish allocations because, without assuring healthy spawning and maturing fish habitats, eventually there may not be sufficient fish to allocate?

Even though my letter also transmits to you my comments on various proposals which you will consider during the referenced meeting, I am suggesting you establish a standing ABOF committee, for this meeting and future meetings, to evaluate selected proposals for their potential impacts on fisheries habitats, and to recommend pertinent ABOF policies on this subject. Further, I suggest this Board formally adopt a policy of habitat protection and conservation for all of the fisheries under its purview. Such a formal policy adoption would serve notice to many other State and Federal agencies and Alaska municipalities regarding the seriousness of fishery habitat degradation. FYI, this degradation is slowly happening to the renowned Kenai River because there are 16-18 different entities, which are involved in its care but are not committed, as a high priority, to its care. As a result, none is responsible for its care, and River users/uses seem to come before habitat protection and fisheries conservation.

That concludes my message to you, except for my comments below on selected proposals. I think you will find that all of my comments are consistent with healthy

1 of 3

COMMENT#

13

fisheries habitats and healthy fisheries. I have no commercial interests in any fishery or in any fishery operation.

Proposal Comments:

Support: 227-does not allow Kasilof king salmon catch and release

230-Kasilof River power boat restrictions

252-does not allow pike release on Kenai Peninsula; release conviction should have severe penalties

278-allow foul-hooked sockeyes; suggest putting catch record on fishing license to enforce; would reduce many injured and/or dying caught and released fish which should increase overall survival for spawning

283-add one drift day per week to the Kenai River; reduces hydrocarbon pollution (HC's) and sediment turbidity

284-ditto

285-ditto

286-ditto

287-ditto

288-ditto

289-ban 2-stroke motors on the Kenai River July '08, July '09, completely 2010; reduces HC's; phase in drift fishery over 6 years beginning in 2008

290-drift only until Kenai River is cleaned up

291-ban 2-stroke motors on Kenai River like proposal 289

292-ditto

293-ditto

294-fix the Kenai River HC problem

295-ditto plus add more drift days

296-ditto

302-prohibit guides on Kenai River salmon holes before 5:50am. (Note: Current regulations do not allow anchoring in salmon holes. However, powerboats can and do anchor-in-place in salmon holes with the engine idling to hold their place until 6am. This loophole needs to be closed and enforced!)

307-guides not allowed on River before 5:30am (Note: This proposal should be combined with proposal 302)

308-add one drift day per week on the Kenai River

309-ditto

310-absolutely no guides on the water on Sundays (Note: Severe penalties should be imposed for even first offenses; there is no plausible deniability of this regulation)

311-ditto

320-impose unguided drift Mondays on the Kasilof River (Note: Increased guide activity on the Kasilof River in the past 6-8 years, where they fish nearly 24/7, it's almost impossible to compete with guides who anchor in the best holes whether I am fishing in a drift boat or fishing from the bank)

323-allow guides on drift boat Mondays on the Kenai River

Oppose: 5-allow king salmon catch and release on Anchor River and Deep Creek (Note: If one is lucky enough to catch one's king salmon limit, it makes no sense to continue to injure or kill more fish [average mortality of 2nd caught fish averages 22%], while competing with other less fortunate anglers for fishing space and fish)

222-allows 2 stroke motors on the already impaired Kenai River

223-ditto

232-allows Kasilof River power boats

233-allows Kasilof River anchoring in salmon holes; This would cause severe problems for people fishing from the bank and from other drift boats

279-increase coho salmon limits (note: this fishery is diminished already)

280-ditto

281-ditto

282-Extend coho season; same comment as for proposals 279,280,281

302-establish guide limited entry program (Note: Since guides do not fish while guiding clients, such a program is not constitutionally justified under the Alaska resource equal access clause. Suggest ABOF contact the Alaska Department of Law for guidance)

322-repeal guide boat prohibition on Mondays (Note: some guides and some guide employers would like to own the rivers and fish 24/7. They already control the rivers 5 days a week and some guides fish seven days a week. Some Kenai River guides have begun to guide clients on king salmon catch and release trips AFTER the season closes on July 31. This practice should be terminated because it influences DF&G escapement data)

324-6 people in a guide boat; selfishness and no common sense!

325-allows only guided anglers to fish one day per week; gives the appearance guides own the river!?

326-allows guides to guide clients 7 days a week on staggered days; it's bad enough for 5 days a week, and enforcement would be nearly impossible.

326-eliminate Sunday closure for guides on the Kasilof—NO!!

328-allow guides to fish when guiding disabled clients (Note: This suggestion is absurd. If a disabled client is so disabled that he/she cannot fish, hook his/her fish, fight his/her fish, [the guide usually lands the fish], then this proposal requests the guide to hold a fishing/fish proxy for his disabled clients. Clients, who are essentially so disabled that they would require the guide to fish for them, should probably take a guided sight-seeing float trip, and give their proxy to someone other than a guide!?)

Respectfully Submitted,



Richard Hahn

P.O. Box 2754

Soldotna, Alaska, 99669

907-262-8575

rdhahn@eagle.ptialaska.net

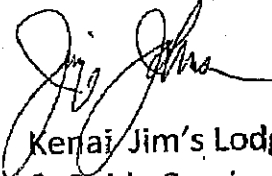


Greetings Members of the Board of Fisheries 2008:

I am a professional sport fishing guide and lodge owner in Soldotna, Alaska. I began guiding anglers on the Kenai River in 1978; I have seen many changes to the Kenai River and the sport fisheries. I have testified many times before the Alaska Board of Fisheries, and I can understand some of your frustrations with the process. I have served as president of the Kenai River Professional Guides Association in past years. My written articles have been printed in Alaska's newspapers relating to our fisheries. Hopefully, my comments that follow will be of value to your deliberation process at the upcoming meetings.

I believe some of the greatest dangers to the health of Alaska's fisheries is just plain old human greed, and the lack of common sense. We must protect our natural resources from those selfish individuals who do not value the rights of others, or of the resource itself. The history of our fisheries is replete with examples of mismanagement, greed, injustice, etc. Hopefully, you will be able to make quality decisions at the hearings, and help to maintain and restore proper fisheries management for all Alaskans.

Jim Johnson, Owner



Kenai Jim's Lodge
& Guide Service
Box 3675
Soldotna, Alaska

RECEIVED TIME JAN. 14. 2:09PM

1 of 5
PRINT TIME JAN. 14. 2:13PM

COMMENT# 14

Proposals 255, 256, 257, & 258

I am supporting Proposal 256: I have testified in past years before your board about the issue of harvesting jack king salmon on the Kenai River. I warned your board and ADF&G about the genetic alteration of the king salmon on the Kenai River. My warnings were not heeded by your boards rulings, and now we find the Kenai River experiencing way too many immature male king salmon returning to the Kenai River.

The Kenai River has made its world-class distinction due to the giant king salmon that have been found in its waters. Sport fishing regulations that encourage fishermen to release immature male king salmon has produced a significant downsizing of the returning king salmon in recent years. We need to encourage fishermen to retain these immature salmon by not counting them as part of their daily bag limit. The practice of targeting the larger king salmon, and releasing the jack king salmon has led to smaller king salmon in the Kenai River.

PROPOSAL 262

We support the adoption of Proposal 262: The adoption of this proposal will bring back some sanity to the early-run king salmon fishing on the Kenai River.

The early-run of king salmon on the Kena River is being protected with the bag limits, reduced fishing areas and times, and bait prohibitions. The slot-limit regulation that was implemented is not necessary for protecting the early-run king salmon escapement. ADF&G's concerns about the lack of 6 ½ year old king salmon in this run is unwarranted; the rest of the world would like to have more 6 ½ year old king salmon in their rivers too. ADF&G has failed to accurately define what has happened to the size of the total return of this run of king salmon. The slot limit is an excellent example of how you can bring a kaotic regulation into a fishery, not solve the escapement problem, yet do an excellent

job in hurting the sport fishing industry. Please support the adoption of Proposal 262.

PROPOSALS 279, 280, & 281

We would like to see one of these proposals adopted: We need to get back to the 3 fish coho salmon bag limit on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers; the reduced bag limit of two per day was implemented because of escapement concerns by ADF&G.

ADF&G has not ever conducted accurate escapement numbers on coho salmon into the Kenai or Kasilof rivers. The concern relating to coho escapement has been generated by the poor sport fishing catches in recent years. The problems with lower coho escapements into the Kenai and Kasilof rivers is due to excessive emergency fishing periods given the the Central District commercial fishermen! The Central District nets have been slaughtering the coho while in pursuit of the surplus sockeye salmon.

The present reduced bag limit tells fishermen to fish elsewhere in Alaska and Canada. Please adopt Proposal 279.

PROPOSALS 270 & 271:

We support the extention of the king salmon sport fishing season on the Kenai River. Commercial fishing for king salmon continues after the sport fishing closure on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. The July 31st closure is based upon tradition, rather than by scientific fisheries management. The king salmon run

has a great decline historically after the first week in August according to sonar counts. The commercial fishing industry is allowed to harvest these late king salmon; the sport fishing industry should be allowed access to these fish too. Please adopt one of the above proposals to help bring some equality to the king salmon fishery.

PROPOSAL 274

We oppose this proposal because of our concerns about adequate escapement numbers not being met for Kenai and Kasilof late-run king salmon. The present king salmon sonar counters do not operate accurately when sockeye salmon are present; the inaccurate escapement numbers for late-run king salmon causes biologists to err concerning the management of the fishery. The commercial and sport fisheries have been allowed to harvest king salmon stocks in past years when inadequate escapement has occurred on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Allowing the commercial terminal fishery to occur at the mouths of the Kenai and Kasilof rivers will further destroy escapement opportunities for late-run king salmon.

STOP THE Anti-GUIDED ANGLER REGULATIONS!

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has attempted over the years to accommodate the nonguided anglers' concerns on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers: regulations have been passed to require sport fishing guides to acquire many certificates and licenses; days and hours of fishing have been implemented to allow nonguided anglers less competition for the fish. You may have noticed that there is not a

RECEIVED TIME JAN. 14. 2:09PM

PRINT TIME JAN. 14. 2:13PM

COMMENT#

14

4 of 5

shortage of proposals to further over-regulate the guided angler industry; adoption of more regulations will not solve the user conflicts that exist on these rivers.

Years ago, I advocated that the State of Alaska provide more quality access to more quality fisheries throughout Alaska; needless to say, my words were ignored, and you have to deal with all the fishery conflicts. We have more regulations than anywhere in the world (that I'm aware of) relating to sport fisheries! The present regulatory mess in our sport fisheries may only be solved by a Limited Entry system for sport fishing guides. I appreciate our Free Enterprise system in our economy, but Alaska's mismanagement of our fisheries may have destroyed that possibility from existing in some of our fisheries.

5 of 5

RECEIVED TIME JAN. 14. 2:09PM

PRINT TIME JAN. 14. 2:13PM

COMMENT#

14



ATTN: BOF Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907 465 6094

RECEIVED
JAN 15 2008
BOARDS

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Fish:

My Name is Tom Rollman, and I have been set netting in the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District of Cook Inlet for 37 years. I support proposal #143 for the following reasons:

- 1) The Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District is managed on Yentna River/Susitna River escapement and SHOULD NOT BE.
- 2) The Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District catches very few, if any, Yentna River/Susitna River Sockeye. Only FIFTEEN (15) permits were fished in the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District in 2007. These few permits on thirty-five (35) miles of beach could have no significant impact on sockeye returns.
- 3) At its heart, Proposal #143 is a FAIRNESS issue. According to ADF&G, the Northern District and especially the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District, the fishing group where these fish are bound, is the only group NOT BEING ALLOWED to catch them! A fact supported by Fishery Manuscript No. 07-07 is that one in four sockeye caught in East Side CENTRAL District set nets is a Yentna sockeye. Another fact supported by Fishery Manuscript No. 07-07 is that one in four sockeye caught by the CORRIDOR DRIFT boats is a Yentna sockeye.
- 4) Proposal 143 is NOT asking for any additional fishing time. This proposal asks for the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District to be PASSIVELY managed for two, twelve (12) hour periods per week.
- 5) According to the ADF&G, Proposal #143 is not a threat to the sockeye return to Turnagain Arm. The sockeye runs to Turnagain Arm streams are stronger now than ever.
- 6) The passage of Proposal #143 is an opportunity for the Board of Fish to help a struggling and economically depressed small group of fishermen with NO HARM to the resource or any other fishing group.
- 7) The passage of Proposal #143 would have a positive economic impact on the fifteen (15) fishermen left in the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District.
- 8) Fishermen in the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District can drive their fish to market. Being open on the two regularly scheduled periods per week would provide a stable and reliable fishery so fishermen and processors could count on a reliable source to fill fresh markets.
- 9) According to the ADF&G, Proposal #143 is not a threat to the sockeye return to Turnagain Arm which is stronger now than ever.

Submitted by Thomas M. Rollman,
President, Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District of Cook Inlet
P.O. Box 770778, Eagle River, AK 99577
907 696 2380

1 of 1

January 15, 2008

Alaska Dept of Fish & Game
Board of Fisheries
Public Comment
Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals

RECEIVED
JAN 15 2008
BOARDS

Charles Pinckney
8823 July Creek Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577

REGARDING: Proposal # 264 (Extend early run king salmon slot limit below the Soldotna bridge through July 14)

Dear Board Members,

Please accept this letter as my public comment and support for proposal #264 for Upper Cook Inlet Finfish. Early run kings need the added protection of an extended slot limit timeframe. Too often these fish that were protected though out June are then taken off their spawning beds the very day that the slot limit is lifted on July 1st.

In addition, I would like to add that I am opposed to extending the seasonal closures as proposed in proposal # 268. It is my belief that harvest restrictions; such as extended slot limit times or complete catch and release, should be used in place of access or opportunity restrictions. I also believe that these harvest restrictions if put in place would have the added affect of reduced angler participation. Reduced angler participation; i.e. Harvest Restrictions, would benefit the river with less crowding, bank erosion and pollution without reducing opportunity.

Ideally I would like to see the slot limit in place for the entire drainage of the Kenai River for the duration of the king season, without extending the sanctuary closures. Let us look for ways that we can conserve and protect without restricting opportunity.

Sincerely,



Charles Pinckney

COMMENT#

16

RECEIVED TIME JAN. 15. 8:58AM

JAN 15 2008

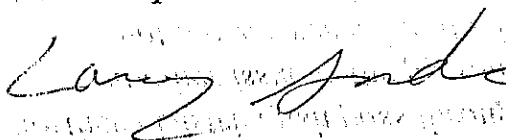
Alaska's Board of Fish,

I am a very mad sport fisherman in the Valley. My family for years used to go camping and fishing. Now instead of fishing and camping, we just go camping. There are NO fish making it to the Northern District streams.

The Cook Inlet drift fleet catches way to many salmon bound for the Northern District. Last year the drift fleet in three consecutive openers harvested almost 1.2 Million sockeye. The Yenta and Susitna big not reach their management goals. This is a travesty. I would like the BOF to pass proposal 138. This would reinstate the pre-2005 Northern District Salmon Management Plan. The drift fleet should be confined to the East-side corridor until salmon heading to the Northern District can pass. At the 2005 meeting the drift fleet was given Area 1, which is a part of Cook Inlet south of Kaligan Island, down to the southern boundary. Area 1 goes all the way across the Inlet. The BOF thought that the restrictions of putting the drift fleet in Area 1 would let fish past to the Northern District. Yet from July 5 to July 18 in Area 1 is where all the fish are. So the BOF in 2005 authorized ADF&G to restrict the drift fleet to Area1, so fish would pass to the Northern District. Yet this is the area where all the Northern District fish are. The drift fleet should fish the East-side corridor until these Northern District fish pass through the Inlet.

Another issue is the personal use fishery in the Kenai River. I don't know what the answer is but the PU fishery is out of control. There are no rules or regulations being adhered to. People do not clip their fishes tails, write down their numbers, over-harvest, and worst of all is the non-resident participation in this fishery. It use to be a fair fishery 10 years ago. Now it is just out of control. My family likes to catch sockeye, sport fishing up river in the Kenai. We used to think that we could tell when the nets were in, now with this huge growing PU fishery, we can't tell any difference when the nets are in because the PU fishery has a far more detrimental effect on the sport fishery than we ever thought possible.

Please help address these issues,



Laney Anderson
16231 Carlisle St
Eagle River, Ak. 99577

1 of 1

COMMENT# 17



MAILED
JAN 15 2008

RECEIVED
JAN 15 2008
BOARDS

January 15, 2008

Boards Support Section
Attn: BOF Comments
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802

Re: Proposal #264

Dear Members of the Board of Fisheries,

I've been a guide on the Kenai River before the slot limit was passed for the protection of the 44"-55" early run king salmon. I've liked what I've seen but based on what research I have done I believe that it makes biological sense to protect what's made it through until July 14th. It seems like the impact on the late run would be minimal all the while conserving additional early run 5 year fish.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Keith Holtan
Trapper Creek, Alaska

1 of 1

RECEIVED TIME JAN. 15. 3:58PM

PRINT TIME JAN. 15. 3:59PM

COMMENT# 18



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

P.O. Box 2139
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139
(907) 262-7021

IN REPLY REFER TO:

08008rlw

January 11, 2008

RECEIVED

JAN 16 2008

BOARDS

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Board Members:

Please accept the following comments regarding proposals 235, 249, and 254 in your upcoming proceedings:

Proposal 235 – Open the Chickaloon River to sport fishing for king salmon

The average return of King salmon to the Chickaloon River is unknown. Limited survey data suggest that the return is likely less than 3,000 fish and is comprised of stocks that may be incidentally harvested elsewhere by Cook Inlet commercial fisheries. Access to the area is limited to floatplane near the mouth at high tide or by wheeled plane some distance away. The ENSTAR pipeline right-of-way provides primitive 4-wheel drive access for some fall hunting opportunities, but is not open in summer for habitat protection, pipeline security, and road maintenance reasons. The lower Chickaloon River drainage is also important to the Kenai Peninsula brown bear population and the Interagency Brown Bear Study Team has recommended not increasing public use of the area as a brown bear conservation measure.

The Refuge is opposed to Proposal 235 but supports additional research on king salmon stock(s) using the Chickaloon River to include a determination of average annual escapement to the system.

Proposal 249 – Decrease the bag and possession limit of lake trout in Hidden Lake

Public access to Hidden Lake has been readily available since circa 1950. The area has developed into one of the most popular camping, boating, and fishing destinations within the Refuge and is also popular as a winter ice fishery. Comments from long-time users of the area have raised concerns about the diminished size and number of lake trout available over time.

1 of 2

COMMENT#

19

The Refuge supports Proposal 249 consistent with Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommendations.

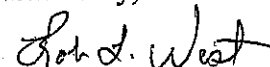
Proposal 254 – Create a youth fishing area immediately below the Russian River Ferry

The Refuge has managed intense public use at the confluence of the Kenai and Russian Rivers since the 1950s and administers a contract to operate the Russian River Ferry which provides access to the area to many tens of thousands of anglers each year. The term “combat fishing” was coined at this use site where anglers stand shoulder to shoulder flipping line, weights, and flies into the current for sockeye salmon. The area is also used to catch Coho salmon, Dolly Varden, and rainbow trout. Any given year, a hundred or more hook injuries occur at the site. While the Central Kenai Peninsula Hospital makes some fun of the situation by hooking one fishing fly into a manikin at the approximate body part location of what they witness from victims coming to their facility each year, they have also started a serious campaign to reduce such injuries, primarily to protect anglers from losing an eye. In the past the Alaska Department of Fish and Game requested that the Refuge impose a regulatory safety zone below the Ferry Crossing to reduce potential injuries at this site. Concerns include the obvious movement of traffic and gear in the congested area near the Ferry, but also recognition that this is the most popular location because it is the furthest upstream point of the area below the Sanctuary (can be the best fishing) and requires the least amount of walking to begin fishing. Restrictions were first imposed via signage, but have been included in a federal regulation (prohibiting fishing within 100 feet downstream of the Ferry landing) since 1986. In addition to this general closure, with the approval of the Refuge and the ADF&G Area Biologist approximately 20 years ago, a small area immediately downstream was designated for handicapped angler access. This has worked reasonably well with no real crowding or safety concerns occurring and provides the only practical alternative to providing a handicapped person fishing opportunity for the area short of building significant infrastructure. A designated youth fishing area within the same area would be difficult to manage, raise significant safety concerns, and may eliminate the fishing opportunity currently provided to handicapped anglers.

The Refuge is opposed to Proposal 254 but does support pursuing a cooperative effort with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to develop new youth fishing opportunities within the Refuge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals.

Sincerely,



Robin L. West
Refuge Manager

2 of 2

COMMENT#

19



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L30(AKRO-SUBS)

JAN 11 2008

Mr. Mel Morris, Chairman
ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

RECEIVED

JAN 16 2008

BOARDS

Subject: **Proposals 100 and 101**

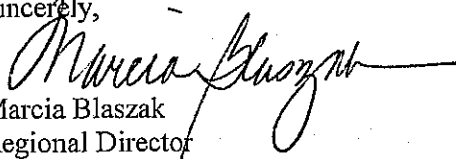
Dear Chairman Morris:

During your February 2008 meeting, you will be addressing proposed regulatory changes affecting Upper Cook Inlet Finfish. The National Park Service is the land managing agency for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve on the west side of Cook Inlet. This conservation unit encompasses Crescent River and Crescent Lake, and lands adjacent to and including the headwaters of Tuxedni Bay. Proposals 100 and 101 request a commercial fishery in Tuxedni Bay targeting king salmon that originate in both Crescent River and Lake.

The attached comment addresses the intent of these proposals which you will consider during your meeting. Conservation of the fishery resource is the primary objective of both state and federal regulators and managers. We therefore offer our comments on these proposals in the spirit of cooperation with the state regulatory process. A cooperative state/federal regulatory and management process that emphasizes fishery conservation will ensure that the fishery resources will be perpetuated for the use, enjoyment and economic benefit of all user groups for this and future generations.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you or your staff has questions, please contact Nancy Swanton, Subsistence Program Manager, at 644-3597 or Dave Nelson, Fishery Biologist, at 644-3529.

Sincerely,


Marcia Blaszk
Regional Director

Attachment

cc:

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, ADF&G
Judy Gottlieb, Associate Regional Director, NPS
Joel Hard, Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
Mary McBurney, Subsistence Manager, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
Dave Mills, Subsistence Team Manager, NPS
Nancy Swanton, Subsistence Program Manager, NPS
Dave Nelson, Fishery Biologist, NPS
Rod Campbell, Office of Subsistence Management

1 of 3

COMMENT# 20

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMENTS ON
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES PROPOSALS**

UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH

**State of Alaska
Board of Fisheries Meeting
February 1 – 12, 2008
Anchorage, Alaska**



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

2 of 3

COMMENT# 20

Federal Comments

The following comments address proposals only as they affect Federally qualified subsistence users and resource conservation.

Proposals 100 and 101. These proposals request a commercial king salmon fishery in the marine waters of Tuxedni Bay on the west side of Cook Inlet. Both proposals request the fishery commence the first Monday after May 15 with fishing periods from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Gear requested is a single 35 fathom gillnet. Proposal 100 asks that the fishery be closed after 1,000 king salmon are caught; proposal 101 would close the fishery after 2,000 king salmon are harvested.

Current State Regulation:

5 AAC 21.310 Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 21.320 Weekly fishing periods.

Current Federal Regulation:

Cook Inlet Area – Salmon	Customary and Traditional Use Determination
<i>Waters within Lake Clark National Park draining into and including that portion of Tuxedni Bay within the Park</i>	<i>Residents of the Tuxedni Bay area</i>

§ __.27(i)(10)(iv) You may only take salmon, trout, Dolly Varden, and other char under authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means for take are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) unless modified herein...

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB)? No.

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: No impact anticipated. Residents of the Tuxedni Bay area have customary and traditional use of all salmon in waters within Lake Clark National Park draining into Tuxedni Bay including that portion of the Park at the head of Tuxedni Bay. Salmon may only be taken under terms of a Federal permit issued by the Cook Inlet Federal fishery manager. To date, no permits have been issued and no harvest reported.

Federal Position/Recommended Action: Oppose the proposal. The proposed fishery would target king salmon returning to Crescent River and Lake. These waters are within the Federal waters of Lake Clark National Park. The proponents have presented no information regarding the assessment of the king salmon stock and neither the Federal Subsistence Program nor the National Park Service is aware of any stock assessment done by ADF&G. It therefore cannot be determined if Crescent River king salmon could sustain an annual harvest of 1,000 – 2,000 fish. If ADF&G has information showing this stock could sustain some level of harvest, we would consider modifying our position. However, in the absence of such data, a conservative approach is warranted and opposing creation of this new fishery appropriate.