

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
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**THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 2010/2011
PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE COOK INLET, KODIAK
AND CHIGNIK FINFISH; AND
KING AND TANNER CRAB (STATEWIDE, EXCEPT
SOUTHEAST/YAKUTAT) REGULATIONS**

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

February 20-March 5, 2011

UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

SALMON

Subsistence (5 AAC 01.566 and 5 AAC 01.570)

- 102 Modify gear for subsistence fishing.
- 103 Modify the amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) for the Skwentna River.

Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections (5 AAC 21.200)

- 104 Mirror east side salmon escapement corridor in the Central District open.

Seasons (5 AAC 21.310)

- 105 Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye.
- 106 Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye.
- 107 Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye.
- 108 Extend the commercial fishing season.
- 109 Revise opening and closing dates for the Upper Subdistrict of the Kenai River.
- 110 Amend setnet fishing to close by emergency order.

Fishing periods (5 AAC 21.320)

- 111 Extend closure time by three hours in the Central District.
- 112 Modify the weekly fishing periods in Upper Cook Inlet.
- 113 Require removal of gear during closures.
- 114 Close fishing on Saturdays and Sundays in Upper Cook Inlet.

Gillnet specifications and operations (5 AAC 21.331)

- 115 Ban use of monofilament salmon web in Cook Inlet.
- 116 Reduce mesh depth in the Central District.
- 117 Modify amount of gear used by CFEC permit holder.
- 118 Revise gear limitations when fishing two permits in Cook Inlet.

Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathom of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet area (5 AAC 21.333)

- 119 Allow the use of dual drift gillnet permits.
- 120 Allow four shackles of gear to be fished.

Closed Waters (5 AAC 21.350)

- 121 Prohibit commercial vessels from fishing within five miles of mouth of streams.

Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 21.353)

- 122 Modify Upper Cook Inlet Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan.
- 123 Revise the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.
- 124 Amend the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.
- 125 Delete references to Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- 126 Revise Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.
- 127 Restrict commercial drift gillnet in the Western Subdistrict of Cook Inlet.
- 128 Create a single optimal escapement goal to eliminate confusion of regulations.

Pink Salmon

- 129 Establish a management plan for pink salmon bound for the Kenai River.
- 130 Amend the Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

Northern District Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.358)

- 131 Modify the Northern District Salmon Management Plan.
- 132 Add pink salmon to the Northern District Salmon Management Plan.
- 133 Make consumptive use a priority for fishing kings and cohos.
- 134 This is a placeholder proposal that would amend subsection (b) by addressing changes in counting methods for sockeye salmon migrating into the Susitna River drainage.
- 135 Update the management plan to reflect Yentna sonar count modifications.
- 136 Modify the OEG on the Susitna River sockeye.
- 137 Amend management plan based on Bendix-like numbers from Yentna River.
- 138 Remove gear restrictions in the Northern District after July 30.
- 139 Establish a terminal fishery for Fish Creek Area.
- 140 Modify coho management plan.
- 141 Modify Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

Northern District King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.366)

- 142 Revise the Northern District King Salmon Management.
- 143 Modify the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan to articulate recreational use priority.
- 144 Establish a Susitna River Small Stream and River Management Plan.
- 145 Conduct stock assessment of kings caught during marine fishery off Deep Creek.

Kenai River Late Run King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.359)

- 146 Modify the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan.

Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.360)

- 147 Establish an effective allocation of sockeye to personal use and sport fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet.
- 148 Increase optimal escapement goal of late-run sockeye in the Kenai River, Russian River and Hidden Lake.
- 149 Revise the Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
- 150 Change escapement goals.
- 151 Remove the three tier system from the Kenai River Sockeye Management Plan.
- 152 Amend the Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

- 153 Modify wording in several management plans to allow harvest over the course of king runs.
- 154 Modify wording in several management plans to allow harvest over the course of coho runs.
- 155 Add language that all fisheries will be closed if the OEG will not be achieved.

Early Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

- 156 Develop a management plan for the early Russian River sockeye run.

Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.363)

- 157 Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.
- 158 Restrict all harvest until minimum escapement goals are reached.
- 159 Amend regulation to minimize incidental harvest of non-targeted species in Upper Cook Inlet.
- 160 Revise the Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Plan.

Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.365)

- 161 Revise Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.
- 162 Amend the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.
- 163 Revise the sockeye optimal escapement goal in the Kasilof.
- 164 Amend Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan to the Kenai inriver goals.
- 165 Keep Saturday free of emergency commercial openings.
- 166 Revise the Kasilof River Sockeye Harvest Management Plan.
- 167 Expand the fishing area in the North Kalifornsky Beach Subsection.
- 168 Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.
- 169 Open KRSHA to gillnet salmon fishing when escapement exceeds 275,000.
- 170 Modify the area that may be fished if the commissioner opens the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.
- 171 Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON

- 172 Require users to complete a class and obtain a dipnet education card prior to receiving a dipnet permit.
- 173 Repeal sport fish license requirement to participate in Cook Inlet personal use fisheries.
- 174 Allow nonresidents to participate in the Upper Cook Inlet personal use fishery.
- 175 Establish a July 17 opening date for the Kenai River personal use fishery on runs under 2 million.
- 176 Open Kenai River personal use fishery after 350,000 sockeye pass the sonar.
- 177 Close fishing on the south bank of the Kenai River until minimum inriver goals are met.
- 178 Open dipnet fisheries in Cook Inlet only after over escapement goals are met.
- 179 Open Kenai and Kasilof dipnet fisheries only after lower escapement goals will be achieved.
- 180 Close Kenai River personal use fishery on Tuesdays and Fridays until 450,000 sockeye pass the sonar.
- 181 Establish a harvest cap of 150,000 for the Kenai River personal use fishery.
- 182 Set allocation of 100,000 - 150,000 sockeye in Kenai River personal use fishery.

- 183 Establish a guideline harvest for Cook Inlet personal use fisheries based upon run size.
- 184 Establish GHL for sport and personal use harvest in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.
- 185 Set allocation based on harvest and use in Kasilof River personal use fishery.
- 186 Establish a bag limit of 15 per family in the Kenai River personal use fishery and no fishing until escapement goal will be achieved.
- 187 Reduce household limit to 10 fish in Cook Inlet personal use salmon fishery.
- 188 Reduce bag limit or delay opening of the Kenai River dipnet fishery.
- 189 Prohibit retention of king salmon in Cook Inlet dipnet fisheries.
- 190 Allow one king per household for the all Cook Inlet personal use dipnet fisheries.
- 191 Reduce allowable mesh size in Cook Inlet dipnet fisheries or prohibit release of fish.
- 192 Prohibit possession of sport and personal use caught salmon on the same day.
- 193 Prohibit dipnetting from boats in Kenai River personal use fishery.
- 194 Prohibit dipnetting from boats in Kenai River personal use fishery.
- 195 Open the Fish Creek dipnet fishery by regulation instead of emergency order.
- 196 Increase season dates and expand area for Beluga River personal use fishery.
- 197 Establish a personal use fishery on Eklutna River.
- 198 Establish a personal use fishery on Deshka River.
- 199 Establish a personal use fishery on Talkeetna River.

UPPER COOK INLET COHO SALMON SPORT FISHERIES

- 21 Decrease bag limit to 2 coho salmon in West Cook Inlet. *(This proposals is also listed for consideration during the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting)*
- 22 Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho in West Cook Inlet Area. *(This proposals is also listed for consideration during the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting)*
- 200 Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho in Susitna River drainage.
- 201 Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho on the Talkeetna River.
- 202 Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in the Knik Arm Drainage Area.
- 203 Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area.
- 204 Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in the Kenai River Drainage Area.
- 23 Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in the Kenai Peninsula Area. *(This proposals is also listed for consideration during the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting)*
- 205 Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.
- 206 Align coho salmon bag limit with adjacent waters in the Russian River Sanctuary Area and Russian River.

NORTHERN KENAI PENINSULA SPORT FISHERIES

Guides – Kenai and Kasilof Rivers

- 207 Repeal the provision that allows a charitable or educational event to fish from guide vessels on the first Sunday in June on Lower Kenai River.
- 208 Prohibit guided sport fishing just above the king salmon sonar station downstream to Cunningham Park.
- 209 Modify existing Kenai River guide hours from 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., to 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

- 210 Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel on the Kenai River 24 hours per day during May.
- 211 Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel on the Kenai River on Sundays during May.
- 212 Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel on the Kenai River on Sundays during June.
- 213 Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel for coho salmon on Mondays during August – November.
- 214 Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel for coho salmon on Mondays during August and September.

Resident Species – Kenai and Kasilof Rivers

- 215 Prohibit barbed hooks when using beads in the Kenai River.
- 216 Increase the allowable size limit of rainbow trout in the lower Kenai River.
- 217 Establish a bag limit for burbot in the Kenai Peninsula Area.
- 218 Establish a steelhead/rainbow trout spawning closure for all tributaries of Tustumena Lake.
- 219 Correct list of Kenai River Drainage Area rainbow trout stocked lakes.
- 220 Add Rainbow Lake to the list of Upper Kenai River drainage stocked lakes.
- 221 Correct list of Kenai River Drainage Area and Kenai Peninsula Area king salmon stocked lakes.
- 222 Repeal the special sport fishing gear regulations that apply to Arc Lake, Cisca Lake and Scout Lake.
- 223 Add a new section to increase emergency order authority flexibility to address invasive northern pike.

Kenai River Sport Fisheries

- 224 Reduce effective dates for fly-fishing-only waters in Killey River Sanctuary Area from July 31 to July 15.
- 225 Reduce Killey River king salmon sanctuary closure date from July 31 to July 15.
- 226 Reduce Killey River king salmon sanctuary closure date to June 25 - July 14.
- 227 Reduce Killey River King Salmon Sanctuary Area to allow fishing at 3rd Hole.
- 228 Repeal the seasonal boating restriction at the confluence of the Moose River.
- 229 Increase Slikok Creek King Salmon Sanctuary Area.
- 230 Revise the Kenai River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan.
- 231 Return early-run Kenai River king salmon escapement goal to pre-2005 level.
- 232 Allow use of bait on May 1 or June 1 in the Kenai River early-run king salmon fishery.
- 233 Repeal slot limit for Kenai River early-run king salmon.
- 234 Repeal slot limit for Kenai River early-run king salmon.
- 235 Extend king salmon slot limit through the end of July.
- 236 Modify size and annual limits for Kenai River king salmon.
- 237 Increase size and bag limits for jack kings in the late-run on the Kenai River.
- 238 Allow the use of two hooks or treble hooks for Kenai River king salmon fishing.
- 239 Allow anglers to continue fishing after daily bag limits are met on the Kenai River.
- 240 Prohibit anglers that are going to release fish from taking them out of the water.
- 241 Close Kenai River to sport fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- 242 Close large sections of the Kenai River to king salmon fishing on a annual rotational cycle.

- 243 Harvested fish must be closely attended in the Russian River Area.
- 244 Establish a tax for pike to sport fishing licenses and a bounty for pike turned in.

Kenai River Vessel Restrictions

- 245 Add an additional drift boat only day (Wednesdays) on the Kenai River.
- 246 Add an additional drift boat only day (Thursdays) on the Kenai River.
- 247 Allow the use of a motor downstream of Cunningham Park to exit the fishery on drift-only Mondays
- 248 Prohibit drift boats from using motors to travel upstream in the lower Kenai River.
- 249 Prohibit drift boats from using motors to travel upstream in the lower Kenai River.
- 250 Establish 3 areas in the lower Kenai River for drift fishing during July.
- 251 Prohibit boats on the Kenai & Russian River confluence back channel.
- 252 Allow fishing for resident species from a motorized vessel on Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake.
- 253 Allow fishing for sockeye salmon from a boat in the Funny River King Salmon Sanctuary Area.

Kasilof River Sport Fisheries

- 254 Allow fishing from power boats during the king salmon season on the Kasilof River.
- 255 Prohibit fishing from a boat in the "People's Hole" area adjacent to Crooked Creek .
- 256 Allow boat anglers to land a fish while anchored across from the "People's Hole" area adjacent to Crooked Creek.
- 257 Change boundary marker location for seasonal motor use on lower Kasilof River.
- 258 Rename boundary marker for seasonal motor use on lower Kasilof River.
- 259 Reduce bag limit for king salmon on the Kasilof River.
- 260 Repeal August 1 - 15 fishing closure on Kasilof River above Sterling Highway Bridge.
- 261 Allow the use of bait in the Kasilof River for an additional two weeks in September.
- 262 Allow guides to take more than one group of clients per day on the Kasilof River.
- 263 Limit guided sport fishing hours and days on the Kasilof River.

NORTHERN COOK INLET SPORT FISHERIES

Susitna River Salmon

- 264 Increase area open to king salmon fishing on the Kashwitna River.
- 265 Standardize Willow Creek salmon fishing regulations upstream to Deception Creek.
- 266 Prohibit fishing from boats at the mouth of Willow Creek and the Susitna rivers.
- 267 Restrict passenger limits, anchoring, horsepower, boat length and air boat use on Lake Creek.
- 268 Prohibit fishing for king salmon after retaining a king salmon on the Talachulitna River.
- 269 Extend use of bait for an additional week in Unit 5 of the Susitna River.
- 270 Restrict sport, commercial, and subsistence fishing for Alexander Creek king salmon.

West Cook Inlet Salmon

- 271 In Lewis and Theodore rivers, prohibit catch and release of kings or require barbless hooks, and determine impact of invasive species.

Knik Arm Salmon

- 272 Repeal the Little Susitna River Coho Salmon Management Plan.
- 273 Prohibit fishing for coho salmon after retaining bag limit in the Little Susitna River.
- 274 Allow harvest of king salmon in the Little Susitna River above Parks Highway Bridge in Houston.
- 275 Limit boat motors to no more than 25 HP on the Little Susitna River.
- 276 Create a youth-only fishery on Fish Creek.
- 277 Allow sport fishing for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek during July if escapement will be met.
- 278 Allow sport fishing for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek if escapement will be met.
- 279 Increase area open to king salmon fishing in the Knik River for the Eklutna Tailrace stocked fishery.
- 280 Extend area open to king salmon fishing in the Knik River.
- 281 Allow king salmon fishing in the Matanuska River.
- 282 Repeal duplicate motor restriction regulation in Wasilla Creek drainage, including Rabbit Slough.

Northern Cook Inlet Resident Species

- 283 Establish catch and release for trout on Little Willow Creek of Susitna River drainage.
- 284 Repeal size and bag limits, and liberalize methods and means for northern pike in Alexander Lake.
- 285 Liberalize bag limits and gear allowed for northern pike fishing in Alexander Lake and eliminate salvage requirements.
- 286 Allow 5 lines and bait to fish for northern pike in Big Lake.
- 287 Allow 5 lines to fish for northern pike in Nancy Lake.
- 288 Liberalize methods and means for pike fishing in Big Lake and Nancy Lake.
- 289 Liberalize methods and means of harvesting northern pike in Threemile/Tukhalla, and Chiutbuna lakes.
- 290 Allow for two fishing rods per single person craft on all stillwaters.
- 291 Stock more rainbows than silvers in lakes.

Anchorage Area Sport Fisheries

- 292 Remove Symphony Lake from list of stocked lakes and reduce bag limit for Arctic grayling.
- 293 Prohibit retention of rainbow trout and require only one un-baited, single hook lure year round on Upper and Lower Six Mile lakes.
- 294 Establish a seasonal spawning closure for rainbow trout in Campbell and Chester creeks.
- 295 Establish a seasonal spawning closure for rainbow trout in Ship Creek.
- 296 Standardize opening date for coho salmon fishing in Campbell Creek.
- 297 Close Bird Creek to all sport fishing between January 1 and July 14.
- 298 Prohibit walking up and down the middle of Ship Creek prior to high and low tides.

ADDITIONAL UPPER COOK INLET PROPOSALS

- 321 Extend the season in the Kenai, Kasilof and East Forelands sections.
- 322 Reinstate the July 1 season opening in the Kenai and East Forelands section.

- 323 Revise closing date in the Kenai, Kasilof and East Forelands sections.
- 324 Allow for use of dual permits in Cook Inlet set gillnet fishery.
- 325 Revise management plan.
- 326 Revise escapement goal for the Kenai River Late-Run Salmon Management Plan.
- 327 Remove windows from the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
- 328 Revise closure time for the Kenai River personal use fishery.
- 329 Provide clarification of the BEG in the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.
- 330 Open the Kasilof Section within one-half mile when the KRSHA is open by EO.
- 331 Expand the set gillnet area in the terminal harvest area of the Kasilof Special Harvest Area.

UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 01.010(a). Methods, means and general provisions for subsistence. Modify gear for subsistence fishing as follows:

Set gillnet of 10 fathoms in length, eight and one half inch mesh and 29 mesh depth may be used for subsistence fishing in the Tyonek Subdistrict

ISSUE: The decline in large kings in Upper Cook Inlet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Present gear requirements are killing large king salmon. Since the rules and regulations took effect in the early 1980's, hundreds if not thousands have been killed by lawful gear.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Reference is made to the UCI Commercial report of 2007 p 33 and 136.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Universal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The worldwide decline in salmon is here. Present gear was killing kings since the regulations took place in the 80's. Red flags went up soon after that, but little or nothing has been done. The State of Alaska department statistics will prove this and the users have never come close to their quota or traditional take.

PROPOSED BY: Tyonek Advisory Committee (SC-10F-002)

PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 01.593. Upper Yentna River subsistence salmon fishery. Modify the amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) for the Skwentna River as follows:

Review/remove/repeal the customary and traditional (C&T) finding. 2,500 salmon may no longer be warranted. Lower the harvest to no more than 500 salmon, the first 500 salmon harvested.

ISSUE: Review the C&T subsistence use determination for the Skwentna River. Current allocation of 2,500 salmon may be excessive. Incorporate a conservation burden to achieve escapement goals as necessary.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There have been substantial socio-economic changes in this region such that this area may no longer qualify as a subsistence area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Review a C&T finding now that this area has roads and multiple airstrips. Residents in this area work and purchase food and goods in the Wasilla area in a cash-based society.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Escapement goals in the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some C&T designated users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-058)

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. Mirror east side salmon escapement corridor in the Central District as follows:

Create a salmon escapement corridor in the Central District open from the southern end of 245-40 to the northern end of 245-60.

ISSUE: King salmon escapement should be established on the west side of Cook Inlet to mirror the east side in the Central District.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued interception of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? More salmon to the 25 – 30 streams in Upper Cook Inlet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Continuance of inequity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tyonek Advisory Committee (SC-10F-001)

PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons. Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye as follows:

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons.

(C) Upper Subdistrict

i. **Statistical Area 244-32 and** Kasilof Section: from June 25 through August 15,...

ISSUE: North Kalifornsky Beach (statistical area 244-32). Since 1999 this 3.6 mile-long area has not been able to participate in the June 25 to July 8 harvest of Kasilof salmon; the predominate species in stat area 244-32 during this time period. By comparison of area, North K-Beach is only 3.6 miles and the Kasilof Section is 36.6 miles long. North K-Beach is an insignificant amount of area when compared to the drift and set gillnet areas on the Kasilof section.

North K-Beach, since the beginning of Statehood and before, has historically harvested Kasilof stocks during this time period. North K-Beach is sandwiched between the Blanchard Line and three miles south of the Kenai River.

The below average and poor Kenai sockeye returns and the pre-determined in-season run strengths being lowered after July 20, has resulted in significant lost time in the North K-Beach fishing area. The poor Kenai sockeye returns, an expanding personal use fishery since 1999 at the mouth of the Kenai River, escapement goal ranges with expanded tier escapements, windows per week, hour restrictions per week has diminished the fishing time available in the North K-Beach area significantly. In 2000, this area fished 4 days, in 2001 5 days, in 2008 5 days, in 2009 0 days, and ADF&G projects only 4 or 5 days of fishing time in 2010 due to another poor return projected to the Kenai River.

By comparison, the Kasilof River has exceeded its maximum BEG 11 out of the last 13 years and additional fishing time for the Kasilof section can be made available to curb over escapement into the Kasilof River after July 15th. Earlier drift openings occur from June 19th since 2005 (in 1999 it was July 1); but our area still remains closed during this time since 1999.

By fishing stat area 244-32 at the same time as 244-31 (South K-Beach area) in the Kasilof section through July 8th- Kasilof sockeye would be predominately harvested and may reduce fishing time later in the Kasilof Section when Kenai River sockeye and Late Run Kenai River king salmon are more abundant. ADF&G's genetics report shows that a large percentage of Kasilof sockeye are harvested in 244-31 before July 8th and 244-32 would have similar results.

When K-Beach was all one stat area before 1999 (North and South K-Beach combined), ADF&G records indicate approximately 200 king salmon were caught on K-Beach in the earlier time period (before July 8th). By restricting 244-32 to a July 8th opening in 1999 approximates to an estimated 100 king salmon saved from commercial harvest. The Kenai River early run chinook escapement goal has been lowered and escapements have been exceeded. If 50 of these kings saved in the commercial harvest were late-run chinooks; approximately 25 kings would be added to the total late-run spawning escapement- an insignificant percentage on the total escapement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In 5 AAC 21.365 Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (a) (states) This management plan governs the harvest of Kasilof River salmon excess to spawning escapement needs. It is the intent of the BOF that Kasilof River salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries. North K-Beach (244-32) will continue to lose historical harvest on Kasilof sockeye. Compounding the burdensome under very poor Kenai sockeye returns.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, when Kasilof sockeye are harvested earlier, it reduces the chance ADF&G will have to use the Kasilof terminal fishery later on. During the 2008 BOF meeting, 5 AAC 21.365 (f) stated it is the intent of the BOF that the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) should rarely if ever be opened. The KRSHA catch are very low quality salmon. The KRSHA was used in 2008 and mostly will be used in 2010 to keep the Kasilof River from exceeding its OEG. The extensive use of terminal fishing in 2006 reduced the ex-vessel price in half due to poor quality and some processors refused to buy KRSHA sockeye. By comparison, the price of sockeye is 30 to 40% higher on earlier fish due to a high fresh market demand for quality sockeye.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishermen and canneries who harvest and process fish in 244-32

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The fishermen in 244-31 who will lose a portion of their harvest opportunity from June 25th to July 1. Harvests on or after July 1 are historical fishing season openings in 244-32 which would not result in any historical loss of harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Start 244-32 on July 1. Rejected because there are high quality surplus Kasilof sockeye on North K-Beach on June 25th.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Hollier (HQ-10F-053)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons. Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye as follows:

5 AAC 21.310 (c) Upper Subdistrict (i) Statistical Area 244-32 and the Kasilof section: from June 25 through August 15.

ISSUE: Lack of historical fishing opportunity on North K-Beach. Statistical Area 244-32. 244-32 opens by regulation on after July 8. Some years, depending on the calendar, the fishery won't open until July 11. There is an opportunity to harvest high quality, Kasilof sockeye that are abundant on North K-Beach earlier in the season. The north line of 244-32 is 3 miles south of the Kenai River and is 8 miles north of the Kasilof River. North K-Beach until 1999 has historically harvested these Kasilof fish that are on the beach late in June and early in July.

The East-Forelands section (244-42) is 20+ miles north of the Kanai River. Their main harvest is Kenai sockeye. ADF&G's genetic report show this. The expensive genetic reports show that North K-Beach harvest high numbers of Kasilof sockeye. It is absurd that 244-32 is not opened by June 25, when these abundant Kasilof are present. If the State of Alaska is going to have these studies, why don't we use the data to manage the fisheries?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The State of Alaska through the BOF has driven North K-Beach to its knees. With the increased sockeye goals to the Kenai River in 1999,

a growing and highly efficient personal use fishery in the Kenai River, and the Kasilof section that gets many extra openings, 244-32 is stuck between a rock and hard place. It is only a viable fishery at best 40% of the time, if this additional time is not granted we are done. I don't think that is the intent of BOF or the State of Alaska to put small Alaskan family operations out of business.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it allows more high quality fish to be harvested early in the season when fish prices are higher, due to expanding fresh market. With an increased Kasilof harvest earlier in the season it reduces the possibility of not having to use the Kasilof Terminal fishery. This fishery produces very low quality fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen that fish in 244-32.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Setnet fishermen in 244-31 that will not harvest salmon, that would move down the beach south, that are being harvested north of them in 244-32.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Besides lowering the Kenai inriver escapement goals to 400,000 to 700,000 sockeye, so the system can produce MSY, this is the only solution to help 244-32.

PROPOSED BY: Sarah E. Pellegram (HQ-10F-056)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons. Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye as follows:

5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C) Upper Subdistrict

...
(iv) Statistical Area 244-32 (North Kalifonsky Beach) from June 25 is open to salmon fishing. This sub-section will fish the same time as the Kasilof section until July 8. When the Kenai Section opens by regulation, on July 8, stat area 244-32 will fish with the Kenai Section.

Additionally during the June 25 to July 8 time period, gear would be reduced in stat area 244-32 from three nets per permit to one net per permit.

ISSUE: Lack of historical fishing opportunity on North K-Beach. Statistical Area 244-32. 244-32 opens by regulation on after July 8. There is an opportunity to harvest high quality, Kasilof sockeye that are abundant on North K-Beach earlier in the season. North K-Beach until 1999 has historically harvested these Kasilof fish that are on the beach late in June and early in July.

The Kasilof River has exceeded its BEG 11 out of the last 13 years. North K-Beach has shouldered most of the burden of the reallocation of Kenai sockeye to the personal use fishery. This proposal would not have any impact on the Kenai River personal use fishery which opens on July 10. It would help immensely on making 244-32 a profitable fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The State of Alaska through the BOF has driven North K-Beach to its knees. With the increased sockeye goals to the Kenai River in 1999, a growing and highly efficient personal use fishery in the Kenai River, and the Kasilof section that gets many extra openings, 244-32 is stuck between a rock and hard place. 244-32 is an economically viable fishery at best 40% of the time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it allows for more high quality fish to be harvested early in the season when fish prices are higher, due to an expanding fresh market. With an increased Kasilof harvest earlier in the season it reduces the possibility of not having to use the Kasilof Terminal fishery. This fishery produces very low quality fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen that fish in 244-32.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Setnet fishermen in 244-31 that will not harvest salmon, that would move down the beach south, that are being harvested north of them in 244-32.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Start Statistical Area July 1. Rejected because there are high quality, surplus Kasilof stocks available for harvest on June 25.

PROPOSED BY: Sarah E. Pellegram (HQ-10F-103)

PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 21.320. Fishing seasons. Extend the commercial fishing season as follows:

- 1) A two to three day a week fishery.
- 2) A harvest quota.
- 3) Gear limit (amount of gear fished per permit).
- 4) A combination of all the above

ISSUE: Fishing time: The commercial fishing fleet should be given the opportunity to fish earlier and later than the current regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? By not allowing a silver and pink harvest to occur late into the season this volume of fish causes unnecessary damage to the spawning beds of all species due to over-escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This will give management a better understanding of the early reds, and the late silver and pinks for the benefit of all user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Every

(HQ-10F-198)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons. Revise opening and closing dates for the Upper Subdistrict of the Kenai River as follows:

(c) Upper Subdistrict

(i) South of the mouth of the Kenai River (stat area 244-32) and the Kasilof section: from (June 25 through August 15).

ISSUE: North Kalifonsky Beach (Area 244-32). For the past 10 seasons this area has not been able to participate in the June 25 to July 8 harvest of Kasilof salmon. This is the predominant species in the stat area for this time period. North K-Beach has a long history of harvesting Kasilof stocks during this time frame, prior to the Kenai River stocks. North K-Beach is sandwiched between the Blanchard Line and the mouth of the Kenai River. With more aggressive fishing in the Kasilof section, an increase of escapement goals to the Kenai River (three-tiered abundance based management), and a growing and expanding personal use fishery in the mouth of the Kenai River, North K-beaches catch rates for sockeye have diminished greatly. North K-Beaches in 2008 5 days, in 2009 8 days, and ADF&G has gone on record to not expect but 4 or 5 days of fishing time in 2010 due to the poor return projected to the Kenai River. The Kasilof River has exceeded it's BEG something like 9 out of the last 11 years, thus resulting in additional fishing time for the Kasilof section. When this occurs after July 10, more Kenai River sockeye are harvested in this area (244-31), resulting in low Kenai River in river sonar goals. ie.: 2000, 2001, 2008 and most likely 2010. By fishing 244-31 and 244-32 simultaneously during the June 25-July 8 period it should reduce the fishing time later when Kenai River sockeye and late-run Kenai River kings are more abundant, in 244-31. ADF&G genetics report show that in 2008 52% of 244-31 harvest was Kasilof bound sockeye. If this section could have fished the same as 244-31 that percentage would have increased dramatically. Statistical Area 244-31 (Kasilof section) is 36.6 miles of fishing area. 244-32 (North K-Beach) is 3.6 miles. This additional area, proposed to be open would only increase the area by 10%. There are chinook (king) salmon management plans in place for Kenai kings already. This period is between the early and late-run Kenai kings so historically there are few Kenai kings in the area at this time. When K-Beach was all one stat area before 1999, ADF&G has records that indicate 200 king salmon were caught on K-Beach. Not all of these Kings were Kenai River bound. By restricting 244-32 to a July 8 opener at best, most likely a fairly insignificant, 100 king salmon were saved from commercial harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In 5 AAC 21.365 Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (a) states: This management plan governs the harvest of Kasilof River salmon excess to spawning escapement needs. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries that Kasilof River salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries. If this regulation is not implemented North K-

Beach (244-32) will continue to lose harvest opportunities of Kasilof sockeye, which is in direct contradiction to 5 AAC 21.365 (a). This section is trying to get back fishing time and area that they have historically fished.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Definitely yes, with more Kasilof sockeye harvested early, it reduces the chance ADF&G will have to use the Kasilof terminal use fishery. During the 2008 BOF meeting, 5 AAC 21.365(f) stated it is the intent of the BOF that the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area should rarely, if ever be opened. The KRSHA was used extensively in 2008 and for conservation reasons if the Kenai River poor sockeye forecast is accurate it will be used a lot in 2010. The KRSHA produces low quality salmon. During 2006, the price for sockeye dropped heavily due to the poor quality of the fish. Additionally in Cook Inlet the price of sockeye is always 30-40% higher earlier in the season due to a high demand for the quality sockeye on the fresh markets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishermen in the 3.6 miles of North K-Beach that traditionally always fished this area in late June, into early July, prior to 1999.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The fishermen in the 36 miles south of the Blanchard line (area 244-32).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Completely remove the Blanchard line. Rejected because it may have some merit for regulating at certain times.

PROPOSED BY: Pat Zurfluh (HQ-10F-229)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons. Amend setnet fishing to close by emergency order as follows:

The setnet fishery will close by emergency order.

ISSUE: Unnecessary commercial closure.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Under-utilized salmon resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allows harvest of under-utilized salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those few who participate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The salmon resource at this time of year is not being utilized at even close to the biological exploitation rate.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

(SC-10F-014)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods. Extend closure time by three hours in the Central District as follows:

5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.

(a)(2) **10:00 p.m.** [7:00 p.m.]

ISSUE: Limited fishing periods. This proposal will allow a higher percentage of setnet fishermen an opportunity to fish a full twelve hour tide series.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing on low returns will result in fewer openings and will give an unequal opportunity for set gillnet fishermen in the Central District.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, fish will not be pulled or round hauled with net. Full tide allows quality harvesting techniques. Easier on crews (safety) and equipment to work at the or slack of the tides.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All affected participants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen

(HQ-10F-223)

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods. Modify the weekly fishing periods in Upper Cook Inlet as follows:

After August 10th the regular periods are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. until closed by emergency order.

ISSUE: Unutilized salmon resources in August and September.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These salmon resources will continue to be wasted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will allow harvest of ocean run salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those few fishermen who will participate in this late fishery. Processors, local economy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The salmon runs after August 10th are not being exploited at even close to the biological exploitation rate.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. Status quo will continue to forego the harvestable surplus.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee (SC-10F-017)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 21.3XX. New Section. Require removal of gear during closures as follows:

All nets taken out to waters from Friday's closure to Monday opening hours.

ISSUE: Not enough fish reaching Upper Cook Inlet

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We did not have any fish in Upper Cook Inlet. We only had closures on fishing day.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Upper Cook Inlet fisherman and subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The drifters won't make as much money.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: A.E. Stephan (HQ-10F-101)

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods. Close fishing on Saturdays and Sundays in Upper Cook Inlet as follows:

No fishing on Saturdays and Sundays.

ISSUE: No fish in Upper Cook Inlet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen in Upper Cook Inlet. All subsistence fishermen in Upper Cook Inlet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drift fishermen in Upper Cook Inlet.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alberta Stephan (HQ-10F-144)

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Ban use of monofilament salmon web in Cook Inlet as follows:

A subsection would read that monofilament salmon web shall not be allowed in the waters of Cook Inlet.

ISSUE: Monofilament mesh web.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued use of poor unselective and wasteful fishing gear.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, less dropouts and less "girdled" or "cut" fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that do not want to consider detrimental effects.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (HQ-10F-221)

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Reduce mesh depth in the Central District as follows:

Require the use of shallower set gill nets in the waters along the east coast in the Central District in order to reduce chinook harvest:

(d) (3) in waters along the east coast in the central district, a set gillnet may not be more than 29 meshes in depth.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.359) directs the department to manage late-run Kenai River chinook salmon primarily for sport and guided sport uses. Current economic information also highlights the very high value of these kings in the sport fishery. Despite this priority, the east side setnet commercial fishery continues to harvest a disproportionately large share of the harvest (more than 50% in some years). At the same time, Kasilof late-run kings have been

subjected to very high harvest rates in Kasilof area sockeye commercial fisheries during recent years.

Previous research in UCI identified shallower nets as an effective alternative for addressing the long-standing king interception problem and reducing commercial-sport allocation conflicts in the UCI. Benefits of reduced king catches in shallower nets are undisputed in other gillnet fisheries throughout Alaska. However, ADF&G has failed to act on this information or opportunity by adopting mesh depth restrictions, evaluating effectiveness with experimental test fisheries, or conducting follow-up research to address questions regarding the original research results.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fisheries benefit from this change. Recreational fisheries in the Kenai River benefit from increased delivery of kings. Commercial fisheries benefit from increased flexibility to target sockeye without excessive king impacts. Lower catch per unit effort of sockeye in the shallower nets is more than offset by increased fishing opportunities afforded by the sockeye-selective gear. Processers, fish quality, and price per pound also provide benefits, particularly in large run years, by distributing the sockeye harvest throughout the week rather than concentrating it in just a few days. Risk of sockeye commercial fishery restrictions during low chinook run years will be reduced. Risks of overfishing of the unmonitored Kasilof late-run of chinook by the commercial fishery will be reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This change would require setnet fishers in the Kenai area to replace their 45 mesh nets with shallower 29 mesh nets. Costs of this change can be minimized by providing a grace period for the change over. Net life is limited and nets have to be periodically replaced anyway.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Breakaway gear was rejected as too cumbersome and costly. Mandatory release of chinook was rejected because of very high mortality rates. A Kenai area-only requirement for the shallower mesh was rejected because setnet catches of chinook are significant throughout the Central District and both Kenai and Kasilof runs warrant protection.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-10F-091)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Modify the amount of gear used by CFEC set gillnet permit holders follows:

A CFEC permit holder who holds two Cook Inlet set gillnet CFEC permits may operate two legal compliments of gear as defined in 5 AAC 21.331 (d), with no more than 210 fathoms of set gillnet gear in the aggregated and no single set gillnet may be more than 35 fathoms in length. Both of the permit holder's five-digit CFEC permit serial numbers followed by the letter "D" to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet must be located on the identification buoy required by 5 AAC 39.280.

ISSUE: Currently in the Article 2 Entry Permit System in Sec. 16.43.140 the Upper Cook Inlet commercial setnet salmon permit holder may hold two entry permits in their name, but can only fish one type of gear at a time. However, the person that holds two permits should be able to fish the second entry permit at the same time, but is held against Article AS 16.43.270 (d).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In tough economic times, a commercial setnet salmon fisherman will only be able to fish one permit, even though two are owned.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Fisherman with two permits will be able to fish dual permits during times when the fresh market fish are available in Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local fishermen with dual permits will be allowed to use both permits during the fishing season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If the proposal is adopted no person or resource will suffer to this adoption.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman (SC-10F-043)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Revise gear limitations when fishing two permits in Cook Inlet as follows:

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holder who holds two Cook Inlet set gillnet CFEC permits may operate two legal compliments of gear as defined in 5 AAC 21.331(d), with no more than 210 fathoms of set gillnet gear in the aggregate and no single set gillnet may be more than 35 fathoms in length. Both of the permit holder's five-digit CFEC permit serial numbers followed by the "D" to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet must be located on the identification buoy required by 5 AAC 39.280.

ISSUE: Kodiak and Bristol Bay now allow a dual setnet permit holder to fish a full complement of gear for each permit. Cook Inlet setnet fishermen would like to have the same opportunity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Economic distress due to an inability to utilize setnet locations for maximum benefit. Decline in available harvestable surpluses have created economic hardship for fishing families. It is now difficult to justify the allocation of time required to attend a fish site for an entire season. Permits will remain within the family operation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing a more orderly harvest and employing more crew members to assist with quality based harvesting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial setnet fishing families.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one; no net change in fish gear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo reduces economic viability.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (HQ-10F-227)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area. Allow the use of dual drift gillnet permits as follows:

Two S03H drift gillnet permits may be owned and operated on one vessel in the name of a single individual.

ISSUE: Putting a second permit in the ownership of a deckhand is problematic when the skipper is providing the funds to purchase the second permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current permit stacking provision does not work well. It is often difficult to find a second permit holder to work with on a drift vessel.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This is not a quality issue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-073)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area. Allow four shackles of gear to be fished as follows:

Allow four shackles of gear to be fished, either by two permit holders on a vessel or when a permit holder has an additional permit holder on the vessel in all areas except the Kasilof Terminal area or Chitina Bay.

ISSUE: Eliminate the regulation that requires the fourth shackle of driftnet gear to be removed from the reel, bagged and stored when the vessel is in the corridor(s).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The fishery is hard to develop as an economically viable fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Saves crew time and energy that otherwise could be put toward producing higher quality products.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Captains and crews.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-074)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Prohibit commercial vessels from fishing within five miles of mouth of streams as follows:

To protect the three rivers from losing their king salmon completely, further fishery restrictions and a restoration action plan are needed. These streams should be declared a stock of yield concern at the least or a stock of management concern. The commercial fishing fleet should be restricted from fishing within five miles of the mouth of the Theodore, Chunitna and Lewis rivers, and when the stock of concern is lifted there should be zones established to prevent fishing in the channels leading into the rivers.

ISSUE: The escapement goals on the Theodore, Chunitna and Lewis rivers have a history of missing their escapement goals. As of the end of last season all three had missed their escapement goals for three consecutive years. The forecast for 2010 is for a below-normal run. These rivers have had complete closures or are restricted to catch and release and had no yield to Alaskan sportfishers due to restrictions, however commercial drift fisheries continue to harvest these kings while fishing in the channels that lead into these rivers. Commercial fishing at the mouth of these rivers has been extremely effective because they have been able to fish the main channels at the mouth of the rivers, which allows them to fish both on the out-going and in-coming tides.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Escapements will remain below sustainable levels. The conservation burden for these kings is not being shared equally.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? After the stocks have returned to a healthy level, all fishing can be restarted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All parties that normally fish for these resources will share in the conservation burden.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Closing down all fishing for 15 years was rejected as unnecessary if runs return to sustainable levels.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Knowles (SC-10F-090)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 21.353(a)(2)(B)(i-iii). Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Modify Upper Cook Inlet Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan as follows:

5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

- (a) The department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:
 - (1) weekly fishing periods are as described in 5 AAC 21.320(b) ;
 - (2) the fishing season will open the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, and
 - (A) from July 9 through July 15,
 - (i) fishing during the two regular fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1;
 - (ii) at run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1;
 - (B) from July 16 through July 31,
 - (i) at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1;
 - (a) remaining regular periods shall be area wide except in Statistical Area 245-70 which shall remain closed;**
 - (ii) at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2;
 - (a) remaining regular periods shall be area wide except in Statistical Area 245-70 which shall remain closed;**
 - (iii) at run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there will be no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods; **except in Statistical Area 245-70 which shall remain closed;**
 - (C) from August 16 until closed by emergency order, Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods;
 - (D) from August 11 through August 15, there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular periods, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed under 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii), regular fishing periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4.

(b) For the purposes of this section,

(1) "Drift Gillnet Area 1" means those waters of the Central District south of Kalgin Island at 60° 20.43' N. lat.;

(2) "Drift Gillnet Area 2" means those waters of the Central District enclosed by a line from 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 54.83' W. long. to a point at 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 39.00' W. long. to a point at 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 24.00' W. long. to a point at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 25.70' W. long. to a point at 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 28.55' W. long.;

(3) "Drift Gillnet Area 3" means those waters of the Central District within one mile of mean lower low water (zero tide) south of a point on the West Foreland at 60° 42.70' N. lat., 151° 42.30' W. long.;

(4) "Drift Gillnet Area 4" means those waters of the Central District enclosed by a line from 60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 34.74' W. long. to the Kalgin Buoy at 60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 09.90' W. long. to a point at 59° 46.15' N. lat., 152° 18.62' W. long. to a point on the western shore at 59° 46.15' N. lat., 153° 00.20' W. long., not including the waters of the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict.

(c) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e).

ISSUE: Correct an error in regulatory language from the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting to make the regulation consistent with Board intent and final action during the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting.

Background: During the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting the Board took clear regulatory action to ensure the closure of Statistical Area 245-70 through August 10 for the protection of Northern District sockeye and coho to create a conservation corridor for Northern District stocks. Statistical Area 245-70 is one of six stat areas in the Central District and is located in the west and northwest portion of the District.

The record of the action by the Board concerning Statistical Area 245-70 is found throughout the record of the board meeting.

For an unexplained reason, key language concerning Statistical Area 245-70 was omitted when Board's action was translated from the record to final regulation.

In spite of clear Board action and intent that statistical area 245-70 be closed to commercial fishing through August 10, it has been fished in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 and commercial catches of sockeye and coho have been accumulated at the expense of Northern District escapement.

Concerns center on three areas:

1) The regulations do not reflect complete Board action. From the record, it is clear there are errors in the current regulatory wording.

2) Commercial fishing has occurred in a stat area that the Board ordered closed for conservation reasons. Catches to date from this statistical area are unknown because landings are not reported by stat area during broader openers. Catches in this area come at the expense of Northern District escapements.

3) An aggressive fishing schedule was permitted in stat area 245-70 during the 2008 season. Such an opening is contrary to Board action and undermines the Board's efforts to pass fish to the Northern District.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued fishing in stat area 245-70 will result in additional Northern District bound sockeye and coho salmon being intercepted by the commercial fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sockeye and coho salmon destined for the Northern District will reach natal streams. User groups that agreed to the terms and conditions of the plan as part of a delicate balance of regulations and allocation of resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial fishermen who have been inadvertently allowed fishing time in stat area 245-70 prior to this error being brought forward.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries (HQ-10F-231)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Revise the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan as follows:

In Area 1 and the Conservation Corridor located west of a line running from 60° 20.43'N, latitude, 151° 26.33'W longitude to 60° 04.02'N, latitude, 151° 46.60'W longitude and bounded on the West by the East side of Area 3, drift gillnetting may only occur one day per week from July 9-August 15. Additional drift gillnetting shall be limited to Area 3 and an expanded Kenai/Kasilof Sections Harvest Zone located directly East of the Conservation Corridor.

ISSUE: Amend the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan to pass sockeye, chum and pink salmon north and minimize coho salmon harvest by creating a Conservation Corridor (replacing Drift Gillnet Area 2) where, in combination with Drift Gillnet Area 1, drift gillnetting may only occur one day per week from July 9-August 15. Additional drift gillnetting shall be limited to an expanded Kenai/Kasilof Harvest Zone and Area 3.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Since ADF&G decided to discontinue using the Yentna River sonar for inseason management of Yentna/Susitna River sockeye salmon there is affectively no inseason measurement or management to ensure adequate spawning escapements of sockeye salmon and all other salmon bound to the Susitna River drainage and other Northern District streams during the entire month of July. With no safeguards for the Susitna bound fish as evidenced during the entire month of July. With no safeguards for Susitna bound fish as evidenced during 2009, ADF&G could follow the management plan and achieve

the lowest recorded Yentna/Susitna sockeye escapement levels in history (Bendix Sonar) -then call that good management. Overall, the declining trends in Yentna/Susitna sockeye and other Northern salmon stocks would likely accelerate without safeguards to ensure that: 1.meeting established (traditional) escapement levels was the management priority and 2. Achieving traditional Yentna/Susitna goal minimum levels takes precedence over exceeding goal range maximum levels elsewhere.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows more reasonable harvest opportunities for a much broader base of user groups. In other words it provides “More benefit for more Alaskans.”

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Many user groups could benefit from achieving traditional Yentna/Susitna sockeye and other Northern salmon species escapement levels on a more consistent basis. Northern subsistence, setnet, personal use, and sport fishers could additionally benefit from having robust enough salmon numbers present to allow adequate and reasonable harvest levels in their respective fisheries throughout the entire season. Central District drift gillnetters and setnetters would likely benefit from fishing opportunities throughout the entire season, rather than being shutdown later in the season, after excessive drift gillnet harvests in Area 1 and/or the Conservation Corridor (former Area 2), as has happened in the recent past.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Central District drift gillnetters would likely see harvest reductions on days they were not allowed to fish area wide in Areas 1 and/or 2. As was mentioned early this could be at least partially offset by additional harvest opportunities in the expanded Kenai/Kasilof Harvest Area east of the Conservation Corridor and Drift Gillnet Area 3.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? An approach was considered more closely following the present Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, however, this approach has failed to achieve the traditional Yentna/Susitna sockeye salmon escapement goal (measured by Bendix Sonar) 100% of the time when the plan has been fished near or at the maximum level allowed. Rejected because of ADF&G’s lack of timely data required to make the informed emergency order changes to the management plan necessary to obtain the traditional Yentna/Susitna goal on a consistent annual basis.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (HQ-10F-110)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Amend the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan as follows:

In Area 1 and the Conservation Corridor located west of a line running from 60° 20.43’ N. latitude, 151° 26.33’ W. longitude to 60° 04.02’ N. latitude, 151° 46.60 W. longitude and bounded on the east side of Area 3 drift gillnetting may only occur one day per week from July 9 - August 15. Additional drift gillnetting shall be limited to an expanded Kenai/Kasilof Sections Harvest Zone located east of the Conservation Corridor and/or Area 3.

ISSUE: Amend the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan to pass sockeye, chum, and pink salmon north and minimize coho salmon harvest by creating a Conservation Corridor where drift gillnetting may only occur one day per week from July 9 - August 15. Additional drift gillnetting shall be limited to an expanded Kenai / Kasilof Harvest Zone and Area 3.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Since Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) decided to discontinue using the Yentna River sonar for inseason management of Yentna / Susitna River sockeye salmon, there is affectively no inseason measurement or management to ensure adequate spawning escapements of sockeye salmon and all other salmon bound to the Susitna River drainage during the entire month of July. With no safeguards for Susitna bound fish as evidenced during 2009, ADF&G could follow the management plan and achieve the lowest recorded Yentna / Susitna sockeye escapement levels in history (Bendix sonar) – then call that good management. Overall, the declining trends in Yentna / Susitna sockeye and other northern salmon stocks would likely accelerate without safeguards to ensure that: 1. meeting established (traditional) escapement levels was the management priority, and 2. achieving traditional Yentna / Susitna goal minimum levels takes precedence over exceeding goal range maximum levels elsewhere.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows more reasonable opportunity for more user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Many user groups could benefit from achieving traditional Yentna / Susitna sockeye and other Northern salmon species escapement levels on a more consistent basis. Northern subsistence, commercial, personal use, and sport users could benefit from having large enough salmon numbers present to allow adequate and reasonable harvest levels in their respective fisheries throughout the entire season. Central District drift gillnetters and setnetters would likely benefit from fishing opportunities throughout the entire season, rather than being shutdown later in the season, after excessive drift gillnet harvests in the Conservation Corridor, as has happened in the recent past.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Central District drift gillnetters would likely see harvest reductions on days they were not allowed to fish area wide in Areas 1 and/or 2. As was mentioned early this could be at least partially offset by additional harvest opportunities in the expanded Kenai / Kasilof harvest area east of the Conservation Corridor.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? An approach was considered more closely following the present Drift Fishery Management Plan, however this approach has failed to achieve the traditional Yentna / Susitna sockeye salmon escapement goal (measured by Bendix Sonar) 100% of the time when the plan is fished to the maximum level allowed. Rejected because of ADF&G's lack of data to make the informed emergency order changes to the management required to obtain the Yentna / Susitna goal on a consistent annual basis.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee (SC-10F-101)

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Salmon Management Plan. Delete references to Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 as follows:

5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

(a) The department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:

(1) weekly fishing periods are as described in 5 AAC 21.320(b) ;

(2) the fishing season will open the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, and

[(A) FROM JULY 9 THROUGH JULY 15,

(I) FISHING DURING THE TWO REGULAR FISHING PERIODS IS RESTRICTED TO THE KENAI AND KASILOF SECTIONS AND DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1;

(II) AT RUN STRENGTHS GREATER THAN 2,000,000 SOCKEYE SALMON TO THE KENAI RIVER, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, OPEN ONE ADDITIONAL 12-HOUR FISHING PERIOD IN THE KENAI AND KASILOF SECTIONS OF THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT AND DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1;

(B) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH JULY 31,

(I) AT RUN STRENGTHS OF LESS THAN 2,000,000 SOCKEYE SALMON TO THE KENAI RIVER, FISHING DURING TWO REGULAR 12-HOUR FISHING PERIODS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE KENAI AND KASILOF SECTIONS OF THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT AND DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1;

(II) AT RUN STRENGTHS OF 2,000,000 TO 4,000,000 SOCKEYE SALMON TO THE KENAI RIVER, FISHING DURING TWO REGULAR 12-HOUR FISHING PERIODS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE KENAI AND KASILOF SECTIONS OF THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT AND DRIFT GILLNET AREAS 1 AND 2;

(III) AT RUN STRENGTHS GREATER THAN 4,000,000 SOCKEYE SALMON TO THE KENAI RIVER, THERE WILL BE NO MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS DURING REGULAR FISHING PERIODS];

(C) from August 16 until closed by emergency order, [DRIFT GILLNET AREAS 3 AND 4 ARE OPEN FOR FISHING DURING REGULAR FISHING PERIODS;

(D) FROM AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 15, THERE ARE NO MANDATORY AREA RESTRICTIONS TO REGULAR PERIODS, EXCEPT THAT IF THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY IS CLOSED UNDER 5 AAC 21.310(B) (2)(C)(III), REGULAR FISHING PERIODS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO DRIFT GILLNET AREAS 3 AND 4.

(b) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION,

(1) "DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1" MEANS THOSE WATERS OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT SOUTH OF KALGIN ISLAND AT 60° 20.43' N. LAT.;

(2) "DRIFT GILLNET AREA 2" MEANS THOSE WATERS OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT ENCLOSED BY A LINE FROM 60° 20.43' N. LAT., 151° 54.83' W. LONG. TO A POINT AT 60° 41.08' N. LAT., 151° 39.00' W. LONG. TO A POINT AT 60° 41.08' N. LAT., 151° 24.00' W. LONG. TO A POINT AT 60° 27.10' N. LAT., 151° 25.70' W. LONG. TO A POINT AT 60° 20.43' N. LAT., 151° 28.55' W. LONG.;

(3) "DRIFT GILLNET AREA 3" MEANS THOSE WATERS OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT WITHIN ONE MILE OF MEAN LOWER LOW WATER (ZERO TIDE) SOUTH OF A POINT ON THE WEST FORELAND AT 60° 42.70' N. LAT., 151° 42.30' W. LONG.;

(4) "DRIFT GILLNET AREA 4" MEANS THOSE WATERS OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT ENCLOSED BY A LINE FROM 60° 04.70' N. LAT., 152° 34.74' W. LONG. TO THE KALGIN BUOY AT 60° 04.70' N. LAT., 152° 09.90' W. LONG. TO A POINT AT 59° 46.15' N. LAT., 152° 18.62' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE WESTERN SHORE AT 59° 46.15' N. LAT., 153° 00.20' W. LONG., NOT INCLUDING THE WATERS OF THE CHINITNA BAY SUBDISTRICT.]

(c) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e).

ISSUE: Delete references to Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 from the Central District Drift Gillnet Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many of these areas involve EEZ fishing areas. The Board of Fisheries needs to allow the drift fleet to harvest salmon in these historic areas allowed under Federal Law. The UCI Genetics Report indicate that the drift fleet harvests of salmon are as follows:

Summary of Genetics Report – March 2010

1. District-Wide Drift Openings
 - Fish and KTNE – less than 4%
 - Susitna and Yentna – average 8%
2. Corridor Drift Openings
 - All other genetic salmon groups were 5% of harvest
 - Kenai/Kasilof – 95% of harvest

Corridor vs. District wide marginal gain

1. Susitna/Yentna – 5% vs. 8% (3% difference)
2. Fish and KTNE – 4 % vs. 8% (4% difference)

District Wide Drift Gillnet

- A. “During all periods for the 4 years examined, the combined contribution Fish (Fish Creek) and KTNE (Knik/Turnagain/Northeast) did not exceed 4% (Page 23)
- B. However, Seeb et al. (2000) estimated that Susitna/Yentna sockeye salmon comprised an average of 16% (range 3 – 35%) of drift gillnet harvests, whereas in our study Sustina and Yentna river (SusYen and JCL) sockeye salmon comprised an average of 8% (range 0 – 15%) of drift gillnet harvests. If anything, the SusYen and JCL proportions may be biased high in this study, because many of the corridor openings were not represented, and these are likely to have lower SusYen and JCL proportions than the Central District drift gillnet fishery (excluding corridor-only). Higher estimated contributions for this stock in the 1990s may have been due to misclassification of Kenai River fish as Susitna/Yentna River fish as observed in the Kenai fish wheel samples using allozymes (Seeb et al. 2000), or higher relative abundance of this stock at that time (Tobias and Willette *In Prep*). (Page 31)

Corridor Only Drift Gillnet

- C. The combined Kenai (range 20-40%) and Kasilof (range 55 – 75%) made up most of the harvest in both periods (95%), with the West and SusYen (Susitna/Yentna) accounting for up to 3% of the mixtures. All other reporting groups accounted for less than 2% of either mixture. (Page 23)

Test Boat

- D. The proportion of Crescent fluctuated between 0% and 5% with an exception of the early period in 2007 when it was 8%. Similarly, the percentage of West fluctuated between 2% and 13% with an exception of the early period in 2007 when it was 16%. The proportion of JCL (Judd/Chelatna/Larson) (range 1 – 10%) was similar to that of SusYen (range 2 – 11%). KTNE was detected in all of the mixtures but at low levels (range 1-5%). Fish comprised the smallest percentage of the 8 reporting groups (range 1-2%) and were only detected in the first 2 periods in 2007 and the first period in 2008. (Page 23)

Run Timing Variability – Susitna/Yentna

- E. Estimated peak harvest dates and total harvests of Susitna and Yentna river (SusYen and JCL) sockeye salmon in the drift gillnet fishery (excluding corridor-only periods) were highly variable among years. Peak harvest dates for these reporting groups were June 27 – July 7 in 2005, July 31 in 2006, July 16 in 2007 and July 14 – 17 in 2008. (Page 31).
- F. Seeb et al (2000) estimated that peak proportions and harvests of Sustina/Yentna sockeye salmon in the drift gillnet fishery occurred on July 10, 1995; July 15, 1996; and July 14, 1997. (Page 31).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, quality will improve.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Legally recognized EEZ fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-076)

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Revise Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan as follows:

This proposal:

- Clarifies the purposes of this plan to ensure northern district escapement and minimize coho harvest in this fishery.
- Regulate central district fisheries in order to limit interception of northern district salmon and Kenai coho.

Decouple the drift net fishery from the setnet fishery to allow for expanded drift opportunity to target Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in the Kenai and Kasilof corridor.
Provide for an orderly August closure in order to minimize interception of coho.

Proposed plan revisions:

5 AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

(a) the purposes of this management plan are to ensure adequate escapements of salmon into Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department is further directed to manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of in river restrictions.

(b) The department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:

(1) weekly fishing periods are as described in 5 AAC 21.320(b) ;

(2) the fishing season will open the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, and

(A) from July 9 through July 15,

(i) fishing during **one of** the two regular fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections [AND DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1];

(ii) [AT RUN STRENGTHS GREATER THAN 2,000,000 SOCKEYE SALMON TO THE KENAI RIVER,]–the commissioner may, by emergency order, open [ONE] additional [12-HOUR]–fishing periods in the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and [DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1] **additional periods may be authorized independent of the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery;**

(B) from July 16 through July 31,

(i) at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict [AND DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1];

(ii) at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during [TWO] **one** regular 12-hour fishing period[S] **per week** will be restricted to **either or both of** the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict [AND] **or** Drift Gillnet Area[S]1 [AND 2];

(iii) **at run strengths of less than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open additional fishing periods in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and additional periods may be authorized independent of the Upper Subdistrict set gill net fishery;**

(iv) at run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there will be no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods;

(C) **the Upper Subdistrict will close on or before august 7, except that** from [AUGUST 16] **August 8** until closed by emergency order, Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods;

(D) from [AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 15] **August 1 though August 7,** there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular periods, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed under 5 AAC 21.310(b) (2)(C)(iii), regular fishing periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4.

(b) For the purposes of this section,

(1) "Drift Gillnet Area 1" means those waters of the Central District south of Kalgin Island at 60° 20.43' N. lat.;

(2) "Drift Gillnet Area 2" means those waters of the Central District enclosed by a line from 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 54.83' W. long. to a point at 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 39.00' W. long. to a point at 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 24.00' W. long. to a point at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 25.70' W. long. to a point at 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 28.55' W. long.;

(3) "Drift Gillnet Area 3" means those waters of the Central District within one mile of mean lower low water (zero tide) south of a point on the West Foreland at 60° 42.70' N. lat., 151° 42.30' W. long.;

(4) "Drift Gillnet Area 4" means those waters of the Central District enclosed by a line from 60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 34.74' W. long. to the Kalgin Buoy at 60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 09.90' W. long. to a point at 59° 46.15' N. lat., 152° 18.62' W. long. to a point on the western shore at 59° 46.15' N. lat., 153° 00.20' W. long., not including the waters of the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict.

(c) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e) **except that departure from the provisions of this management plan justified by Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon may only occur if the department projects that, within 48 hours, the inriver abundance of late-run sockeye salmon as enumerated past the sonar counter located at river-mile 19, will exceed the inriver goal and at that time, the commissioner may depart from provision only to allow additional fishing by the drift gillnet fishery to occur in the corridor adjacent to the Upper Subdistrict.**

ISSUE: The Central District Drift Gillnet fishery is arguably the most effective harvester of the mixed stocks of Upper Cook Inlet salmon. The Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan, commonly referred over the years as the "Umbrella Plan", was adopted as regulation in 1978. This important document required managers to minimize the commercial harvest of Susitna coho in the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet but the term "minimize" was never explicitly defined. This requirement in the plan was later amended and expanded to specify Northern District coho but still no definition of minimize was ever codified. Further, the stock status of Northern District sockeye and chum salmon is not at all certain. Over the years the substantial harvest of all salmon bound for the Northern District made by the Drift Gillnet fishery has negatively impacted the success of all fisheries occurring in the Northern District and arguably the health of Northern District salmon resources.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will always be some degree of conflict among user groups over the allocation of salmon resources in Upper Cook Inlet, and at least a small number of salmon stocks will always be at-risk, but the intense level of conflict that has defined the management of salmon in this area can be reduced by board action which provides definition to the most ambiguous of all terms utilized in our codified plans, the term "minimize". Minimize needs to be defined and can be defined in terms of prescriptive time and area closures tactically designed to pass Northern District salmon through the Drift Gillnet areas in the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet. Prescriptive time and area closures, "windows" of opportunity for salmon of Northern District origin to pass through the Central District, are the best option for realization of the true intent of those who originally drafted the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan and the best option for assuring sustainability of Northern District

salmon stocks and more consistent success of all fisheries in the Northern District. Tactical deployment of the Drift Gillnet fishery in the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet around those times and places where migrating Northern District salmon are most abundant is the key to optimization of salmon management in Upper Cook Inlet. Failing to define minimize will lead to ever increasing levels of conflict, misunderstanding and continue to jeopardize the sustainability of Northern District salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Northern District Fisheries and Upper Subdistrict setnet fisheries benefit from this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Harvest of the Central District Drift Net fishery would be reduced.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Use of an expanded Kenai/Kasilof corridor was rejected because of uncertain benefits.

Fishing during one or two regular periods throughout the upper subdistrict from July 9 through 15 was rejected because recent genetic data indicates that Susitna sockeye are most abundant in the central District during this period.

Fishing after August 7 district-wide was rejected because of the high incidence of coho in the harvest relative to sockeye.

The need to provide additional pink salmon fishery opportunities in August was rejected because of limited participation in past fisheries established to target for pink salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (HQ-10F-093)

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons. Restrict commercial drift gillnet in the Western Subdistrict of Cook Inlet as follows:

The solution is to restrict commercial drift gillnetting in the Western Subdistrict of Cook Inlet after August 9, which was in effect prior to 2004, in order to protect Cook Inlet coho.

ISSUE: Commercial drift gillnetting for silver salmon in the Cook Inlet Western Subdistrict is impacting West Cook Inlet streams adversely. This is a resource issue especially at Silver Salmon Creek and Shelter Creek and needs attention.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? West Cook Inlet streams will continue to suffer at the hands of commercial drift gillnetters who lay 900' long nets close to the mouths of fragile West Cook Inlet streams that also have a high value for sport fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal seeks to re-instate a regulation that prohibited commercial drift gillnetting after August 9, which was in place prior to 2004. It seeks to protect coho salmon from indiscriminate gillnetting near Silver Salmon and Shelter Creek.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The returning coho salmon will return to a sustainable level and sport fishermen will continue their enjoyment of sport fishing for coho salmon plus the commercial drift gillnetters will still be allowed to harvest coho until August 9.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A small, but very effective group of commercial drift gillnetters will lose some monetary returns from not being able to fish about 6-7 periods.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Another solution is to prohibit commercial drift gillnetting after August 16, but the better solution is to revert to the regulation prior to 2004.

PROPOSED BY: David Coray (HQ-10F-037)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Salmon Management Plan. Create as single optimal escapement goal to eliminate confusion of regulations as follows.

A single OEG so that all users, managers and politicians can understand the management and spawning goals.

ISSUE: Delete the three tiers contained in (a) (2) that describe run strengths.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In 10 of 11 years that these tiers have existed, the pre-season estimate of run strength has been incorrect. In over 90% of the years, the actual size of the Kenai return has been forecasted incorrectly. Revise all necessary plans to accommodate a single OEG of 400,000 – 700,000 (bendix equivalent) spawners as measured at River mile 19.5 (current sonar site).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improves management of these stocks and helps to clarify the escapement goal and expectations of the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Regulators, managers and the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Continued conflict will result.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-077)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 21.365. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Establish a management plan for pink salmon bound for the Kenai River Plan as follows:

Directs BOF and ADF&G to develop a management plan for harvesting pink salmon bound for the Kenai River

ISSUE: No setnet opportunity for pink salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of harvest opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, there will be an orderly harvest and continued processing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen and processors as well as the general community.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sculpins.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (HQ-10F-226)

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan as follows:

(a) The department shall manage the Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance.

ISSUE: The current pink salmon management plan does not allow the managers the flexibility to manage for harvesting the pink salmon harvestable surplus. Literally tens of millions of pinks are not allowed to be harvested under the current management plans.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continued waste of tens of millions of pink salmon. Pink salmon were historically harvested in large numbers. The current plan allows virtually no pink salmon harvest and allows most of the entire run to go unharvested by anyone.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It allows the harvest of pinks over the entire run. It will allow a harvest of quality and quantity to develop markets. The Cook Inlet pinks are large, bright and highly marketable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who wish to harvest, process and market pink salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. There are literally millions of pinks going unharvested and wasted in Cook Inlet. The coho runs are healthy and only being exploited at less than half the biological exploitation rate.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. Status quo only continues the waste of a high protein food for absolutely no reason.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee (SC-10F-010)

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Northern District Salmon Management Plan as follows:

(a)[THE PURPOSES OF THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN ARE TO MINIMIZE THE HARVEST OF COHO SALMON BOUND FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF UPPER COOK INLET AND TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTION FOR MANAGEMENT OF SALMON STOCKS.] The department shall manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide commercial fishermen with an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO MANAGE THE CHUM, PINK, AND SOCKEYE SALMON STOCKS TO MINIMIZE THE HARVEST OF NORTHERN DISTRICT COHO SALMON, TO PROVIDE SPORT AND GUIDED SPORT FISHERMEN A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST THESE SALMON RESOURCES OVER THE ENTIRE RUN, AS MEASURED BY THE FREQUENCY OF INRIVER RESTRICTIONS, OR AS SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION AND OTHER REGULATIONS.]

Repeal: [b]; [d]; [d 1] and [d 2]

ISSUE: To give the managers the flexibility to manage on a real-time basis and for the users to harvest the salmon surplus to spawning escapement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued conflict and confusion. Continued waste of surplus salmon. Economic loss.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality will improve by allowing managers to manage on a real-time basis and the harvest to be spread out more evenly for the entire run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users, the resource, the managers, the local economies by harvesting the surplus and maintaining future high returns from managing biologically for maximum sustained yields.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The coho stocks are healthy, abundant and are being harvested substantially below the maximum exploitation rates. There is more than reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. Remaining status quo will only continue to waste the harvestable surplus and put undue restriction on the managers and fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee (SC-10F-015)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 21.358(b). Northern District Salmon Management Plan. Add pink salmon to the Northern District Salmon Management Plan as follows.

1) additional fishing periods, other than weekly fishing periods described in 5 AAC 21.320 (a) (1), **shall** [MAY NOT] be provided when **pink or** coho salmon are expected to be the most abundant species harvested during that period; additional fishing periods **shall** [MAY NOT] be provided based on the abundance of **pink and** [NORTHERN DISTRICT] coho salmon,

ISSUE: Millions of pink and coho salmon return to the Northern District in most years while hardly anyone utilizes these salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Not only are coho available for harvest, but millions of pinks are also available for harvest in the Northern District. Millions of pounds of food (salmon) are denied the US consumers. Pink salmon are economically valuable and provide an important protein source for the US consumers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Many of these salmon can be harvested within a short boat ride to the Anchorage market and processors of Northern Cook Inlet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This harvest will benefit tens of thousands of Alaskans.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one – these salmon are not harvested by anyone. Most of these pinks and cohos arrive in Northern Cook Inlet well after the sockeyes have entered the fresh water rivers and streams.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-079)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan. Make consumptive use a priority for fishing kings and cohos as follows:

Re-identify king and cohos with a consumptive user/sport fisher's priority by closing the drift net fishery on August 5th and reduce the current Northern District setnet fisheries, by reducing the

Northern District king salmon back to three periods on Monday and coho fisheries two 6 hour fisheries a week after 1 August. This will allow more salmon to reach Northern District streams.

ISSUE: Kings and coho salmon were given consumptive user priority designation by the Board of Fisheries. This priority was inadvertently dropped from the management plans. While sport fisher/consumptive user had their bag limit reduced and Northern District commercial fishermen had their fishing time doubled by additional fishing time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? King and coho salmon will continue to be over-harvested by Central District commercial fishing and Northern District set-netters, reducing the harvest available for the consumptive user. The sports/consumptive user priority must be re-established immediately.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The consumptive users in the Northern District once again to have their limits increased, having salmon in their river and streams when they come and fish for winter food supply.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial fishermen will not be allowed to target king and coho.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Stop commercial fishing of king and coho salmon completely.

PROPOSED BY: Susitna Valley Advisory Committee (SC-10F-095)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan. This is a placeholder proposal that would amend subsection (b) by addressing changes in counting methods for sockeye salmon migrating into the Susitna River drainage.

ISSUE: Regulatory escapement goals for the Yentna River are based on Bendix sonar counts. Bendix sonar is no longer in use and recent studies conducted on Susitna River sockeye salmon indicated the Bendix sonar counts did not accurately reflect actual run size. New weir-based escapement goals were established in 2009 for Larson Lake in the mainstem Susitna River drainage, and Judd and Chelatna lakes in the Yentna River drainage.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The escapement goal now in regulation is no longer valid. Confusion over the current escapement goal, management of northern-bound sockeye salmon and Northern District, and some Central District fisheries will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. This proposal will update that portion of the regulation which pertains to the escapement goal, which has been modified.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-162)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 21.358(b). Northern District Salmon Management Plan. Update the management plan to reflect Yetena sonar count modifications as follows.

Delete and revise as necessary to incorporate the three weir escapement goals currently used in this salmon management plan for the Yentna and Susitna rivers.

ISSUE: As a part of the 2008 BOF/ADF&G action plan for sockeyes, the Yentna sonar counts were to be replaced with these three individual lake and weir escapement goals. The management plan needs to be updated to reflect these new escapement goals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Current management plans do not accurately reflect the current escapement goals for Chelatna, Judd and Larson Lake weirs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? These new weirs improve the spawning escapement counts and are far more accurate than the use of sonar counters and fish wheels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Spawning salmon and the assessment of the distribution of spawning among the primary producing lakes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-078)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 21.3XX. New section. Modify the OEG on the Susitna River sockeye as follows:

An Optimum Escapement Goal (OEG) between 40,000 and 50,000 must be incorporated using the newly identified spawners. This will be added to the top end of the three SEGs at the three weirs. This additional protection is required for the Susitna River drainage sockeye salmon.

ISSUE: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has repeatedly admitted that their data cannot be relied on to manage these stocks. The Genetic Report data that was distributed at the

last Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries hearings shows that the Susitna River sockeye salmon has under-counted returns by as much as 40 – 50%. The genetics study identified the main stem, sloughs and small lake spawners not previously counted and are characteristically part of weak returns. This data indicates that Susitna drainage sockeye salmon returns could be in even worse condition than previously believed and should be seriously considered when setting new escapement goals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department has repeatedly stated over the last three years that they don't have sufficient data to know what is happening to Susitna River sockeye salmon. The new goals were set on a system, with a stock of concern status, using insufficient data, disregarding new escapement data and the new data could have been included in the new goals. The Susitna River escapement goal were missed two out of the last three years which includes the new escapement goals that was established last year. These missed escapement goals may indicate the probable decline of future returns.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? With all the uncertainty of data expressed by the ADF&G in their sockeye salmon data, it will only increase the returns to Susitna River drainage during this period of uncertainty and lack of data.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There may be some temporary disruption of commercial fishing and sports fishing for sockeye salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Complete shutdown of all commercial and sports fishing between July 6 and 24. It is not realistic.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Knowles (SC-10F-092)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 21.358. Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan. Amend management plan based on Bendix-like numbers from Yentna River as follows:

I request the Board amend the Northern District Salmon Management Plan as follows:

During returns of less than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River an Optimal Inseason Yentna/Susitna sockeye salmon escapement goal of 90,000-160,000 fish as measured by Bendix-like numbers using the Yentna River sonar. Please also adopt further clarification to the already established optimal escapement goal during returns of 4 million or greater sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, that this Yentna/Susitna Inseason goal range of 75,000-180,000 **also be measured with Bendix-like numbers using the Yentna River sonar.**

ISSUE: There is great uncertainty concerning ADF&G's newly established Yentna/Susitna River sockeye salmon stock assessment, the amount of sockeye salmon necessary to provide spawning escapements needs, and provide for reasonable salmon harvest of all species of salmon

bound for Northern District drainages by users located within the Northern District and its stream drainages.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Because of the lack of data concerning impacts of ADF&G's newly established weir measured escapement goals, and because of ADF&G's stated lack of inseason data and lack of inseason management ability based on these weir goals there exists a significant danger for increased exploitation on Northern bound sockeye salmon and all other salmon stocks bound for Northern District drainage waters as evidence by the first year this new management scenario was put into play. In 2009 ADF&G recorded the lowest Bendix-like Yentna River sockeye salmon sonar escapement on record, but took no inseason action aimed at increasing Yentna/Susitna sockeye escapement. Given ADF&G's lack of other solid inseason assessments of Yentna/Susitna sockeye salmon and other northern bound salmon stocks during the month of July, Northern District salmon escapements and all users dependent upon inriver salmon numbers to provide reasonable harvest opportunity will likely suffer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users dependent upon the long established Yentna River sockeye salmon escapement goal range. This could also be seen as a neutral proposal as it merely seeks to maintain status quo in spawning escapement and allocations as adopted by the Board at the last Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All who might see short-term gain if the long history of Yentna River sockeye salmon escapements and the salmon harvest allocations they provided were disregarded.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Both the Anchorage Advisory Committee and the Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee adopted proposals for submission that would establish a Conservation Corridor to conservatively manage Northern District bound salmon stocks considering ADF&G's absence of solid inseason data on these stocks. Their approaches would likely provide more consistent obtainment of at least minimum traditional escapement levels and allocations to Northern users, but even more, when combined with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch (HQ-10F-128)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan. Remove gear restrictions in the Northern District after July 30 as follows:

The Northern District shall return to a full complement of gear after July 30.

ISSUE: The Susitna Action Plan restricted the Northern District to one (1) net during the period July 20 to Aug. 6th for the stock of concern; Susitna sockeye. The stock of concern is essentially

inriver by July 30th. The conservation burden on the Northern District fleet is extreme given the run timing of these fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Foregone harvest, continued marginalization of the Northern District fleet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The Northern District fishermen have built a fresh market that the Alaskan public has come to rely on. This would allow more fresh fish into the public sector that wishes to purchase fish direct from the fishermen at a reasonable price.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Northern District fishermen, the fish buying public and processors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? An extra opening a week, rejected because it conflicts with the management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Setnetters Association (HQ-10F-105)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 21.3XX. New Section. Establish a terminal fishery for Fish Creek Area as follows:

Once a personal use fishery is opened, then the department will allow for a terminal fishery for Cook Inlet set permit holders at Fish Creek. Area and time to be determined by the department on an EO basis.

ISSUE: Lack of commercial opportunity on stocks previously harvested by commercial fishermen in the Fish Creek terminal area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Foregone harvest, contradiction of the management plan.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Cook Inlet setnet permits who wish to participate, the fish buying public and processors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Setnetters Association (HQ-10F-106)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan. Modify coho management plan as follows:

When the number of cohos caught in a targeted sockeye commercial fishery is forecast to exceed 25% of the number of sockeye, there will be no emergency opener for those sockeye. If catch of coho in an emergency or scheduled opener exceeds 25% of the total catch from that opener, then any remaining scheduled openers will be closed by emergency order.

The reasoning behind this follows: The August 1st emergency order for Upper Cook Inlet opened fishing for sockeye. “Kalgin Island Subdistrict, Drift gillnetting will be open in the Central District, and set gillnetting in the Kenai, Kasilof and East Forelands” (upper subdistrict), with the reason being that “the escapement rate of sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River and Packers Creek is proceeding at a rate greater than that needed to ensure optimum escapement levels, while the sockeye salmon minimum inriver escapement goal in the Kenai River is projected to be achieved before the end of the season. In compliance with 5 AAC 21.370 Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, and in order to harvest salmon surplus to escapement needs and reduce the rate of sockeye salmon escapement into Packer’s Lake, additional fishing time in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict is warranted.”

Looking at the numbers for those openers: Central Drift: sockeye 10,784; coho 7,186. Upper Subdistrict: 12,258 sockeye; 1,466 coho. Kalgin Island Subdistrict: 1,448 sockeye; 1,190 coho. It is not very obvious from those numbers which species this fishery was opened for.

Looking at the emergency order of July 30, apparently too few fish were coming into the Kenai to enable this scheduled fishery. Two days later, it was projected that the minimum threshold of the Kenai would still be met if there was an emergency opener to stay within the optimal goal of Packer’s Lake and the Kasilof. The Packers Management Plan was cited. But Kalgin Subdistrict caught nearly as many coho as it did sockeye, so did Central District drift.

The EO for August 6 added 3 hours to the scheduled fishery, allowing it to cross the tied. This is the closing statement of this EO: “Therefore, in order to allow the harvest of sockeye salmon surplus to escapement needs, additional fishing time in the above described areas, which predominately harvest sockeye salmon bound for the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, is warranted.” Now the numbers... Central Drift: 4,763 sockeye; 8,664 coho. Upper Subdistrict: 8,297 sockeye; 2,446 coho. Total for the Central District: 14,827 sockeye, 12,167 coho. An identical EO was issued for August 10 and the results were even more startling, for a targeted sockeye fishery. Central Drift: 1,313 sockeye; 3,296 coho. Upper Subdistrict: 5,145 sockeye; 6,169 coho. Central District: 7,987 sockeye; 11,518 coho. The major difference is that now the setnets also caught more coho than sockeye.

ISSUE: Though Northern District coho are given a sportfish priority by management plan, they are not allowed passage through the commercial sockeye fisheries, to be available to sport fishermen. In 2009 Central District total for coho caught was 116,925. 103,390 were caught as of August 10, during sockeye openers. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is

targeting coho salmon under the guise of keeping escapements of sockeye within the optimum goals. Sportfishing is a vital part of Southcentral Alaska's economy, and the coho fishery in the Northern District streams is a large part of that sport fishing effort. ADF&G's policies concerning commercial EO's late in the season shows total disregard for the importance of this fishery to the people of the State of Alaska.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The majority of coho caught commercially will continue to be highest in targeted sockeye salmon fisheries, and Valley streams will continue to struggle to meet escapement goals and provide steady fishing throughout the coho season. This is even more essential to the state and Valley businesses and anglers as we expect the next several years to be poor for chinook.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Coho sport fishing. Rivers that depend on the nutritional shift from salt to freshwater provided by healthy salmon returns. Sockeye sport fishing, if sockeye in excess of spawning needs are allowed in to rivers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial coho fishermen operating under the guise of sockeye fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. Rejected because the status quo is not working for the Valley coho fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Runyan (SC-10F-117)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan Modify the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Reinstate windows and corridor management in the Upper Cook Inlet that was in place prior to 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting. In addition to that language, the following will be added to management plans affecting Northern District Sockeye: Insure passage of sockeye to Northern Cook Inlet's Knik Arm streams, as measured by the Fish Creek weir.

ISSUE: Lack of a management mechanism to ensure the passage of Fish Creek (Big Lake drainage) and other Northern Cook Inlet sockeye through the Cook Inlet drift and setnet commercial fisheries.

The Knik Arm drainages, which include Cottonwood Creek, Jim Creek/Jim Lake, and Fish Creek (Big Lake drainage), have historically had a very strong sockeye return. The only weir in the area is that in Fish Creek. Fish Creek's historic returns were of a strength that allowed for a sport fish and personal use harvest, as well as feeding a thriving ecosystem that supported a vital sport fish population of char, rainbow trout, and burbot in the Fish Creek drainage. Recent years have seen a dramatic decline in the numbers of sockeye returning to Fish Creek, that had been

contributed in part to compromised water quality in Big Lake. However, summer of 2009 saw a very robust return of sockeye, that exceeded the upper end of the escapement goal, even with the emergency re-instatement of the personal use fishery. This appears to contradict the theory that poor water quality will not allow juvenile sockeye to thrive in this system. This large return followed a nine day complete closure of commercial fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet. Approximately 65% of the return was wild: This shows that hatchery stocking of Big Lake is not necessary to the survival of this wild run.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this problem is not resolved, Fish Creek will continue to struggle to reach its escapement threshold, much less achieve the escapement necessary for sport and personal use fishing to take place. The escapement threshold is the bare minimum needed to reseed the run and provide the nutrients that the ecosystem needs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Valley residents who can harvest their personal use and sport caught sockeye near home instead of being forced to drive hundreds of miles to the Copper or Kenai/Kasilof rivers to harvest fish. Sport coho fishermen will also benefit from lowered by-catch of coho in the targeted sockeye fisheries. The entire ecosystem benefits from proper management of fisheries that allows enough escapement to meet the biological escapement needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries may see a reduced harvest because of the need to return spawning minimums into all streams.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. Rejected due to proven inability to maintain sustainable runs under the current management regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Runyan (SC-10F-114)

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.
Revise the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Amend point (1) and point (8) of the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

(1) except as specified in (8) of this section, the season will open for commercial fishing periods with the first fishing period beginning of the first Monday on or after **June 4, for three consecutive Mondays** [MAY 25, EXCEPT WHEN MAY 25 FALLS WITHING A CLOSED PERIOD, IN WHICH CASE THE SEASON OPENS THE NEXT FOLLOWING OPEN PERIOD AND CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE 24] unless closed earlier by emergency order.

(8) **From June 4** [MAY 24] through June 24, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing the second regular Monday period only.

ISSUE: At the last Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting the Northern District commercial king salmon openings were extended from 3 openings to 4 or 5 per season dependent upon how the yearly calendar falls with the understanding that ADF&G could close the commercial fishery by emergency order if any conservation problems should arise. When conservation problems arose, however, the ADF&G commercial manager claimed he was restricted from taking any conservation action outside those identified in the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan. Fortunately the escapement goals were missed, and have been consistently missed for several years on Lewis River, Theodore Creek, and Alexander Creek- all streams where sport fishing harvest has been completely foregone since the last Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting. In addition, inseason sport fishing restrictions and/or closures were enacted by emergency order in 2009 on the Dëshka River, Little Susitna River, Willow Creek, Little Willow Creek, Kashwitna River, Caswell Creek, Sheep Creek, and Montana Creek. In addition, during 2009 king salmon escapement goals were missed on nearly half of the Northern District streams with established king salmon escapement goals monitored by ADF&G.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? All indications are that without regulatory change king salmon escapement goals on some traditionally important Northern District king salmon streams will continue to be chronically missed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users dependent upon healthy king salmon production from Northern District king salmon streams. Sport anglers who have been closed to all king salmon harvest opportunity on Lewis River, Theodore Creek, and Alexander Creek may see a future opportunity to once again harvest king salmon from these streams after population levels recover.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Northern District setnetters would see commercial king salmon periods reduced to the level they were at prior to the last Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting, and the periods would start later, but run uninterrupted into their regular season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close commercial king salmon fishing within one mile of all important salmon producing streams entering the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet (similar to regulation in the Central District). This approach might also be necessary for recovery of some king salmon stocks- in particularly closures adjacent to Chulitna River, Lewis River, and Theodor Creek where sport fishing harvest has been drastically curtailed or closed all together since the mid 1990's. In addition, all sport king salmon catch and release fishing could also be closed on these 3 streams, however, when the earlier changes were made to curtail sport harvest on these streams no corresponding restrictions were made on the commercial fishery.

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan to articulate recreational use priority as follows:

5 AAC 21.366 Northern District King Salmon Management Plan

(a) **The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the Northern District king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon over the entire run, as measured by the frequency on inriver restrictions.** The department shall manage the Northern District commercial harvest of king salmon as follows:

(1) Except as specified in (8) of this section, the season will open for commercial fishing periods with the first period beginning on the first Monday on or after May 25, except when May 25 falls within a closed period, in which case the season opens the next following open period and continues through June 24, unless closed earlier by an emergency order.

(2) Fishing periods are from 7:00 am to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays;

(3) The harvest may not exceed 12,500 king salmon,

(4) Set gillnets may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh size;

(5) No CFEC permit holder may operate more than one set gillnet

(6) Not set gillnet may be set or operated within 1,200 feet of another set gillnet;

(7) No CFEC permit holder may set a gillnet seaward of a of a set gillnet operated by another CFEC permit holder;

(8) From May 25 through June 24, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing the second regular Monday period only;

(9) If the Theodore, Lewis, or Ivan River is closed to sport fishing **for or closed to the retention of king salmon (catch and release only)**, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River to commercial king salmon fishing;

(10) **If the Deshka River king salmon fishery is restricted to artificial lures only, the commissioner shall reduce commercial king salmon fishing periods to 6 hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

(11) if the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing **for or closed to the retention of king salmon (catch and release only)**, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section: and

(12) if the Chuitna River is closed to sport fishing **for or closed to the retention of king salmon (catch and release only)**, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker locate one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River to commercial king salmon fishing.

(b) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e)

ISSUE: The Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.363) adopted by the BOF in 1977, originally stipulated that salmon stocks moving through UCI prior to July 1 were to be managed primarily for recreational uses in compliance with the subsistence priority. This so called umbrella plan was created to establish long term primary beneficial use for UCI stocks while permitting secondary uses that are consistent with the primary user group, In 1986 the BOF adopted the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan that provided the commercial fishery with modest (capped) access into what at that time was an expanding king salmon resource. In 1999 the BOF dropped the primary use provision from the umbrella plan but inadvertently failed to place a primary use provision into the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan. This proposal seeks to once again clearly articulate a recreational use priority for Northern District king salmon. The proposal further provides clarity to conservation language of the Northern District King Salmon Plan that addresses small depressed stock such as the Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna rivers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Beneficial use priorities will remain unclear for Northern District king salmon. Failure to provide such guidance will only serve to exacerbate the management of this already complex fishery. It is imperative that ADF&G receives long-term direction for these stocks so that both management and research promote the public interest and provide maximum benefits to the thousands of Alaskans that utilize these resources. The sustainability of small-fragile stocks that chronically fail to meet minimum escapements will be jeopardized if clarity is not provided to provisions of the plan that “trigger” conservation actions within the set gillnet fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Stakeholders and ADF&G will benefit from additional clarity to this step down plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Northern District set gillnet fishery king salmon harvest may be reduced.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Closure of the set gillnet fishery in proximity of such streams as the Theodore, Lewis, or Chuitna rivers during the year following a year where a minimum escapement level was not achieved was considered but rejected (this was a former BOF regulation). Changing the priority use of this stock to commercial was rejected, because such a classification would not promote maximum benefits to the people of Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Susitna Borough Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Sportsmen’s Committee
(HQ-10F-109)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.
Establish a Susitna River Small Stream and River Management Plan as follows:

Establish a Susitna River Small Stream and River Management Plan to manage salt and fresh water fisheries. The following streams and river could be included in this plan: Willow, Little Willow, Montana, Clear, Sheep and Lake Creek and the following rivers: Talachulitna and Chulitna rivers. The plan would be used to manage king salmon fisheries based on previous year (s) escapement/returns. If three or more indexes are missed, commercial fishing effort would be reduced during the first three weeks of the season and sports fishing efforts on the streams would be reduced. If escapement were missed the second year, additional closures or restrictions would be required, and the same for the third, fourth and fifth years with protective measures taken each year.

ISSUE: The majority of the Susitna River drainage doesn't have any type of management plan. There are 16 streams in the Susitna River drainage that have king salmon index counts. Recent Susitna River drainage king index counts show that half of the index counts are at or below their minimums. The Dëshka River is the only stream or river to have an in-season weir count and BEG. Alexander Creek has been identified as having problems with pike causing missed escapement goals and a possible stock of yield concern.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Susitna River has many streams and river that are in need of a management plan to protect small and weak returns. Without some type of protection these streams may end up as stocks of yield concern.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both commercial fishing and sports fishing will benefit once the runs have returned to normal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Both user groups will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The numbers of small streams and rivers have gone too long without some type of protection. These streams are major fisheries. Some type of management plan is needed to protect these stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Knowles (SC-10F-091)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.
Conduct stock assessment of the kings caught during the marine fishery off Deep Creek as follows:

ADF&G will undertake a stock assessment of the kings caught during the marine fishery off of Deep Creek that starts Memorial Day prior to any restrictions being enacted in the Northern District.

ISSUE: Deep Creek Marine fishery interception of king salmon bound for the Susitna. It is known that a portion of these kings are British Columbia fish but it is reasonable to assume due to the run timing that a portion is also Susitna bound.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Potential overharvest of Susitna king stocks. Continued closures in the Northern District.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource, the fishermen, the Board, the department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None, this is information the Board needs when considering emergency petitions and in allocation decisions.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Setnetters Association (HQ-10F-104)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan.
Modify the Kenai River Late run King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Delete 5 AAC 21.359 (e) [CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND 5 AAC 21.360 IF THE PROJECTED IN-RIVER RETURN OF KING SALMON IS LESS THAN 40,000 FISH, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT REDUCE THE CLOSED WATERS AT THE MOUTH OF THE KENAI RIVER DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 21.350 (b)].

ISSUE: Delete this section because it prohibits the managers from using a valuable tool, of time and area, to manage for the sockeye spawning escapement goal. They are prohibited from using this tool until the upper end of the king escapement is projected to enter the river. The result has been continual gross sockeye over-escapement and loss of valuable salmon surpluses. The Kenai kings are healthy and provide reasonable opportunity to harvest. The managers manage for the chinook spawning escapement goal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued over-escapement, economic harm, waste of the harvestable surplus, and reduced future salmon returns.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users, the resource, the managers, the local economies by harvesting the surplus, preventing gross over-escapements and maintaining future high returns from managing biologically for maximum sustained yields.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The Kenai kings are abundant. Some users will want to continue this allocation at the expense of grossly exceeding the sockeye spawning goal.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. This is a tool the managers must have to use when needed to prevent gross over-escapement, waste of the surplus and smaller future sockeye returns.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee (SC-10F-016)

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Establish an effective allocation of sockeye to personal use and sport fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet as follows:

Clarify definitions and establish operational measures to meet the allocation direction provided by the management plan relative to the “minimize” and “primarily” directions:

1. Clarify the priority for Kenai late-run sockeye for commercial uses while also providing reasonable opportunity for sockeye use in personal use and sport fisheries.
2. Utilize fishery windows to ensure that allocation priorities for kings and coho are met, and reasonable opportunities for sockeye harvest are provided in personal use and sport fisheries. Windows are vital component of the definition of minimize for Kenai River late-run king salmon, Kenai coho and to some extent Northern coho. Windows also help provide reasonable opportunity for sockeye as required by section (a) of the plan.

Establish two, scheduled 36-hour windows per management week in the 2-4 million run tier in order to provide consistent, meaningful delivery of fish to the river at times when fish are available.

Clarify conditions under which windows may be set aside inseason based on projected escapements relative to escapement goals.

3. Utilize August limitations on regular commercial EO authority to ensure that coho sport priorities are met.

Corresponding changes to the regulatory language are:

5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

(a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance, **and in addition, to provide personal use, sport and guided sport fishermen reasonable opportunity to harvest late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon.** The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

(b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to

(1) meet an optimum escapement goal (OEG) range of 500,000 - 1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon;

(2) achieve inriver goals as established by the board and measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19; and

(3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly with the OEG range, in proportion to the size of the run.

(c) Based on preseason forecasts and inseason evaluations of the total Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return during the fishing season, the run will be managed as follows:

(1) at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000 – [850,000] **1,200,000** sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19; and

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, unless the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, at which time the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 24-hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365;

(2) at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000 – [950,000] **1,200,000** sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 51-hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; and

(C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for [ON]E **two** continuous 36-hour periods per week beginning between **7:00 p.m. Monday and 7:00 am Tuesday**, and 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and [FOR AN ADDITIONAL 24-HOUR PERIOD DURING THE SAME MANAGEMENT WEEK];

(3) at run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000 – [1,100,000] **1,200,000** sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 84-hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; [AND]

(C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday; **and**

(4) if the department projects that, within 48 hours, the inriver abundance of late-run sockeye salmon as enumerated past the sonar counter located at river-mile 19, will exceed 1,200,000, then the commissioner may depart from provision in (c)(1), (c)(2), or (c)(3).

(d) The sonar count levels established in this section may be lowered by the board if noncommercial fishing, after consideration of mitigation efforts, results in a net loss of riparian habitat on the Kenai River. The department will, to the extent practicable, conduct habitat assessments on a schedule that conforms to the Board of Fisheries (board) triennial meeting cycle. If the assessments demonstrate a net loss of riparian habitat caused by noncommercial fishermen, the department is requested to report those findings to the board and submit proposals to the board for appropriate modification of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver goal.

(e) Repealed 6/11/2005.

(f) Repealed 6/11/2005.

(g) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dipnet fishery in the lower Kenai River as specified in 5 AAC 77.540.

(h) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall manage the sport fishery on the Kenai River, except that portion of the Kenai River from its confluence with the Russian River to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1,800 yards downstream, as follows:

(1) fishing will occur seven days per week, 24 hours per day;

(2) the bag and possession limit for the sport fishery is three sockeye salmon, unless the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds 2,000,000 salmon, at which time the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit as the commissioner determines to be appropriate; and

(3) if the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is less than 650,000 fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit, as the commissioner determines to be appropriate, for sockeye salmon in the sport fishery above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19.

(i) For the purposes of this section, "week" means a calendar week, a period of time beginning at 12:00:01 a.m. Sunday and ending at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday.

(j) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC21.363(e).

(k) the department will further minimize the commercial harvest of Kenai River coho salmon, consistent with managing Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon for commercial fishing, as follows:

(1) By limiting the upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to regular periods only, after the first Sunday in August, unless the department projects that , within 48 hours, the inriver abundance of Kenai River sockeye salmon, as measured by the sonar counter, located at mile 19, will exceed 1,200,000; and

(2) By closure of the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery on or before August 7

ISSUE: This plan directs that the department shall manage the commercial fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai kings, and Kenai river coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fisherman with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources. However, the plan provides no operational definition of “minimize”. As result, the commercial setnet fishery is managed in effect to maximize the harvest of Kenai sockeye based on run size. In the absence of specific numerical objectives or direction on how to minimize commercial harvest of for coho and king, commercial harvest priorities and objectives for sockeye have effectively trumped PU and sport priorities when sockeye are available. Commercial fisheries harvest a disproportionately large share of the Kenai and Northern District coho and kings available from late June through early August. These intensive commercial fisheries severely impact salmon availability and fishery opportunities in personal use and sport fisheries throughout Upper Cook Inlet.

The management plan also fails to provide an operational definition of “primarily” in the direction to manage sockeye primarily for commercial uses. Sockeye are clearly intended to be managed primarily, but not entirely for commercial uses. An effective allocation of sockeye to personal use and sport fisheries remains undefined. Management of the commercial fishery for maximum harvest of sockeye based on abundance, greatly limits the number and timing of sockeye available for personal use and sport fisheries operating in their shadow. Management of the commercial fishery by Emergency Order on short notice is particularly disruptive to the inriver fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without operational definitions and direction, sockeye priorities will continue to trump other species priorities and perpetuate inequities in allocation. The balance of UCI fishery allocation will continue to favor the commercial fisheries. Demand for personal use and sport fishery opportunities by the South Central Alaska populace will remain fulfilled. High economic values of the inriver fisheries are foregone.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The proposal restores an equitable allocation of salmon to personal use and sport fisheries consistent with the species priorities identified in the management plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The proposal provides for a nominal redistribution of fishery opportunities and economic values of the salmon harvest from the Central District East Side setnet fishery to other fisheries throughout the Upper Cook Inlet.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Windows shorter than 36 hours provide limited benefits to inriver fisheries, serving primarily to reload the beaches for the next setnet fishery opener.

The effectiveness of floating rather than fixed windows is limited because of their unpredictable schedule and the practice of scheduling to limit effectiveness.

Extensive emergency order openers during August, heavily impact the front end of the Kenai coho run during a period of rapidly declining sockeye abundance.

Limitations on windows were rejected because they have not increased the incidence of large escapements since adoption. Escapements exceeding goals have always occurred, even before windows. They are a product of variable and unpredictable run sizes – not windows.

The proposal does not propose to eliminate the commissioner’s emergency order authority to take actions to meet established escapement goals as directed in the umbrella plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-10F-090)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 21.360. Weekly fishing periods. Increase optimal escapement goal of late-run sockeye in the Kenai River, Russian River and Hidden Lake as follows:

Clarify the basis for the definition of the OEG based on the aggregate of the Kenai River late-run, Russian River late-run, Hidden Lake enhanced return, and an appropriate buffer for run composition differences to ensure that all minimum goals are met.

Correct the OEG based on current escapement goals:

	Kenai SEG	Russian SEG	Hidden Lk. Escapement	Optimum escapement goal	
				Old	Corrected
Lower bound	500,000	30,000	43,000 ^a	500,000	<u>600,000^b</u>
Upper bound	800,000	110,000	43,000 ^a	1,000,000	1,000,000

^a 10-year average escapement.

^b A total escapement of 600,000 will meet the Kenai 500,000 goal about 50% of the time when Hidden Lake escapement is very low. (Russian escapements typically comprise about 20% of the non-Hidden total.)

Correct inriver goals for consistency with the corrected OEG (100,000 increase in OEG is applied to each of the inriver goals):

Run Size	Old ^a	Corrected
< 2 million	650,000 to 850,000	<u>750,000</u> to <u>950,000</u>
2-4 million	750,000 to 950,000	<u>850,000</u> to <u>1,050,000</u>
>4 million	850,000 to 1,100,000	<u>950,000</u> to <u>1,200,000</u>

^a At the respective run size tiers, the inriver goals provide for minimum harvest levels above the sonar of 150,000, 250,000, and 350,000 in addition to the 600,000 lower OEG.

Proposed plan language revision:

(b)(1) meet a minimum escapement goal(OEG) of [500,000] **600,000** — 1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon **including the aggregate of Kenai River, Russian River and Hidden Lake escapements**; ...

(c)(1)(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of [650,000 —850,000] **750,000—950.000** sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;...

(c)(2)(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of [750,000 —950,000] **850,000—1,050.000** sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;...

(c)(3)(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of [850,000 —1,100,000] **950,000—1,200.000** sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;...

ISSUE: Kenai late-run sockeye escapements have regularly failed to meet minimum escapement goals in low runs during the last 10 years. Clarification of the basis for current goals is needed to address this failure. It remains unclear whether the current OEG and inriver goals are based on a consistent aggregation of stocks. Inriver goals are met by a combination of Kenai River, Russian River, and Hidden Lake stocks. The current OEG definition is either inconsistent with the inriver goal definition or else underestimates the number of sockeye required to meet the minimum escapement goals in aggregate. The lower end of the current late-run sockeye OEG has never been updated to reflect current SEGs. Only the Board can revise an OEG.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be confusion regarding whether fisheries below the sonar are to be managed based on inriver goals or the OEG. Inconsistent definitions increase risks of failure to meet minimum escapement goals which reduces future yields and fishery values.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fisheries benefit by ensuring that minimum escapement goals for each run component are met.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No-one suffers from this correction. Any immediate reduction in harvest outside the sonar caused by correcting these goals is more than offset by future yield benefits of meeting the minimum escapement goals. Every additional sockeye that escapes to spawn at these low run levels replaces itself several-fold.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Correction of the OEG without corresponding corrections to the inriver goals was rejected because it would alter the current allocation formula in favor of the commercial fisheries.

Increasing the inriver goals to reflect the trend in growth of the sport fishery upstream from the sonar was rejected because it would alter the current allocation formula in favor of these sport fisheries.

Decreasing the upper end of the OEG to ensure maximum escapement goals were not exceeded was rejected because the sport fishery upstream from the sonar effectively limits escapement when the inriver goals are met.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-10F-092)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Revise the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan as follows:

- (b) (1) [OPTIMUM ESCAPEMENT GOAL (OEG)] **Biological Escapement Goal (BEG)**
...[500,000-1,000,000] **400,000-700,000**
- (b) (2) [GOALS} **goal**...[;AND] **of 600,000-800,000**
- (b) (3) [OEG] **BEG** [RANGE, IN PROPORTION TO THE SIZE OF THE RUN.] **range**
- (c) DELETE
- (g) [OPTIMAL ESCAPMENT GOAL] **Biological Escapement Goal**

ISSUE: Management plan does not work and violates consistence of high yield opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of consistent high yield returns. Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) will be rarely accomplished by all users groups and their supporting industries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, more efficient fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as opportunity will increase for all with consistent high yields.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (HQ-10F-225)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Change escapement goals as follows:

Kenai escapement will be 450,000-650,000.

ISSUE: Overescapement, small return on the Kenai River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Runs will continue to shrink.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The number of fish returning will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users benefit by abundant returns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The largest returns have been from the escapements.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-135)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Remove the three tier system from the Kenai River Sockeye Management Plan as follows:

Using the DIDSON sonar, there would be a single inriver goal of 600,000 to 900,000 sockeye.

ISSUE: Delete the three tiers contained in 5 AAC 21.353(a)(2) that describe run strength.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The three tiers escapement goals for the Kenai River simply are not working. In ten of the eleven years that these tiers have existed, the pre-season estimate of run strength has been incorrect. No other river in the state has this kind of management. The Kenai River sockeye escapements are producing returns with a two to one spawner return ratio.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improve management of these stocks and helps clarify the escapement goal and expectations of the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hopefully with one goal, run sizes will increase and all user groups would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Gary L. Hollier (HQ-10F-065)

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan as follows:

- (a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES TO MINIMIZE THE HARVEST OF NORTHERN DISTRICT COHO, LATE-RUN KENAI RIVER KING, AND KENAI RIVER COHO

(b) (1) meet **the spawning** [AN OPTIMUM OEG] escapement goal range of **400,000 – 700,000** [500,000 – 1,000,000] late-run sockeye salmon;

(b) (3) distribute, **as practical**, the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the **spawning escapement** [OEG] range, in proportion to the size of the run.

ISSUE: This management plan, after multiple years of use, simply doesn't work. This plan unduly restricts local managers to the point that it is impossible to manage for escapement goals and inevitably creates over escapement, loss of harvestable resource, on both large and small returns. This creates economic loss and hardship on the users, communities and biological harm to the resource and future returns.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued over escapement, economic harm, waste of the harvestable surplus and reduced future salmon returns. Continued conflict between management plans.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This will improve quality by allowing the managers to manage on a real-time basis. Spreading the harvest out more evenly and further away from the river for the entire run. This allows for more harvest of bright salmon with a higher oil content which commands a higher demand and price.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users, the resource, the managers, the local economies by harvesting the surplus and maintaining future high returns from managing biologically for maximum sustained yields.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Only those who want to continue conflicting, dysfunctional management plans that are proven to produce future low returns and poorer quality product.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. Remaining status quo will only continue to waste the harvestable surplus and produce small returns and poorer quality product.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee (SC-10F-011)

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Modify wording in several management plans to allow harvest over the course of king runs as follows:

Delete from all management plans that contain the wording: [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES TO MINIMIZE THE HARVEST OF LATE-RUN KENAI RIVER KING IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PERSONAL USE, SPORT,

AND GUIDED SPORT FISHERMEN WITH A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST SALMON RESOURCES.]

ISSUE: Unnecessary language in management plans that restricts the flexibility for the managers to manage on a real-time basis of in-season abundance.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued conflict, unnecessary restrictions resulting in un-harvested salmon surpluses.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It allows a more even harvest effort to be spread over the course of the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users by being able to harvest the salmon surpluses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The Kenai king run is healthy.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee (SC-10F-018)

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC. 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Modify wording in several management plans to allow harvest over the course of coho runs as follows:

[THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES TO MINIMIZE THE HARVEST OF NORTHERN DISTRICT COHO, AND KENAI RIVER COHO SALMON STOCKS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PERSONAL USE, SPORT, AND GUIDDED SPORT FISHERMEN WITH A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST SALMON RESOURCES.]

ISSUE: Unnecessary language in management plans that restricts the flexibility for the managers to manage on a real-time basis of in-season abundance.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued conflict, unnecessary restrictions resulting in unharvested salmon surpluses.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It allows for harvest efforts to be spread over the course of the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users by harvesting the salmon surpluses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The coho runs are healthy and are only being exploited at less than half the biological exploitation rate. In-river users have reasonable opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee (SC-10F-012)

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 21.360(b)(4). **Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** Add language that all fisheries will be closed if the OEG will not be achieved as follows:

(4) All sport, personal use and commercial fishing will be closed if the department projects that a minimum escapement goal (OEG) will not be achieved.

ISSUE: Must ensure that minimum escapement goals will be achieved to ensure future production of sockeye salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Future sockeye salmon returns will be smaller than desirable. All user groups will face harvest restrictions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Ensures future returns above the 1:1 spawner per recruitment replacement value.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport, personal use and commercial fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport, personal use and commercial fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-083)

PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 21.361. **Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** Develop a management plan for the early Russian River sockeye run as follows:

Board of Fisheries with the assistance of ADF&G will develop a management plan to allow a limited opportunity to commercial fishermen to harvest a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 10,000 early Russian River sockeye. Commercial fishing with setnet gear will commence on the first Monday in June with fishing days to be Mondays and Thursdays, six hour periods starting at 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. until a GLH of 10,000 sockeye salmon are harvested. A restriction on one 35 fathom set gillnet per permit will be enforced. If 200 king salmon are harvested before the sockeye goal is met, fishing will close by emergency order.

ISSUE: A reasonable opportunity is being denied commercial setnet fishermen on a harvestable surplus of early-run Kenai River sockeye.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of utilization of the resource. Economic opportunity for the coastal community will continue to be denied. Cook Inlet processors will not generate economic activity for the local and state economies.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, quality sockeye in early June demand a premium price in the domestic fish market.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen, local communities, state economy, and job creation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, this is a limited fishery with GHIL, these sockeye are excess to spawning needs of current lower bound SEG, and other users. Current cost recovery harvest 10,000 sockeye that may already comprise a large proportion of these sockeye.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Fishery without GHIL or reduction in time and means may be difficult to manage.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (HQ-10F-220)

PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 21.363(e). Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan as follows:

(e) It is the intent of the board that, while in most circumstances the department will adhere to the management plans in this chapter, nothing in the management plans is intended to override the commissioner's emergency order authority under AS 16.05.060 [SHOULD SIGNIFICANT NEW INFORMATION ARISE THAT, IN THE COMMISSIONER'S JUDGEMENT, WARRANTS DEPARTURE FROM THE PROVISIONS IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN].

ISSUE: Eliminate the conflict, confusion and mixed individual interpretations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confusion and mixed interpretations as to what new information is. The results have been the commissioner's not using his emergency order authority. Thereby grossly over escaping the rivers and harming the users by not being allowed to harvest the salmon surpluses. Limits the use of the commissioner's emergency order authority.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Would possibly allow the harvest to be more spread out over the course of the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who want flexibility in the use of the commissioner's EO authority.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who want mixed interpretations and to restrict the commissioner's EO authority.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee (SC-10F-009)

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Restrict all harvest until minimum escapement goals are reached as follows:

Restrict harvest until the minimum escapement goals are a reached reality and not an estimated protection.

ISSUE: Failures in reaching escapement goals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Frequency of years where the minimum escapement goals are not reached will increase and thereby threaten continued viability of our resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality is improved by being assured for future resource users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that uses the resource now and in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Only those temporarily restricted until minimum escapement numbers are assured by actual count.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – eventually it will lead to us arguing over who harvests the last two spawners.

PROPOSED BY: James Garhart (SC-10F-108)

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Amend regulation to minimize incidental harvest of non-targeted species in Upper Cook Inlet as follows:

Restore language in the umbrella plan that addresses primary use and direction to minimize incidental harvest of non-target species by revising sections (a)(2) through (a)(4) as follows:

- (2) to provide for the management and allocation of the Upper Cook Inlet salmon resources, the harvest of the Upper Cook Inlet salmon will be **guided by this plan and** governed by specific and comprehensive management plans adopted by the board for salmon stocks and

species, on a Cook Inlet basin wide basis, for different areas, and drainages and for different types of fisheries;

(3) in adopting the specific management plans described in (2) of this subsection the board will consider:

(A) the need for sustainable fisheries for all salmon stocks and salmon species throughout the Cook Inlet Basin;

(B) the protection of the fisheries habitat both in the fresh water and the marine environment throughout the Cook Inlet Basin; [AND]

(C) the various needs and demands of the user groups of the salmon resources of Upper Cook Inlet; **and**

(D) will manage:

(i) all early and late-run king salmon and all coho salmon primarily for sport and guided sport fishermen;

(ii) late-run Kenai, Kasilof, and Northern District sockeye, all chum salmon and all pink salmon primarily for commercial uses based on abundance except commercial fisheries will be managed to minimize the harvest of king and coho salmon and to provide personal use, sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest the sockeye salmon resources;

(4) **guided by the general allocative direction provided in (A) through (D) of this subsection** [IN THESE MANAGEMENT PLANS,] the board may, as appropriate, address the following considerations:

(A) the need to **more specifically** allocate the harvestable surplus among commercial, sport, guided sport and personal use fisheries; and

(B) the need to allocate the harvestable surplus within user groups;

ISSUE: The Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan was established by policy in 1977 and in regulation in 1978. From that time through 1999, the plan included language and direction regarding species priorities. Since 1999, management priority and “minimization” language for some salmon species has been contained in specific management plans adopted under the umbrella plan but this language is no longer found in the umbrella plan. As a result, the umbrella plan no longer provides overarching guidance for the relative priorities and direction for management among the various species plans. Management plans do not explicitly identify fishery priorities for a number of stocks that are not addressed by specific management plans.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishery priorities for some stocks will remain unclear. Unclear priorities will continue to be inconsistently applied in some fisheries at the expense of others.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit from additional clarity provided by the proposed revision.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Changes in species priorities among fisheries were rejected in order to preserve the allocative intent of previous Boards.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Sportsmen’s Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (HQ-10F-089)

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Revise the Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Plan as follows:

Throw out all reallocations since 1998 and return to the commercial priority and biological management.

ISSUE: The language in current Upper Cook Inlet Plans.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Degradation of the river and reduced returns.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? When runs rebound all benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close the upper river where fish spawn; open only the first two miles of river.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-137)

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Revise Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan as follows:

(b) DELETE

(c)(2)[7] 15 (A)DELETE (B)DELETE

(c)(3) [BEGINNING] **after** ...[8] 15 [THE SET GILLNET FISHERY IN THE KASILOF SECTION WILL BE MANAGED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 21.360(c); IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS OF 5 AAC 21.360 (c)]

(4) [300,000] **250,000** [OPTIMAL] **Biological** ... [24-] ... [AND AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 21.360(c)]

(f)(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8) DELETE

ISSUE: Inoperable plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? New and expanding fishery will continue. Historical fisheries will be decimated. Poor maximized utilization of fishery. Poor quality. Disorderly fishery. Violation of SSF policies.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (HQ-10F-224)

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan as follows:

- (a) **The department shall manage the Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance.**
- (b) **Meet a spawning escapement goal range of 150,000 to 250,000 sockeye salmon.**

ISSUE: Simplify the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan to allow the local management biologist to manage for the spawning escapement goals. The current plan doesn't work and grossly over escapes the Kasilof basically every year, whether the run is large or small. Great economic harm is inflicted to the users. A large part of the harvestable surplus is wasted.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kasilof will continue to over escape. Harvestable surpluses will be lost. Economic harm will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This allows harvest to be spread more evenly over the entire run. Harvest will be on fresher salmon further away from the river and contain a higher oil content.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users, the resource, the managers, the local economies by harvesting the surplus and maintaining future high returns from managing biologically for maximum sustained yields.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The resource is healthy and not being fully utilized.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. No other solution will solve the problems.

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Revise the sockeye optimal escapement goal in the Kasilof as follows:

Revise the current sockeye OEG in the Kasilof consistent with current data, e.g.

- (b) Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River optimal escapement goal range of **200,000 to 350,000** [150,000 TO 300,000] sockeye salmon.

ISSUE: The current OEG is based on old data and needs to be updated based on new information. Only the Board can change an OEG. The OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 is based on a BEG of 150,000 to 250,000 with an additional allowance of 50,000 at the top end to ensure that minimum Kenai sockeye escapement goals are met. Recent large Kasilof escapements have produced large returns and shown that the old escapement goals were overly restrictive. Increasing smolt sizes, despite large returns, indicate that production capacity of the Kasilof has increased but the goals have not been revised to reflect this increase. Chronic management problems in the Kasilof commercial setnet fishery, including annual out-of-plan actions, are an artifact of the failure to update escapement goals. Excessive Kasilof setnet fisheries in years of large Kasilof returns intercept large numbers of Kenai fish and significantly curtail Kenai area opportunities in years of low Kenai sockeye runs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management for lower-than-optimum escapements sacrifices future yields. Unnecessary out-of-plan actions impact commercial setnet fisheries in the Kenai area and personal use and recreational fisheries in the Kasilof and Kenai rivers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Every fishery benefits when Kasilof sockeye are managed for optimum sustained yields. Escapements of all Kasilof salmon species benefit when Kasilof sockeye harvest rates are not artificially inflated to very high levels by this goal discrepancy. Kenai area commercial setnet fisheries benefit by a more equitable sharing of the sockeye harvest in years of low Kenai runs and high Kasilof runs. Personal use and sport fisheries benefit when additional Kenai fish are allowed to transit the Kasilof area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Kasilof commercial setnet fisheries would forego some immediate harvest in exchange for sustaining large sockeye harvests at high levels in the future. However, because higher escapements continue to replace themselves with high yields, there will be no net loss in the long term.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The status quo was rejected because it unnecessarily sacrifices future yields and perpetuates current management problems.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-10F-086)

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Amend Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan to the Kenai inriver goals as follows:

Clarify the reference in the Kasilof plan to Kenai escapement goals as referring to the Kenai inriver goal:

- (b) Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon **in river** escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof optimal escapement goal range...

This is essentially a housekeeping proposal to clarify the reference to the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal in the Kasilof Salmon Management Plan.

ISSUE: The Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan directs that “achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River optimal escapement goal range” but fails to identify whether this determination is based on the Kenai OEG or the inriver goals. Recent in-season management decisions by ADF&G in the Kasilof fishery have been based on the Kenai OEG which is inconsistent with the Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Management Plan (5 AAC 21.360) which directs that the department shall manage Kenai sockeye for inriver goal ranges based on run strength. Managing commercial and personal use fisheries for the minimum OEG rather than the inriver goals: 1) risks under escapement with significant long term losses of Kenai sockeye yield in all fisheries, and 2) changes the allocation of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye and chinook among commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management under the Kasilof plan will continue to be contradictory to the direction in the Kenai plan to manage based on inriver goals. The lack of explicit direction in the Kasilof plan places department in the position of having to make allocative interpretations. Allocation decisions are the responsibility of the Board, not the department.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Every fishery benefits when Kenai sockeye are managed to ensure that minimum escapement goals are met. Kenai area commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries will all benefit when a larger portion of the Kenai sockeye run is allowed to transit the Kasilof area setnet fishery. Kasilof River personal use and sport fisheries will also benefit when Kasilof setnet fishery windows and emergency order limits are not set aside in order for the commercial fishery to maximize their harvest in large Kasilof sockeye run years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Relative to the management intent established by previous Boards to manage Kenai sockeye to meet inriver goals, no one suffers. However, recent practice to manage the Kasilof for the Kenai OEG rather than the inriver goals has benefited the Kasilof

area setnet fishery at the expense of Kenai area commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries. Consequently, elimination of this loophole will potentially reduce the setnet fishery harvest in the Kasilof area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Basing Kasilof management on the OEG rather than the inriver goals was rejected because it is inconsistent with the management direction in the Kenai Management Plan to manage Kenai sockeye for the inriver goals. It makes no sense to manage the Kasilof area based on the Kenai OEG when management of Kenai area fisheries is based on the inriver goals.

Elimination of the linkage between the Kenai and Kasilof plans was rejected because the long-term damages of under-escaping Kenai sockeye far outweigh the benefits of catching additional Kasilof sockeye or the damages of over-escaping Kasilof sockeye.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-10F-085)

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 21.320. Cook Inlet Area weekly fishing periods. Keep Saturday free of emergency commercial openings as follows:

Keep one day of the week, preferably Saturday, where no “emergency commercial openings” is a reality and not a false promise.

ISSUE: Lack of fish reaching dipnetters when emergency commercial openings are declared during days not regularly scheduled for commercial openings.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Those who contact Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and are told just before leaving for Kasilof that “there will be no emergency commercial openings today”, will continue to waste their time when the emergency opening is enacted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality improves in increased probability of success for dipnetters on Saturdays and additional escapement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Personal use dipnetters and the future harvesters of the returns from those spawners added to the escapement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those not on the schedule to harvest that day that would receive “emergency” permission to intercept the resource, thus denying my common use.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – it’s not only unfair and unconstitutional, it is also wrong.

PROPOSED BY: James Garhart (SC-10F-107)

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Revise the Kasilof River Sockeye Harvest Management Plan as follows:

In years where the Kenai sockeye return is not meeting escapement goals, the Kasilof management tool uses beach nets only to control Kasilof over-escapement not the Kasilof half mile. A beach net would be defined as the setnet closest to the current tide line. As the tide moves in and out, different rows of nets would be able to be fished as the tide ebbed and flooded. If the Kasilof is in danger of over escapement, then the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area could also be opened.

ISSUE: Change the Kasilof River Sockeye Harvest management Plan as follows: If determined that the Kenai sockeye escapement goal is not being met, eliminate the harvest of Kenai sockeye in the Kasilof half mile fishery by using beach nets only or in conjunction with the Kasilof Special Harvest Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Too many Kenai fish are being intercepted in the Kasilof half mile fishery. Even though this management tool is in place supposedly to this very reason, it is ineffective and Kenai sockeye escapement goals will continue to be affected.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By allowing more Kenai bound sockeye into the river earlier in the season (due to not being intercepted by Kasilof half mile nets), escapement goals can be met, allowing more fishing during the season as opposed to closing the Kenai fishery and then opening it the last one or two weeks when the quality of the fish are questionable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Kenai district fishermen including commercial, sport and personal use. Incidental catch of Kenai bound king salmon will also be eliminated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Kasilof district fishermen who previously were able to fish during the Kasilof half mile.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Lance Alldrin (HQ-10F-127)

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Expand the fishing area in the North Kalifornsky Beach Subsection as follows:

- 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan
- (C) Upper Subdistrict
- (i) South of the mouth of the Kenai River (Stat. area 244-32) and the Kasilof section: from June 25 through August 15.....

Intent: Area 244-32 shall fish in all regular periods and EO hours afforded Kasilof Section prior to July 8th.

ISSUE: Lack of harvest opportunity for Kasilof sockeye in the North Beach Subsection (244-32) prior to arrival of Kenai sockeye.

A) The recently completed GST report on Upper Cook Inlet sockeye harvest showed what North Kalifornsky Beach fishermen already understood, that a significant portion of their harvest was of Kasilof origin. In two of the four years studied, Kasilof stocks made up over 50% of the total harvest.

B) An example of available abundance; In the South Kalifornsky Beach Subsection (244-31) average harvest before July 8th (2007-9) equals 77,000 sockeye. It is important to note, the North Kalifornsky Beach Subsection (244-32) has had harvests for the whole season below 77,000 sockeye in five of the last eleven years. Prior to July 8th, Kasilof sockeye are the predominate stock available.

C) According to ADF&G staff 70% of sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet swim northward past their river of origin.

D) Currently, only 3.5 miles of setnets north of the Kasilof River are utilized to harvest these stocks.

E) It would be inconceivable to only use 3.5 miles of setnets north of the Kenai River and expect to come anywhere near the Kenai River BEG for sockeye salmon. Over escapement would likely occur every year. The Kasilof River BEG has exceeded 11 of the last 13 years.

F) The East Forelands Section was added to the Central District in the 1970's to harvest Kenai Bound sockeye. This section ranges 13-20 miles north of the Kenai River, North Kalifornsky Beach ranges from 4 to 7 miles north of the Kasilof River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In 5 AAC21.365 Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (a) (states): This management plan governs the harvest of Kasilof River salmon excess to spawning escapement needs. It is this intent of the BOF that Kasilof River salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries. If this regulation is not implemented North Kalifornsky Beach (244-32) will continue to lose harvest opportunities of Kasilof sockeye, which is in direct contradiction to 5 AAC 21.365(a). This section is trying to get back fishing time and area that they have historically fished.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes- when Kasilof sockeye are harvested earlier, it reduces

the change ADF&G will have to use the Kasilof Terminal Harvest Area later on. ADF&G staff is mandated to rarely if ever use this area. The extensive use of this area has and will result in a lower value for sockeye salmon as was the case in 2006. By comparison, the price of sockeye tends to be 30 to 40% higher in the early portion of the season due to high fresh market demand.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fisherman and canneries who harvest and process fish in 244-32.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fisherman in the northern portion of 244-31 who have benefited from the closure of 244-32 will see their harvest share reduced.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tie 244-32 to the Kasilof Section from June 25 until the 1.2 mile is implemented in Kasilof Section. Rejected because the burden of conservation, from July 8th on, would be born solely by those fishers north of the Kenai River at a time when Kenai stocks are building in Upper Cook Inlet.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned North Kalifornsky Beach Fishermen (HQ-10F-126)

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan as follows:

5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

(f)The commissioner may, by emergency order, open the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) to the taking of king salmon by gillnets when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye escapement will exceed **300,000** [275,000] fish. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the commissioner opens the KRSHA, it is the board's intent that additional fishing time be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof section first,...

And create:

(9)The terminal fishery may only be operated for up to a maximum of 48 consecutive hours and then must allow a window a minimum of 24 hours, up to the 48 hours that the terminal fishery fished, for other species, including king salmon, silver salmon and steelhead, to enter the river.

ISSUE: The Kasilof River has a trophy run if king salmon that is continuously disregarded by ADF&G in managing the Kasilof River strictly for sockeye during this second run. ADF&G defends their position of discriminatory management by stating that there is no management plan in place for the 2nd run king salmon on the Kasilof River and therefore they do not have to consider this stock in their decisions to open the terminal fishery at the mouth of the Kasilof River. The terminal fishery also has an adverse impact on silver salmon and steelhead.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chinook numbers during the height of the second run will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will allow more king salmon, silver salmon and steelhead to enter the river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial setnet fishermen in the Kasilof Subsection that do not participate in the terminal fishery and sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The people who fish the outside terminus of the KRSHA.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Repeal 5 AAC 21.365(f) completely to eliminate the terminal fishery. It has been the board's intent that this fishery be used in a limited manner, which has not been the case. The terminal fishery has been used extensively. Instead of taking the tool away from ADF&G, this proposal seeks to reduce the use of the KRSHA terminal fishery. The optimal solution is to establish a management plan for second run king salmon on the Kasilof River. Since the board cannot dictate ADF&G spend money on such a plan, this is not the appropriate forum to advocate for such a plan.

PROPOSED BY: Nathan Corr (HQ-10F-206)

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Open KRSHA to gillnet salmon fishing when escapement exceeds 275,000 as follows:

(f) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) to the taking of salmon by gillnets when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the commissioner opens the KFSHA, it is the board's intent that additional fishing time be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first, [AND] second, that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, **and third, that portion of the Kasilof section within on-half mile of shore be opened concurrently,** if necessary to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is defined...

ISSUE: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA). Excessive reliance on KRSHA.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Intense user conflict among gear groups and different user groups. The department will continue to manage in a manner that is not consistent with the Board's wishes that salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows salmon to be harvested in historical area that has proven to produce higher quality than the terminal area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The personal use fishery. Sport chinook fishermen. All users will benefit as this proposal will reduce conflict both between and amongst user groups. The department has had success in the past when opening Kasilof Section Half-Mile concurrently with the KRSHA. Personal use fishermen will enjoy less conflict as less commercial gear will be in KRSHA. Sport users (especially chinook) will benefit from more consistent escapement as the terminal does not allow for passage of chinook.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody. Conflict reduced and quality increased.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Joel Doner (HQ-10F-020)

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Modify the area that may be fished if the commissioner opens the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area as follows:

(f) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) to the taking of salmon by gillnets when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the commissioner opens the KRSHA, it is the board's intent that additional fishing time be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first, and secondly that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, if necessary, to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans. **If the commissioner opens the KRSHA, the Kasilof Section within one-half mile will also be opened.** The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is defined.

ISSUE: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA). The KRSHA is not an orderly fishery when used exclusively.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A disorderly fishery operates. Including, intense user conflict among gear groups and different user groups.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, poor quality sockeye salmon will be significantly reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Traditional fishing family operations that rely on Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks. The Personal use fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, as the department utilized concurrent half-mile Kasilof Section openings in the past and fishery conflicts were significantly reduced.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? n/a.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee

(SC-10F-086)

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan as follows:

New subsection would open the South K-Beach District (244-10) whenever it is necessary to harvest in the Kasilof Terminal Area.

ISSUE: Inequitable fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management plan will continue to subvert Kasilof historical fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? South K-Beach fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen who have not normally targeted historically on the Kasilof run.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen

(HQ-10F-222)

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Require users to complete a class and obtain a dipnet education card prior to receiving a dipnet permit as follows:

A “Dipnet Education Card” is required to be shown to the agent that issues the dipnet permit, beginning in 2012.

Education is the solution. Pattern this solution after the highly successful Hunter Education initiative which has succeeded in every state of the union, which was also intended to bring users into compliance with not only existing laws but also what might be called “common sense”. It has worked extremely well, despite many thinking that it would not – this is indisputable, as are the parallels in the former hunting-compliance problem with the present dipnetting-compliance problems.

This card would be somewhat similar to today’s “Hunter Education Card”, or “Muzzle loader Education Card” or “Bowhunter Education Card”. One would pay to take the class where they get their card. The Dipnet permit agent has virtually no additional tasks or expenses under this

proposal beyond what they do today for hunting permits in regards to allowing the applicant to write their Hunter/Dipnet Ed card number down on the permit they're getting.

The coursework and test would focus more on dipnetting's social responsibilities and positive peer pressure among participants than it would on laws, or techniques to use in the field.

Dipnet Education is not seen as the entire answer to all the problems experienced by this fishery, but it is seen as a solid part of the solution. Additionally, there needs to be more state and local oversight of its activities & participants, additional facilities, and a clearer management responsibility structure (Fed vs. State vs. Local) in place.

Brief background regarding Hunter Education in Alaska:

ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation currently offers 3 state-mandated classes: Basic Hunter Ed, Muzzleloader Ed, and Bowhunter Education. The State's current hunter education effort is very successful in many ways:

- Financially: Increased sales of guns, ammo, and outdoor equipment has brought more Pittman-Robertson funds into this effort than ever before, causing today's Hunter Education Effort to be in what is possibly the best shape overall it has ever been in.
- Personnel: Currently over 400 volunteer Hunter Education Instructors participate and the State has a fine paid staff too.
- Professionalism: Even though this class entails providing the use of rifles and live ammo to members of the general public, including children, it has a first rate safety record and has not proven to be a liability concern for any state in the union, including Alaska.
- The Education Program: The teaching materials and class content are first rate.
- Computer-abilities: Currently all 3 present State-mandated classes can be taken mostly over the internet (with just a short in-person portion) – the online courses have been created by Kalcomey Enterprises Inc. for the State of Alaska.
- Results: The compliance-improvements that have occurred in the field by participants due to this educational program are well know, well documented public information, and will not be documented/reiterated herein.

Some other issues involved in implementing Dipnet Education:

One option to implement this new course would be to use that same internet-contractor (Kalcomey) for Dipnet Education, but that decision should be left up to ADF&G to make.

Currently ADF&G has chosen to pass the cost of the Kalcomey online course on to the student; that is why the basic Hunter Education Course online costs \$15, and the Muzzleloader Education Online course costs \$30. Similarly, ADF&G should price the Dipnet Education Online course in a way that it pays its own way; non-dipnetters in Alaska should not have any increased costs. ADF&G would make the determination of whether Dipnet Education should be conducted solely in person, solely via the internet, via some combination of the two, or via some other method.

It is possible to make a good argument that Dipnet Education should be done solely over the internet:

- Internet access is easy, cheap, and accessible in all areas of Alaska that today involve

dipnetting.

- There is no safety-problem (reducing injuries and death) to solve with dipnetting, as there certainly was for hunting (before Hunter Education) so this lessens the need to make a 100% assured match between the person taking the online test and the name on the Dipnet Education Card.
- This would drastically reduce costs of administering Dipnet Education to the public, greatly reducing costs of implementing this program.
- ADF&G could decide the classic “make or buy” question on the creation of the internet class, either farming out the work to a contractor (easier, less bother, quicker, but then you pay by the student, ongoing) or creating it locally (takes technical expertise, there is a risk that development efforts will fail or run late..., but once its done you pay virtually no ongoing fees per student, ongoing). These types of implementation decisions can be left up to ADF&G and can be decided competently by them if and after the State decides that Dipnet Education should be implemented.

This 2012 season implementation date allows time to do it correctly, but does require that the State maintain focus on getting the job done.

Arguments against this proposal might be made that compliance can't be taught or that the dipnetting problems involve behavior that no class can correct, or that making people take a class to do what they used to be able to do without taking a class is just plain unworkable, but given the great similarity between the dipnet problems today and the hunting problems that have been greatly helped by the implementation of Hunter Education, the proper response to these arguments would be: “Then explain how Hunter Education has not only been quite possible to deploy virtually nationwide, but also how it could have realized the incredibly huge gains in compliance that it has accomplished.”

ADF&G could consider and determine some of the following related issues, after this proposal is passed:

Possibly only one card is required per permit - not one card for every family member - part of the Dipnet Education course would let the cardholder know that they must educate and oversee their family members regarding the rules – maybe as they do convey this information to individual family members, they can write all their names on the back of the card, thus making them certified as well?

Make the program financially self sufficient so that no additional funding is required from either the State or local governments.

Dingell-Johnson Funds, from taxes on fishing equipment, etc... might also be able to be used to help create the infrastructure at ADF&G to create this 4th educational program, called Dipnet Education, within their existing successful program.

So, Dingell-Johnson Funds might do for the Dipnet Education Program what Pittman-Robertson Funds have succeeded in doing for Hunter Education

ISSUE: Noncompliance with existing state laws by Alaska residents participating in personal use fisheries, specifically: dipnetting. This ongoing and well known problem pits Kenai/Kasilof locals against other Alaskans that go there to dipnet, and even pits Kenai public officials against State of Alaska officials (reference 10/25/09 Peninsula Clarion story for just the latest public occurrence of this – there have been many). The problems and the publicity of same continue to grow and there is no plan that has been made public at this time to improve this situation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many Alaskans today call for the immediate closure of this fishery due to the continued inability of state and local officials to bring dipnetters into compliance with today’s regulations. This proposal is intended to help fix the problems before our inability to solve them will leave no other choice than to eliminate dipnetting altogether

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, but that is not its main focus. Its main focus is to lessen the well known problems associated with the activity of dipnetting. A side benefit would be the ability to help dipnetting participants better care for their harvest, which would improve the quality of the resource harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dipnetters will benefit:

- From averting the elimination of their present right to dipnet.
- From an overall improvement in the compliance to dipnetting regulations, and possibly better and improved peer pressure “on the beach”.
- From being better educated about the current regulations.
- From being publicly perceived as being more responsible than they are currently publicly perceived.

Law Enforcement Personnel will benefit:

- From greater understanding of the rules and higher compliance by the public, similar to what has happened in hunting as a direct result of Hunter Education
- Currently Law Enforcement Personnel overseeing dipnetters spend large amounts of their time afield trying to educate participants on the very basics of clipping fins and not removing fish from view until the permit is marked. If Dipnet Education were required, said lack of knowledge would be prima facia evidence that either the online Dipnet Education course-taking had been faked or that the graduate did not inform and oversee their family members' activities – So two tickets could be issued rather than one in these (presently) very common instances, doubling the current enforcement level's impact and revenue generation.

Local Kenai/Kasilof residents will benefit:

- From the increased compliance of dipnetters to adhere to both the regulations and what might be called “common sense”. Local residents are today demanding increased compliance and they should receive it. Everyone benefits if we all get along better and, as a group, act better.

Local Kenai/Kasilof public officials:

- They are demanding solutions and more involvement from the State. Note the following excerpts just from the 10/25/09 Peninsula Clarion story about dipnetting:

"We didn't ask for this fishery ... the state forced it on us," and ""We've been reacting ever since," and "It's not Kenai's responsibility to manage this fishery." said by Councilman Joe Moore

"The state needs to manage the capacities in some manner," Koch said.

"The whole environmental issue is an example of how no planning went into this fishery," said Moore.

"The state was irresponsible when it created this fishery," Koch said.

- The above 6 direct quotes were taken from the single newspaper article; there have been many such articles. It is very clear that the local public officials are strongly requesting State intervention and this proposal provides that in a way proven to work in the past (in solving similar problems) and in a financially responsible way, putting 100% of the costs of the solution onto the users of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone that wants to continue not adhering to current dipnet regulations. As has happened with Hunting, required education has resulted in increased peer-pressure to comply with existing rules. So those that would continue ignoring the regulations would suffer from negative peer pressure and increased tickets from law enforcement.

Any dipnetter that cannot afford a Dipnet Education class

To mitigate this: Possibly ADF&G could offer a low-income Dipnet Education option as well, as is done for hunting licenses, and pass the cost on to the non-low-income Dipnet Education students?

Dipnetters that are completely knowledgeable of and compliant with today's regulations would suffer to the extent that they might be forced to take a Dipnet Education Class in order to continue with their dipnetting activity beginning in 2012. Some possible ways to mitigate this suffering might be:

Possibly exclude dipnetters older than TBD from the Dipnet Education requirement?

Possibly implement both the Dipnet Education test and the creation of the Dipnet Education Card (that must be shown to the Dipnet Permit Agent) solely on the internet (which might mean no increased costs based on increased volumes of test takers)

Allow existing "Dipnet experts" to take the test for free during the initial 60 days that the test is deployed. This would also well-test the online test, ensuring its readiness for its first batch of non-expert students.

It should also be considered whether to raise the bar a bit for those experts, mandating 90%-

correct answers to pass instead of the more normal 80%-correct requirement in today's state-mandated courses. Under today's State courses it is not uncommon for a participant familiar with the subject matter to get in the very high 90th percentile on the test, without any studying at all.

One small segment of the public that would definitely suffer would be those that would wish to go dipnetting “on a whim”, with no planning or knowledge beforehand. They are able to go dipnetting today on the spot, with no barriers to making a quick stop at the permit agent, then renting a dipnet for the weekend from craigslist, and heading to a dipnet-approved beach. A very good argument could be made that this is the exact user of this personal use fishery that might be causing a large portion of the well known problems – so it is not seen as detrimental to insert a required educational step into the process for this segment of the public.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Doing nothing: Rejected because the dipnetting problems are on the increase and something must be done; it is believed that virtually no one disagrees with this.

“Increased Enforcement”: Where does the money come from for this and would it be effective? Neither is known.

Closing the Dipnet Fishery: Many Alaskans depend on this fishery to supply their family with salmon; giving up and closing the fishery should not be a preferred option until we've exhausted options to fix the problems; this proposal recommends we use a tried and true technique ASAP.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Rasmussen (HQ-10F-003)

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Repeal sport fish license requirement to participate in Cook Inlet personal use fisheries as follows:

A sport fishing license will no longer be required to dipnet. A \$15 dipnet permit will provide enforcement and accurate creel survey data.

ISSUE: Non-enforcement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? False data and more crime.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? A safe and early fisher with accurate reporting will help motor an out of control fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Sport Fish Division will not provide names of non-
returners to enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-142)

Note, only Alaska residents may participate in a personal use fishery under Alaska Statute 16.05.940(25). The proposal is included to allow the board to develop an additional record on this regulation.

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Allow non-residents to participate in the Upper Cook Inlet personal use fishery as follows:

(1) shall, before a permit may be issued, show the person's [RESIDENT] sport fish license, or proof, satisfactory to the department, that the person is exempt from licensing under AS 16.05.400; the person's sport fish license number shall be recorded on the permit.

ISSUE: Non-residents are prevented from participating in the personal use fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued denial of US citizens from participating in personal use fisheries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It is not a quality issue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? US citizens.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Do not know.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-070)

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish a July 17 opening date for the Kenai River personal use fishery on runs under 2 million as follows:

On runs under 2 million to the Kenai River the personal use fishery will open on July 17.

ISSUE: On runs under 2 million to the Kenai River, due to a growing, unregulated personal use fishery it is hard to make the minimum inriver goals for sockeye salmon. As a sportsman who cannot put up with the out of control personal use fishery, I like to harvest my reds with a rod and reel. It is getting harder and harder to do that. ADF&G needs to front load the river so reds

make it to the sonar counter. When they don't the Kenai River sports fishery has its bag limit reduced (2008) or totally shut down (2000).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The sports fishery for reds in the Kenai River will continue to have less harvest potential on runs under 2 million to the Kenai River unless the personal use fishery has some limitations imposed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it puts fish in to the Kenai River earlier that would be available to sportsmen. The fish would be better quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sports fishermen in the Kenai River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Kenai River personal use fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? On runs under 2 million, lower the bag limits for the personal use fishery. It would be 10 fish per household and 5 more fish for each additional family member. Another idea would be to prosecute the personal use fishery on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. They were rejected because the regulations might be confusion. It would be better to have a later starting date, thus helping to ensure no inriver sport fishing closures.

PROPOSED BY: Laney Anderson (HQ-10F-067)

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 21.360(g). Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Open Kenai River personal use fishery after 350,000 sockeye pass the sonar as follows:

Open the dipnet fishery after 350,000 reds pass the counter.

ISSUE: Kenai personal use fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Habitat degradation; impact escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? All users benefit by abundance.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open personal use fishery on Saturdays and Sundays only.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-132)

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Close fishing on the south bank of the Kenai until minimum inriver goals are met as follows:

The south bank of the Kenai River will be closed to personal use fishing from shore or boats until the minimum inriver sonar goals are met.

ISSUE: Poor red salmon fishing on the Kenai River due to personal use fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If something isn't done to the personal use fishery the inriver sport fishery will continue to suffer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sports fishermen on the Kenai River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Personal use fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Tibbs (HQ-10F-068)

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 21.360(g). Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Open dipnet fisheries in Cook Inlet only after escapement goals are met as follows:

All creeks, streams, and rivers in Area H will open to dipnetting after optimal escapement goals are met.

ISSUE: Crowding and unlimited participation and degradation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Traffic pollution and accidents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Everyone can fish closer to home.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All personal use fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Kenai waste treatment plant.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close the Kenai and Kasilof to personal use fishing would not pass.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-139)

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Open Kenai and Kasilof dipnet fisheries only after lower escapement goals will be achieved as follows:

(c) The Kenai and Kasilof personal use fisheries shall open only after the lower limit of an escapement goal will be achieved. [SALMON MAY BE TAKEN BY DIP NET IN THE KENAI AND KASILOF RIVERS AS FOLLOWS:]

ISSUE: The personal use (PU) fishery was used as a conservation measure. The PU fishery was to start after it was apparent that the upper end of the escapement goal was going to be exceeded. Early on, the BOF intended the PU fishery to operate as a means of preventing over-escapement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current PU fishery may continue to operate, even when the department projects that the minimum escapement goals will not be achieved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This complies with both the Sustainable fisheries and escapement goal policies.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? General public – provides for clear expectations for this fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? PU fishermen, until the upper limit of the escapement goal is achieved.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-065)

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 21.360(g). Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Close Kenai River personal use fishery on Tuesdays and Fridays until 450,000 sockeye pass the sonar as follows:

Tuesdays and Fridays will be windows; the personal use fishery will be closed on these days until 450,000 sockeye pass the counters.

ISSUE: Unlimited dipnet fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Escapement goals in the Kenai have been short or not met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Fewer net marked back out fish will be caught.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen, hook and line fishermen, personal use fishermen when runs rebound.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The personal use fishery is out of control.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-133)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish a harvest cap of 150,000 for the Kenai personal use fishery as follows:

The Kenai River personal use fishery should have a harvest cap of 150,000.

ISSUE: Kenai River personal use fishery growing unchecked. The fishery is out of control. When the personal use fishery was implemented, ADF&G stated it would be designed to harvest 80,000 sockeye. It is now approaching a harvest of 400,000. On runs under 2 million it is hard to achieve the required spawning escapement to the Kenai River. Something needs to be done.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The personal use fishery on the Kenai will continue to grow at the expense of the up-river sport fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sports fishermen in the Kenai River

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Kenai River personal use fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do not open the personal use fishery until one half of the minimum escapement goals are met in the Kenai River.

PROPOSED BY: Laney Anderson (HQ-10F-066)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Set allocation of 100,000-150,000 sockeye in Kenai River personal use fishery as follows:

Set an allocation of 100,000-150,000 sockeye salmon in the Kenai River personal use dipnet fishery. This would mirror the allocation set forth in Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery, since 2000.

ISSUE: The habitat degradation that takes place at the Kenai River mouth and the unregulated harvest of the Kenai River personal use dipnet fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued habitat degradation at the river mouth and the surrounding areas and unregulated harvest from the Kenai River personal use dipnet fishery (approximately 340,000) in 2009.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The very fragile salt march habitat, it would also be easier to achieve minimum escapement goals, on the smaller returns under 2 million like we're experiencing now, due to significant over escapement in past years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Dipnetters wishing to harvest excessive amounts of sockeye salmon, with no regard to habitat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Time and area restrictions are possible but would more that likely not address habitat concerns.

PROPOSED BY: Pat Hodgson (HQ-10F-096)

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish a guideline harvest for Cook Inlet personal use fisheries based upon run size as follows:

(c)(1)(A) add language that would manage harvest on a three tiered guideline harvest strategy as follows: Plan would mirror 5 AAC 21.360 Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan: The department will manage using methods and means; time and area would be regulated to achieve a harvest of no more than 100,000 sockeye when the forecast is less than 2,000,000: No more than 225,000 sockeye when the forecast is between 2-4,000,000. In an over 4,000,000 forecast no restrictions for time and a liberalization of possession limits.

ISSUE: Unequal burden sharing for conservation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Disproportionate harvest by personal use fishing relative to size of Kenai sockeye return.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All resource users, porportionate harvest of surplus stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo was not an option.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (HQ-10F-228)

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish GHL for the Kenai River and Kasilof River sport and personal use fisheries as follows:

Establish a Kenai River total sport and personal use GHL of 10% and a Kasilof GHL of 10% of the annual sockeye sonar count.

ISSUE: Provide for a guideline harvest level (GHL) for sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Personal use harvests are impacting all other sport, guided and commercial users. Establish a total sport and personal use GHL of 10% of the sockeye sonar escapements for the Kenai River and 10% of the sockeye sonar escapement for the Kasilof River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allow the personal use fishermen to take better care of the fish they harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All other users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-069)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Set allocation based on harvest and use in Kasilof River personal use fishery as follows:

Set an allocation based on harvest and use, just like it's done in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery.

ISSUE: The habitat degradation that takes place at the Kasilof River mouth and the unregulated harvest of the Kasilof River personal use dipnet fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued habitat degradation at the Kasilof River mouth and the surrounding salt marsh and unregulated harvest with very little enforcement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fragile salt marsh at the Kasilof River mouth.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The solution mentioned is the only one.

PROPOSED BY: Pat Hodgson (HQ-10F-095)

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish a bag limit of 15 per family on the Kenai River for the personal use fishery and no fishing until escapement goal will be achieved as follows:

- 1) No dipnetting should be allowed until the river escapement is going to be achieved.
- 2) The dipnet harvest should be limited to 15 fish per family in the Kenai River. If more fish are needed under the personal use permit they should be taken from another river system.

ISSUE: The number of fish allowed per family during a personal use fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1) Allowing the dipnet fishery to have continuous fishing from July 10-July 31 with no regard for river escapement is biological suicide and a management nightmare. 2) The excessive bag limit of this fishery is promoting wanton waste of a natural resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, due to this fishery exploding in such demand it will help to regain biological management of the river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The local community and all user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Every (HQ-10F-199)

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 77.525. Personal Use Salmon Fishery. Reduce household limit to 10 fish in Cook Inlet personal use salmon fishery as follows:

In the personal use taking of salmon, unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 77.500 – 5 AAC 77.548, the total annual limit for each PU salmon fishing permit is **10** [25] salmon each household [AND 10 SALMON FOR EACH DEPENDENT OF THE PERMIT HOLDER].

ISSUE: Most personal use (PU) individuals do not harvest anywhere near the maximum number of fish currently allowed. Reduce the annual limit to 10 salmon per household annually.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Present annual limits encourage excessive harvest beyond actual food needs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Spreads the available harvest across a great number of individuals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those individuals attempting to catch more than 15 salmon that have been crowded out by other PU harvesters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that want to harvest above the 15 salmon annual limit, with additional daily sport fish bag and possession limits.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-063)

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Reduce bag limit or delay opening of the Kenai River dipnet fishery as follows:

If the dipnet fishery opens on July 10, the bag limit will be 10 per head of household and a 5 per dependent until the lower end of the escapement goal is realized. This does not mean the lower threshold, or open the dipnet fishery on July 20 with the current bag limit.

ISSUE: In the Kenai River, the dipnet fishery opens on a set date, regardless of the run size. This causes the escapement goal to be reached later or not at all. This occurs only in Cook Inlet. Other areas of the state are managed by the run size and inriver counters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In years of low returns (less than 2 million), sport fishing and commercial fishing will be restricted until the escapement goal is reached. Opening dipnetting on a set date with a large bag limit early will cause the escapement goal to be reached later or not at all. This will unfairly impact the sport fishery and the commercial fishery. All users should share in the burden of conservation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, because the burden of conservation is shared by everyone whereas now it is shared only by the sport fishery with reduced bag limits and by the commercial fishery with restrictions and full closures. This still allows a dipnet fishery but shares the burden.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who travel a long distance for a reduced bag limit. However, they could come later when the bag limit is larger.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Go back to when dipnetting first started when the bag limit was the same as the sport fish bag limit. That was rejected.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Vanek (SC-10F-047)

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Prohibit retention of king salmon in Cook Inlet dipnet fisheries as follows:

No retention of king salmon allowed in the Kenai River, Kasilof River or Fish Creek Dipnet fisheries.

ISSUE: The retention of king salmon in the personal use fishery in Kenai River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Dipnetters will continue to retain chinook salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Allowing more king salmon in Kenai.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sports fishing and escapement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Soldotna Advisory Committee (HQ-10F-207)

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Allow one king per household for all the Cook Inlet personal use dipnet fisheries as follows:

In the personal use dipnet fishery in Upper Cook Inlet in the Kenai, Kasilof and Fish Creek, all salmon caught must be retained except that only one king salmon per household per year may be retained.

ISSUE: Releasing a fish from a dipnet which is nothing more than a gillnet stretched on a frame is hard to do without serious harm to the fish. Last year in Fish Creek, coho had to be released, but then the bag limit for sport fishing was increased to three fish a few days later. This was nothing but a waste of coho because they cannot take the handling without losing their scales and ADF&G should not be allocating fish in this way by emergency order. All fish caught should be kept in the personal use dipnet fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fish will continue to be abused and a large number will die, especially coho.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Hansen (HQ-10F-235)

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Reduce allowable mesh size in Cook Inlet dipnet fisheries or prohibit release of fish as follows:

Have the Board of Fisheries adopt regulations that require personal use dipnets to use landing netting (2" or less mesh size) or require all fish caught to be kept and included in the daily and household limit. No sorting of fish.

ISSUE: The current use of gillnet webbing in personal use nets kills and wastes thousands of salmon annually. Currently, the use of gillnet webbing allows the salmon to be gilled (entangled), causing bleeding and loss of scales. Most, if not all of these fish that are caught and returned to the water will die prior to spawning.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Thousands of fish caught by the gills by personal use fishermen and released will die prior to spawning, wasting thousands of fish annually. Misidentification of salmon causes harvestable fish to be thrown back into the rivers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Prevents the needless waste of thousands of salmon annually.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that want to "sort" through personal use caught salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-059)

PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 77.525. Personal Use Salmon Fishery. Prohibit possession of sport and personal use caught salmon on the same day as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding any provision in 5 AAC 01 – 77, in the Cook Inlet Area, a person may **not** possess sport-caught and personal use-caught salmon on the same day.

ISSUE: Currently, a person may possess both sport-caught and personal use-caught salmon caught in the same day. Possible wanton waste of fish resources. The combined sport and personal use bag and possession limits are far in excess of the annual household consumption of salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Very hard to have effective enforcement when individuals can possess both types of harvested fish in the same day. Sport caught salmon can be tail-clipped to become personal use harvested salmon. Personal use fish appear to be sport-caught when there is no clipping of the tails. This change in the regulation would be consistent with other areas of the state.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Individuals are encouraged to harvest more fish than they can take care of before they spoil.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The personal use and sport fishermen users that wish to harvest less than a full limit will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one should.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-064)

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Prohibit dipnetting from boats in Kenai River personal use fishery as follows:

Repeal 77.540 (c)(1)(c)

ISSUE: The boat based personal use (PU) fishery disturbs (noise, wakes and habitat destruction) the beluga whales causing them to abandon critical habitats in the lower reaches of the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Beluga whales will continue to be displaced by boat motor noise, boat traffic and damaged habitat associated with boat based personal use harvests.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The boat-based PU fishery prevents belugas from utilizing these portions of the lower river that are critical feeding areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Beluga.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? PU fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-066)

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Prohibit dipnetting from boats in Kenai River personal use fishery as follows:

(C) from shore, in the area from ADF&G regulatory markers located on the Cook Inlet beaches outside the terminus of the river upstream for a distance of one mile.

ISSUE: The boat-based personal use (PU) fishery disturbs (noise, wakes and habitat) the beluga whales causing them to abandon critical habitats.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Beluga whales will continue to be impacted by boat motor noise and boat traffic.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The boat-based PU fishery prevents belugas from utilizing these portions of the lower river that are crucial feeding areas. Re-establishes the historical personal use areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Beluga.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? PU fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-067)

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Open the Fish Creek dipnet fishery by regulation instead of emergency order as follows:

Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan as follows:
[THE COMMISSIONER WILL OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE PERSONAL USE DIP NET FISHERY IN FISH CREEK] From July 1-31;[IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THE ESCAPEMENT OF SOCKEYE SALMON INTO FISH CREEK WILL BE ABOVE THE UPPER END OF THE ESCAPEMENT GOAL OF 70,000 FISH].

ISSUE: Because of the stipulation that the Fish Creek personal use dipnet fishery only opens after the sockeye salmon escapement is projected to exceed the 70,000 fish upper end of the Fish Creek escapement goal range, this personal use fishery, restricted to Alaska residents, has been open only one year in the eight year period from 2002-2009. All Alaskans have been denied a legal opportunity to harvest salmon in Fish Creek, during the entire month of July, for seven consecutive years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity for most average Alaskan residents to harvest a similar portion of the Fish Creek sockeye return, as was available in the past, will continue to be denied.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal would allow an annual Fish Creek dipnet personal use fishery. Providing a fishery, when surplus salmon are available, provides a better quality experience and harvest opportunity than none at all. Using the ADF&G weir located above the fishery on this creek, daily allowed fishing times could be adjusted by emergency order to achieve the established escapement goal range depending upon the strength of the runs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Average Alaska resident common users of the resource would benefit from an opportunity to harvest a portion of the Fish Creek salmon resource during the month of July. This would also help keep the sockeye salmon population within the escapement goal range during years of large sockeye returns, rather than requiring projection of escapements beyond the upper end of the goal range before any personal use salmon harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would prefer to see no personal use fishery for Fish Creek salmon, as has recently occurred for seven consecutive years.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Another solution would be to open the Fish Creek personal use fishery by emergency order when the sockeye salmon escapement was projected to achieve the 20,000 fish goal range minimum. This would allow no fishing time during the earlier portion of the run, thus concentration effort and creating additional crowding in a small fishing area later in the season.

PROPOSED BY: South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association (HQ-10F-119)

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 77.540(g)(2). Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Increase season dates and expand area for Beluga River personal use fishery as follows:

5 AAC 77.540 (g)(2): from **July 10** – August 31, the fishery is open 24 hours per day from the Beluga River bridge **approximately one quarter mile upstream and** approximately one mile downstream, **between** the ADF&G regulatory markers;

ISSUE: The Beluga River personal use, Senior Citizens, dipnet fishery has an open area only one (1) mile downstream from the Beluga River bridge. Some of the seniors living in the area and who would like to participate in the fishery, do not have the physical ability to transverse this area and/or either do not have access to a boat or are afraid of the river. The river current is also very fast in this area. The banks of the river are very steep in this area and fishermen risk falling into the river.

It is recommended that the open area be expanded to include the area one quarter (1/4) mile above the bridge. This change would allow all senior citizens access because the ground is more level so fishermen now would be able to drive to the fishery and walk a short distance. This area also would allow them to hold and manage their dipnet because of a slower current in the river.

In addition, an opening date of July 20 reduces the ability to harvest high quality sockeye (red) salmon. This late opening is after the peak of the sockeye run and because there is no other river in the area for sockeye, citizens do not have the opportunity to harvest enough quality sockeye salmon to satisfy their needs. The Beluga River fishery has a strong sockeye run and there would be little impact with a 10 day earlier opening and the 500 fish cap. In 2009 less than 10 seniors participated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Senior citizens with restricted mobility would not be able to participate in the fishery because of the difficult and dangerous access. They will not be able to manage their dipnets because of river currents and they will not have access to enough high quality sockeye salmon for their needs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Senior Citizens with restricted mobility would have safe access to the fishery and would be able to manage their dipnets. An earlier date would improve both the quality and quantity of sockeye salmon with little or no impact on the future returns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Senior citizens with restricted mobility and problems using the net in the fast current. These seniors want to fish, but currently cannot do so.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leaving access unchanged was rejected because not all personnel would be equally afforded the right to the fishery because the use of a proxy is prohibited. Leaving dates unchanged was rejected because seniors would not be afforded the ability to harvest enough high quality sockeye salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Duane T. Gluth

(SC-10F-006)

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish a personal use fishery on Eklutna River as follows:

Provide for a personal use fishery on the Eklutna River from August 1 to September 15 for salmon; provide method, means and bag and possession regulations.

ISSUE: Lack of personal use fisheries in the Anchorage Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kenai and Kasilof rivers will continue to have human impacts on beluga whales, riparian habitats and fish stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Provides for a significant personal use fishery close to the Anchorage population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anchorage residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Anchorage public.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

(SC-10F-060)

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish a personal use fishery on Deshka River as follows:

Provide for a personal use fishery on the Deshka River from August 1 to September 15 for pinks; provide method, means and bag and possession regulations.

ISSUE: Lack of personal use fisheries in the Anchorage Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kenai and Kasilof rivers will continue to have human impacts on beluga whales, riparian habitats and fish stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Provides for a significant personal use fishery close to the Anchorage population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anchorage residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Anchorage public.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-061)

PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish a personal use fishery on Talkeetna River as follows:

Provide for a personal use fishery on the Talkeetna River from August 1 to September 15 for chum salmon; provide method, means and bag and possession regulations.

ISSUE: Lack of personal use fisheries in the Anchorage Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kenai and Kasilof rivers will continue to have human impacts on beluga whales, riparian habitats and fish stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Provides for a significant personal use fishery close to the Anchorage population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anchorage residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Anchorage public.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-062)

Note: This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting.

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Decrease bag limit to 2 coho salmon in West Cook Inlet as follows:

The legal daily bag limit of coho salmon from the Susitna drainage south to and including Chitina Bay will be two fish.

ISSUE: The sport fishing pressure on the west side of Cook Inlet at Silver Salmon Creek and Shelter Creek is threatening the viability of the sport fishery because too many coho are being harvested. Runs have declined over the past 15 years and the bag limit needs to be reduced.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current bag limit of three coho per day per person will result in an overharvest of returning coho salmon and a once viable fishery for sport fishermen will be lost or severely impacted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By fewer fish harvested, more returning coho salmon will spawn, resulting in greater returns in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sport fishermen enjoying West Cook Inlet coho fishing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen intent on maximizing their harvest of three salmon a day.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reducing the daily bag limit to one fish. Rejected due to fly-in fishermen desiring coho for eating.

PROPOSED BY: David Coray (HQ-10F-234)

Note: This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting.

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 62.120(2). General provisions for season, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho in West Cook Inlet Area as follows:

To adopt the preferred solution the board would simply need to repeal the following language, "of which no more than two may be coho salmon" from 5 AAC 62.120(2).

ISSUE: Restore daily bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length in the West Cook Inlet Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For nearly forty years the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the West Cook Inlet Area was 3 fish, 16 inches or greater in length. In response to a decline in abundance of coho salmon during the late 1990's, the bag and possession limit was reduced to 2 fish as part of a comprehensive plan that included restrictions on commercial fisheries. Since that time abundance has improved, commercial fisheries are no longer restricted specifically to conserve West Cook Inlet Area coho salmon yet the sport fishery still operates under the lowered bag and possession limit. Increasing the bag and possession limit from 2 to 3 fish would not jeopardize the sustained yield of the resource, would provide increased opportunity for harvest and likely result in additional economic value from the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Sport fishing for coho salmon in the West Cook Inlet Area puts salmon on Alaskan's dinner table, provides high quality recreational opportunity and supports significant economic activity on the Upper Cook Inlet Region. Continuing to operate the fishery for coho under unnecessary restrictions only serves to reduce the potential benefits created by the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and non-resident sport and guided sport fishermen and the economy of the Upper Cook Inlet Region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? So long as the department continues to monitor the harvest of coho salmon of West Cook Inlet Area origin by all fisheries and manages this important resource for sustained yield then no one would suffer from adoption of a proposal seeking to restore the longstanding bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (HQ-10F-080)

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 61.110(2)(A). General provision fro seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area. Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho in Susitna River drainage as follows:

To adopt the preferred solution the board would simply need to repeal the following language, "of which no more than two may be coho salmon" from 5 AAC 61.110(2)(A).

ISSUE: Restore daily bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length in the West Cook Inlet Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For nearly forty years the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the West Cook Inlet Area was 3 fish, 16 inches or greater in length. In response to a decline in abundance of coho salmon during the late 1990's, the bag and possession limit was reduced to 2 fish as part of a comprehensive plan that included restrictions on commercial fisheries. Since that time abundance has improved, commercial fisheries are no longer restricted specifically to conserve West Cook Inlet Area coho salmon yet the sport fishery still operates under the lowered bag and possession limit. Increasing the bag and possession limit from 2 to 3 fish would not jeopardize the sustained yield of the resource, would provide increased opportunity for harvest and likely result in additional economic value from the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Sport fishing for coho salmon in the West Cook Inlet Area puts salmon on Alaskan's dinner table, provides high quality recreational opportunity and supports significant economic activity on the Upper Cook Inlet Region. Continuing to operate the fishery for coho under unnecessary restrictions only serves to reduce the potential benefits created by the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and non-resident sport and guided sport fishermen and the economy of the Upper Cook Inlet Region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? So long as the department continues to monitor the harvest of coho salmon of West Cook Inlet Area origin by all fisheries and manages this important

resource for sustained yield then no one would suffer from adoption of a proposal seeking to restore the longstanding bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Sportsmen’s Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (HQ-10F-081)

PROPOSAL 201 - 5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho in the Talkeetna River as follows:

Other salmon 16” or longer
5 AAC 61.110(2)(A)....; bag and possession limit is three fish, of which no more than **3 per day and 3 in possession** [TWO PER DAY AND TWO IN POSSESSION] may be coho salmon;

ISSUE: I would like the board to increase the coho limit on the Talkeetna River drainage to 3 per day/3 in possession.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be a surplus of coho that could be caught and used by sports fishers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it would make for a more productive fishing experience where people could harvest additional coho salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like to harvest additional coho salmon on the Talkeetna River drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would have to clean and process additional coho salmon- but they would gladly do this for the opportunity to eat one more quality fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Stephan Warta (HQ-10F-100)

PROPOSAL 202 - 5 AAC 60.120(2)(A). General provision for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik River Drainage Area. Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho in Knik Arm Drainage Area as follows:

To adopt the preferred solution the board would simply need to repeal the following language "of which no more than two per day and in possession may be coho salmon" from 5 AAC 60.120 (2)(A).

ISSUE: Restore daily bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length in the Knik Arm Drainage Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For nearly 40 years the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Knik Arm drainages Area was 3 fish, 16 inches or greater in length. In response to a decline in abundance observed in the late 1990's the bag and possession limit was reduced to 2 fish as part of a comprehensive plan which included restrictions on commercial fisheries. Since that time abundance has improved, commercial fisheries are no longer restricted specifically to conserve Knik Arm drainages Area coho salmon yet the sport fishery still operates under the lowered bag and possession limit. Increasing the bag and possession limit from 2 to 3 fish would not jeopardize the sustained yield of the resource, would provide increased opportunity for harvest and likely result in additional economic value being realized from the sport fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Sport fishing for coho salmon in the Knik Arm drainages Area puts salmon on Alaskan's dinner table, provides high quality recreational opportunity, and supports significant economic activity in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Anchorage areas. Continuing to operate the sport fishery for coho salmon under unnecessary restrictions only serves to reduce the potential for benefit provided by the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and non-resident sport and guided sport fishermen and the economy of the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and the Anchorage areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? So long as the department continues to assess the stock status, monitor the harvest of coho salmon of Knik Arm drainages Area origin by all fisheries and manage the resource for sustained yield then no one will suffer from adoption of a proposal that seeking to restore the longstanding bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (HQ-10F-082)

PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 59.120(2)(A). General provision for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainage Area. Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area as follows:

To adopt the preferred solution the board would amend language to allow for a coho bag limit of 3 in waters open to fishing for coho.

ISSUE: Restore daily bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length in the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For nearly forty years the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area was 3 fish, 16 inches or greater in length. In response to a decline in abundance of coho salmon during the late 1990's, the bag and possession limit was reduced to 2 fish as part of a comprehensive plan that included restrictions on commercial fisheries. Since that time abundance has improved, commercial fisheries are no longer restricted specifically to conserve coho salmon yet the sport fishery still operates under the lowered bag and possession limit. Increasing the bag and possession limit from 2 to 3 fish would not jeopardize the sustained yield for the resource, would provide increased opportunity for harvest and likely result in additional economic value for the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Sport fishing for coho salmon in the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area puts salmon on Alaskan's dinner table, provides high quality recreational opportunity and supports significant economic activity on the Upper Cook Inlet Region. Continuing to operate the fishery for coho under unnecessary restrictions only serves to reduce the potential benefits created by the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and non-resident sport and guided sport fishermen and the economy of the Upper Cook Inlet Region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? So long as the department continues to monitor the harvest of coho salmon of Anchorage Bowl drainages Area origin by all fisheries and manages this important resource for sustained yield, then no one would suffer from adoption of a proposal seeking to restore the longstanding bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (HQ-10F-084)

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 57.120(4)(A). General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.; and 5 AAC 57.170(b)(3). Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan. Increase the daily bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in the Kenai River Drainage Area as follows:

5 AAC 57.120(4)(A)

To adopt the preferred solution the board would simply need to repeal the following language, "of which no more than two may be coho salmon" from 5 AAC 57.120 (4)(A)(iii).

5 AAC 57.170(b)(3)

To adopt the preferred solution, the board would simply make the following revisions:

(C) from July 1 through [AUGUST 31] **November 30**, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater is [TWO] **three** fish;

[(D) FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, THE DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR COHO SALMON 16 INCHES OR GREATER IS THREE FISH;]

ISSUE: Restore daily bag and possession limit of three coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For nearly forty years the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Kenai River was three fish, 16 inches or greater in length. In response to a decline in abundance of coho salmon during the late 1990's, the bag and possession limit was reduced to two fish as part of a comprehensive plan that included restrictions on commercial fisheries. Since that time abundance has improved, commercial fisheries are no longer restricted specifically to conserve Kenai River coho salmon yet the sport fishery still operates under the lowered bag and possession limit. Increasing the bag and possession limit from two to three fish would not jeopardize the sustained yield for the resource, would provide increased opportunity for harvest and likely result in additional economic value for the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Sport fishing for coho salmon in the Kenai River drainage puts salmon on Alaskan's dinner table, provides high quality recreational opportunity and supports significant economic activity on the Kenai Peninsula. Continuing to operate the fishery for coho under unnecessary restrictions only serves to reduce the potential benefits created by the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and non-resident sport and guided sport fishermen and the economy of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? So long as the department continues to monitor the harvest of coho salmon of Kenai River origin by all fisheries and manages this important resource for sustained yield then no one would suffer from adoption of a proposal seeking to restore the longstanding bag and possession limit of three coho salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (HQ-10F-094, HQ-10F-232)

Note: This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting.

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Increase daily bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in Kenai Peninsula Area as follows:

To adopt the preferred solution the board would simply need to repeal the following language, "of which no more than two may be coho salmon" from 5 AAC 56.120 (2)(A).

ISSUE: Restore daily bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length in the Kenai Peninsula Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For nearly forty years the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Kenai Peninsula Area was 3 fish, 16 inches or greater in length. In response to a decline in abundance of coho salmon during the late 1990's, the bag and possession limit was reduced to 2 fish as part of a comprehensive plan that included restrictions on commercial fisheries. Since that time abundance has improved, commercial fisheries are no longer restricted specifically to conserve coho salmon yet the sport fishery still operates under the lowered bag and possession limit. Increasing the bag and possession limit from 2 to 3 fish would not jeopardize the sustained yield for the resource, would provide increased opportunity for harvest and likely result in additional economic value for the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Sport fishing for coho salmon in the Kenai Peninsula Area puts salmon on Alaskan's dinner table, provides high quality recreational opportunity and supports significant economic activity on the Kenai Peninsula. Continuing to operate the fishery for coho under unnecessary restrictions only serves to reduce the potential benefits created by the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and non-resident sport and guided sport fishermen and the economy of the Kenai Peninsula Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? So long as the department continues to monitor the harvest of coho salmon of Kenai River origin by all fisheries and manages this important resource for sustained yield then no one would suffer from adoption of a proposal seeking to restore the longstanding bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (HQ-10F-083)

PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area; and 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers as follows:

Kenai and Kasilof anglers can retain a three fish bag limit per person, per day, during the coho salmon season.

ISSUE: The need for a consistent bag limit for coho salmon on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. We need to return to the three fish limit that has existed in the past for August.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion will exist on bag limits. Anglers will be encouraged to fish elsewhere in Alaska due to the smaller two fish bag limit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Anglers will be able to have better access to this fishery resource, and won't have travel to other areas of Alaska for better bag limits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents and nonresident anglers, local and state economies.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Central District commercial fisheries will have to be better restricted to protect this valuable salmon resource. The reduced bag limit was imposed due to overharvest by the gillnets in past years.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: James K. Johnson (HQ-10F-122)

PROPOSAL 206 - 5AAC 57.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Align coho salmon bag limit with adjacent waters in the Russian River Sanctuary Area and Russian River as follows:

(3) the following bag and possession limits apply:

(A) in the Russian River and **in the Kenai River, from ADF&G markers located at the power line crossing near the confluence of the Russian River,** [THE RUSSIAN RIVER SANCTUARY AREA, WHICH CONSISTS OF WATERS UPSTREAM FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED DOWNSTREAM OF THE FERRY CROSSING ON THE KENAI RIVER] **upstream** to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing including the waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth, [AND THE RUSSIAN RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH UPSTREAM 100 YARDS TO ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS] bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon 16 inches or greater in length is three fish of which only one per day and in possession may be a coho salmon;

ISSUE: The differing bag limit for coho salmon at the Russian – Kenai rivers confluence area occurs nearly in the middle of a high use area. The present boundary line separating the different coho salmon bag limits is confusing to the public and is difficult to enforce because anglers can boat and walk through the area from several access points. In addition, adjusting the coho salmon bag limit demarcation downstream approximately one-quarter of a mile to the power line crossing on the Kenai River would align salmon limits with inseason regulatory actions taken for sockeye salmon in this area, thereby avoiding further confusion for the public and aiding in enforcement activities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public will continue to be confused by the boundary line where bag limits change for coho salmon and may unwittingly violate regulations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, regulations and enforcement will be simplified.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Upper Kenai River anglers who participate in the coho and sockeye salmon fisheries in this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who want to harvest two rather than one coho salmon in the affected one quarter of a mile area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-170)

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 57.140(b). Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area. Repeal the provision that allows a charitable or educational event to fish from guide vessels on the first Sunday in June on Lower Kenai River as follows:

Remove regulation 5 AAC57.140 (b) language: “except that a person may fish from a registered sport fishing guide vessel the last two Sundays in May [AND THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JUNE]”

ISSUE: During the 2008 UCI BOF meeting the board passed a regulation change allowing guides to fish on the first Sunday in June. We are asking the board to reverse this action for the following reasons:

- 1) This action was brought up by a board member on behalf of the Kenai River Professional Guides Association (KRPGA) during deliberations. No proposal was submitted, there were no discussions by Advisory Committees, no public input via testimony, and no discussion during the committee process. In short, this action circumvented the board’s own process and did not allow for input from anyone but a few selected individuals.
- 2) Many board members were unaware that there was already a special provision in regulation that Sundays in May, June and July are reserved as ‘no guide days’ to allow private anglers to fish without competition from commercial operators.
- 3) Previous regulation changes have already given guides the opportunity to hold charitable events the last two Sundays of May. The guide organization is currently not using both of the Sundays provided in May nor are they using the first Sunday in June.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The original intent by the board to provide unguided anglers an opportunity to fish without a guide presence on Sundays will be eroded by the efforts of guides who continually seek opportunities to expand their fishing time on the river. Guide organizations receive a certain benefit of advertising from hosting charitable

events and everyone appreciates the sacrifices they make in doing so, however, it should be on their own time and not infringe on private angler days.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unguided anglers because they will get this Sunday back as was intended by the original regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guides who continue to explore more ways to allow them to fish on “no guide” Sundays.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition (HQ-10F-047)

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area. Prohibit guided sport fishing just above the king salmon sonar station downstream to Cunningham Park as follows:

From the starting of Bluffs ¼ mile above the sonar counter at mile 8.5 of the Kenai River downstream to Cunningham Park is designated a no-guide area from June 1-July 31st.

ISSUE: With the growing number of guides of the Kenai River, the non-guided fishermen have nowhere to go without guides on all sides of them. They would like to have a non-guide area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? I do not know what will happen if the problem is not solved, but this will help reduce the tension and anger on the river.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The non-guided fisherman will have a place to fish without guides.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This solution does not take any time from the guides but will take around two miles of area away.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Ronald Isaacs (HQ-10F-097)

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area. Modify existing Kenai River guide hours from 6:00 a.m.-6:00

p.m., to 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. as follows:

Fishing from guide boats downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake: In May, June and July fishing is allowed only from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. [6:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.].

ISSUE: Unguided anglers lack a reasonable opportunity to fish the Kenai River for king salmon in the early morning hours prior to the guided angler start time. Because of light conditions angler success rates demonstrate poor results prior to 5:00 a.m.. Additionally, guide number increases and associated activities have caused many private anglers to be displaced from the river and to leave the sport fishery. This increased activity has had a negative affect on private angler satisfaction because they are less tolerant of trying to fish in crowded conditions while guides must fish in whatever conditions exist in the fishery

During the past 10 years guided anglers on the Kenai River have harvested 73% of the early king salmon run and 59% of the late-run. Our proposal adjusts guide start and finish hours to provide private anglers a better opportunity to fish during the prime fishing hours. This change will also help bring balance to the king salmon harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Guides and guided anglers, who are mostly non-residents, will continue to have a greater share of the king salmon harvest in the Kenai River and early morning conflicts with resident non-guided anglers over preferred fishing holes will be exacerbated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unguided resident anglers will be provided greater opportunity to fish in the early morning without the pressure and aggressive competition from guide boats. Guides would benefit by having less animosity directed toward them by local resident anglers. This proposal, with the staggered starting times, would also ease early morning crowding at boat ramps.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Guides lose no time as hours of operation are simply shifted one hour later in the day. There could be a slight shift in the percentage of king salmon harvested between guided (mostly non-residents) and unguided anglers (mostly residents), but this would have little impact to the guide industry.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reducing guide hours but this would have a greater impact on guide businesses.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition (HQ-10F-045)

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River drainage area. Allow fishing from a registered vessel on the Kenai River 24 hours per day during May as follows:

Guide hours will be 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., June 1 – July 31.

ISSUE: Fishing opportunity for guided clients before 6:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. in May.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fish escapements will exceed top end goal. Guided anglers will continue to lose opportunity when there is a harvestable surplus. In May, most guided anglers are residents and few non-guided anglers fish due to low water. This would provide a back-up fishery for when salt water fishery is unfishable with very little harvest. Would provide Fish and Game with more information to analyze the run strength.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Guided anglers and community from economic benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Very few non-guided anglers who wish to fish without guides around.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Professional Guide Association (SC-10F-034)

PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River drainage area. Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel on the Kenai River on Sundays during May as follows:

Guide days will be Tuesday – Sunday, January 1 – May 31.

ISSUE: Fishing opportunity for guided clients on Sundays in May.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fish escapements will exceed top end goal. Guided anglers will continue to lose opportunity when there is a harvestable surplus. In May, most guided anglers are residents and few non-guided anglers fish due to low water. This would provide a back-up fishery for when salt water fishery is unfishable with very little harvest. Would provide fish and game with more information to analyze the run strength.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Guided anglers and community from economic benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Very few non-guided anglers who wish to fish without guides around.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Professional Guide Association (SC-10F-035)

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River drainage area. Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel on the Kenai River on Sundays during June as follows:

Guide days will be Tuesday – Sunday 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. in June.

ISSUE: No fishing from a guided vessel on Sundays in June.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Guided anglers will continue to lose opportunity on Sundays.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Guided anglers, weekenders from Anchorage, the community from economic benefits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-guided anglers who want to fish without guides around.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the department to use this as a tool when liberalizing the fishery if escapement is projected to exceed upper end of the range.

PROPOSED BY: Scott Eggemeyer (SC-10F-037)

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River drainage area. Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel for coho salmon on Mondays during August - November as follows:

Would simply remove this restriction in administrative code.

ISSUE: No retention of coho salmon on Mondays from a guided vessel August 1 – November 30.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Guided angler will continue to lose opportunity to harvest coho salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Guided anglers. This really is a housekeeping measure. This restriction was implemented in the coho conservation plan and last meeting there were no proposals to relieve this restriction, even though increased opportunity was given to other users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Professional Guide Association (SC-10F-036)

PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area. Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel for coho salmon on Mondays during August and September as follows:

Allow guided anglers to fish for coho salmon on Monday in August and September on the Kenai River.

ISSUE: Loss of opportunity for Kenai River guided anglers fishing for silver salmon in August and September. The BOF restricted guided anglers from fishing on Mondays for coho salmon due to conservation concerns several years ago. The conservation concern is now over and the restriction should be repealed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of opportunity when there is no conservation concern.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improves the access for people who need to go fishing on Mondays, many times halibut anglers get blown off the water and need a back up fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Guided anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, because guide boats are already on the water fishing for trout but can't retain cohos.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (SC-10F-050)

PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Prohibit barbed hooks when using beads in the Kenai River as follows:

In the entire Kenai River drainage, including all tributaries, when using beads as an attractor, hooks must be barbless. A barbless hook is a fish hook without barbs or on which barbs have been bent completely closed.

ISSUE: Barbed hooks used in the Kenai River drainage for rainbow trout and Dolly Varden have resulted in hook release damage and deformities and has increased catch and release mortality. There is no reason to use barbed hooks when fishing for trout and dollies anywhere in the Kenai system. This proposal is for the entire Kenai River drainage while fishing with beads.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued damage to fish and increased mortality as fishing pressure increases.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, trout and char harvested or released will be in better physical condition and overall quality of the fishing experience will be enhanced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some anglers may lose more fish but the ultimately benefit from a healthier fish population.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make the entire Kenai River system no barbs but salmon anglers would have issues with this. The regulations could include a strong recommendation that anglers use barbless hooks when fishing for trout and dollies.

PROPOSED BY: Allen Tigert and Phil Brna (HQ-10F-029)

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Increase allowable size limit for rainbow trout in the lower Kenai River as follows:

One per day / one in possession, must be less than [18"] **24"** long **and any one per year over 24"**.

ISSUE: Allow sport fishermen the opportunity to harvest a slightly larger rainbow trout from the Kenai River below Skilak Lake.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Denial of opportunity to catch slightly larger rainbow trout.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Recreational and sport fishing individuals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Steve Tvenstrup (SC-10F-057)

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Establish a bag limit for burbot in the Kenai Peninsula Area as follows;

(X) burbot may be taken from January 1-December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit;

ISSUE: Anglers on the Kenai Peninsula are allowed to use up to 15 baited hooks while fishing for burbot thereby contributing to incidental mortality on other species. Provisions of 5 AAC 75.033. *Sport fishing gear for burbot*, allow fishing for burbot in fresh water with more than one line and hook if the total aggregate number of hooks used on set lines, closely attended gear, and ice fishing gear, does not exceed 15 or the daily bag limit for burbot in the waters being fished, whichever is less.

Burbot are classified as other finfish in fresh waters of the Kenai Peninsula. Except for Hidden Lake, which is closed to burbot fishing to address incidental harvest and overexploitation of lake trout, sport fishing for burbot is open year around with no bag, possession, or size limit. Establishing a bag limit for burbot will make ice fishing gear consistent with all other sport fishing gear on the peninsula, except in lakes with invasive northern pike.

Burbot mature at a relatively old age, have strict habitat requirements and their distribution as well as abundance in Kenai Peninsula area fresh waters is not fully understood. Due to these factors, burbot, where present, can be overexploited at relatively low harvest rates. Incidental mortality and overexploitation of other resident species that have strict bag, possession and size limits are also of concern. Although burbot harvests from Kenai Peninsula fresh waters are relatively low, interest in fishing for burbot is growing. Establishing a bag and possession limit of two fish will limit the number of lines and hooks allowed for burbot fishing, thereby allowing for responsible future burbot harvest opportunity and addressing the concern of incidental mortality of other resident species.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers will continue to be permitted to fish fresh waters of the Kenai Peninsula with up to 15 baited hooks, thereby contributing to incidental mortality of all species.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; future incidental mortality of all other resident species will be reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Burbot and other resident species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Kenai Peninsula fresh water anglers whom set 15 baited lines to fish for burbot.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-167)

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Establish a steelhead/rainbow trout spawning closure for all tributaries of Tustumena Lake as follows:

(X) in the tributaries of Tustumena Lake, sport fishing is open from June 11-May 1.

ISSUE: Current regulations regarding steelhead in the Kasilof River are as follows:

From its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge; no closed season, no retention is allowed year-round. Rainbow/steelhead trout may not be removed from the water.

Upstream from the Sterling Highway Bridge including, Tustumena Lake and its tributaries, general Kenai Peninsula fresh water regulations apply;

- 1) in flowing waters; no closed season, 2 per day/2 in possession (only 1 (one) fish 20” or longer), annual limit of 2 applies.
- 2) in lakes and ponds; no closed season, 5 per day/5 in possession (only 1 (one) fish 20” or longer), annual limit of 2 applies.

Recent Kasilof River rainbow/steelhead trout studies completed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service show that rainbow/steelhead trout spawn primarily in tributaries of Kasilof River and Tustumena Lake. The majority of rainbow/steelhead trout spawn in Crooked Creek, which is closed to all fishing from January 1 – July 31. This proposal seeks to create spawning closures for the remaining tributaries where spawning occurs. This would align Tustumena Lake tributaries with most flowing waters of the Kenai Peninsula Area which are closed to fishing for rainbow/steelhead trout from May 2 - June 10.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Rainbow/steelhead trout in tributaries of Tustumena Lake will not be protected from sport fishing pressure during the spawning season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Rainbow/steelhead trout that spawn in Tustumena Lake tributaries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fishermen who fish for steelhead in Tustumena Lake tributaries from May 2 – June 10.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-169)

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Correct list of Kenai River Drainage Area rainbow trout stocked lakes as follows.

(6) rainbow/steelhead trout

(E) **repealed** [MAY BE TAKEN FROM JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, IN STOCKED LAKES AND PONDS IN THE KENAI RIVER AND KENAI LAKE DRAINAGE; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF FIVE FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 20 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUB-PARAGRAPH, “STOCKED LAKES AND PONDS” MEANS AURORA LAKE, BARBARA LAKE, CABIN LAKE, CARTER LAKE, CECILLE LAKE, CHUGACH ESTATES LAKE, DOUGLAS LAKE, ELEPHANT LAKE, LONGMARE LAKE, LOON LAKE, RAINBOW LAKE, SCOUT LAKE, SPORT LAKE, THETIS LAKE, TIRMORE LAKE, AND VAGT LAKE];

ISSUE: The list of stocked lakes in this subparagraph is incorrect because these lakes are not within the Kenai River Drainage Area; instead they are within the Kenai Peninsula Area. The department stocks rainbow trout, arctic char, land-locked king, and coho salmon into 28 lakes in the Northern Kenai Peninsula management area. Six of these lakes are correctly listed separately by name in the Upper section of the Kenai River drainage area. The remaining 22 lakes are not part of the Kenai River drainage area and sport fishing regulations for them are already specified in the general provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula area of Chapter 56.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Duplication of a regulation will remain in the codified regulation book and may create confusion by showing an inaccurate record of stocked lakes listed by name that contain rainbow/steelhead trout in the Kenai River Drainage Area of Chapter 57.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal is housekeeping in nature and would repeal incomplete and duplicative regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-172)

PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 57.123. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Add Rainbow Lake to the list of Upper Kenai River drainage stocked lakes as follows:

(4) from January 1 – December 31,

(B) in stocked lakes of the Kenai Lake drainage, including Jerome, Carter, Vagt, Long, **Rainbow**, and Meridian lakes, the bag and possession limit for rainbow/steelhead trout is five fish, of which only one may be 20 inches or greater in length;

ISSUE: This proposal is housekeeping in nature and seeks to add Rainbow Lake (near Kenai Lake) to the list of stocked waters of the Upper section of the Kenai River Drainage Area which was previously omitted from the list. Rainbow/steelhead trout fishing regulations for stocked lakes and ponds of the Upper section of the Kenai River drainage are more liberal in comparison to unstocked lakes where more conservative statewide standard regulations apply. Companion proposals submitted by the department are seeking to place stocked lakes into the appropriate area chapters of the codified regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Underutilization of rainbow trout stocked by the department into Rainbow Lake of the Upper section of the Kenai River drainage area where the more liberal harvest limit of 5 daily is not permitted by regulation at this time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who harvest stocked rainbow trout in this lake.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-173)

PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 56.120. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area, and 5AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Correct list of Kenai River Drainage Area and Kenai Peninsula Area king salmon stocked lakes as follows:

5 AAC 56.120.

(1) king salmon

(B) less than 20 inches in length

(ii) from January 1 – December 31, may be taken in stocked lakes and ponds; bag and possession limit of 10 fish; for the purpose of this sub-paragraph, “stocked lakes and ponds” means Arc Lake, Aurora Lake, Barbara Lake, Cabin Lake, Cecille Lake, Centennial Lake, Chugach Estates Lake, Douglas Lake, Elephant Lake, Encelewski Lake, Island Lake, [JEROME LAKE,] Johnson Lake, [LONG LAKE,] Longmare Lake, Loon Lake, [MERIDIAN LAKE,] Quintin Lake, Roque Lake, Scout Lake, Sport Lake, Thetis Lake, Tirmore Lake, Troop Lake, and Upper Summit Lake;

5 AAC 57.120.

(3) chinook salmon less than 20 inches in length may be taken in

(B) ~~repealed~~ [STOCKED LAKES AND PONDS FROM JANUARY 1- DECEMBER 31; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF 10 FISH; FOR THE PUPOSES OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, “STOCKED LAKES AND PONDS” HAS THE MEANING GIVEN IN (6)(E) OF THIS SECTION];

ISSUE: This proposal is housekeeping in nature. The Kenai Peninsula Area stocked lakes for chinook salmon less than 20 inches in length is incorrect. Department assessments of stocked lakes are ongoing and future stockings of land-locked king salmon may occur in 22 of the Kenai Peninsula Area stocked lakes. This proposal will accurately reflect the list of lakes that may be stocked with land-locked chinook salmon by the department.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Underutilization of land-locked chinook salmon stocked into Kenai Peninsula Area lakes. The list of stocked lakes specifying regulations for chinook salmon less than 20 inches in length will remain incorrect.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport anglers fishing in stocked lakes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-176)

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and

methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Repeal the special sport fishing gear regulations that apply to Arc Lake, Cisca Lake, and Scout Lake as follows:

5 AAC 57.121.

(I) in [ARC LAKE] Mackey Lakes, Derks Lake, Sevena Lake, [CISCA LAKE], Union Lake, and the unnamed lakes on Tote Road, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5AAC 57.129(9)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;

5 AAC 57.122.

(F) **repealed** [IN SCOUT LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 57.120(9)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED TO AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY];

ISSUE: Arc Lake, Cisca Lake, and Scout Lake are listed as lakes containing invasive northern pike. This designation allows each angler to use up to 5 lines while fishing through the ice. Arc Lake was treated with rotenone in October of 2008 to eradicate illegally introduced northern pike. The treatment was successful and stocking of hatchery coho salmon was continued at previous levels during the summer of 2009. Cisca Lake has been monitored by the department for presence of northern pike since 2004. Northern pike have not been detected in the lake. Scout Lake was treated with rotenone in October of 2009 and the department will resume stocking this lake with hatchery rainbow trout and coho salmon during the summer of 2010. By repealing this regulation, these lakes would revert back to standard ice fishing gear regulations that allow two lines while fishing through the ice.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations will be inconsistent between lakes stocked by the department. In addition, increased incidental mortality would occur on resident species by anglers using five lines while fishing for northern pike even though northern pike are not present in the lake.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The stocked rainbow trout and coho salmon and anglers who pursue them.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fishermen hoping to use 5 lines through the ice to target fish other than northern pike.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-10F-174)

PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 57.XXX. Invasive Northern Pike Management Plan; 5 AAC 60.XXX. Invasive Northern Pike Management Plan; and 5 AAC 61.XXX. Invasive Northern Pike Management Plan. Add a new section to increase emergency order authority flexibility to address invasive northern pike as follows:

The department shall manage invasive northern pike in the waters of the Upper Cook Inlet Area to minimize impacts on indigenous fish stocks and recreational fisheries. Waters containing invasive northern pike will be managed so that there will be a reasonable expectation of high catch rates and harvesting a daily bag limit. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the commissioner may, by emergency order, change bag and possession limits and alter methods and means to aid in the control of invasive northern pike.

ISSUE: Within Upper Cook Inlet regulations there are lakes listed as containing invasive northern pike. This designation allows each angler to use up to 5 lines while fishing through the ice. The list of lakes may change annually as new waters are confirmed to contain invasive northern pike and other waters are treated with rotenone to eradicate northern pike. Existing emergency order authority does not address liberalizing or restricting limits and gear in this particular situation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will have to go to the board to obtain an emergency regulation each year until the next meeting cycle for Cook Inlet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In addition to anglers fishing for northern pike with 5 lines, department staff and board members will benefit from not having to create an emergency regulation each year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Increased incidental mortality would occur on resident species by anglers using five lines while fishing for northern pike even though northern pike have been eradicated from a lake.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-10F-175)

PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 57.121(1)(G). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Reduce effective dates for fly-fishing-only waters in Killey River Sanctuary Area from July 31 to July 15 as follows:

Change the period for gear restriction from July 31 to July 15.

ISSUE: Unnecessary gear restrictions in Killey River closed area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen are denied fishing opportunities in latter part of July.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improves opportunities for both salmon and trout fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate the gear restrictions and closure, but too broad.

PROPOSED BY: Ted Wellman (SC-10F-031)

PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 57.121(x). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Reduce Killey River king salmon sanctuary closure date from July 31 to July 15 as follows:

Change the closure date from July 31 to July 15.

ISSUE: Unnecessary prohibition on fishing from a boat.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trout and salmon fishermen will be denied fishing opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Move opportunity for salmon and trout fishermen during a productive period.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Salmon and trout fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminating boat closure for trout fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Ted Wellman (SC-10F-032)

PROPOSAL 226 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Reduce Killey River king salmon sanctuary closure date to June 25 – July 14 as follows:

5 AAC 57.121(1)(G) and 5 AAC 57.121(2)(G)

Return the wording of the Killey River King salmon closure and boating restrictions to that of 2007 and before. Specifically, begin closure and boating restrictions on 25 June and end them on midnight, 14 July.

ISSUE: The Killey River king salmon and boat restriction language changed in 2008 had the unintended consequences of denying local seniors, handicapped, and youth access to fishing in Hole #3 and red salmon fishing from a boat until 1 August.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The largest concentration of residents in the above categories living adjacent to the affected area (Kenai River Keys) will be locked out of a fishery some have enjoyed for decades. Several do not have the strength to stand in the river but can fish reds from a boat, if allowed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal neither improves the quality of the resource not, according to ADF&G biologists, does it hurt the resource. The wording in 2007 and before gave adequate protection to the Killey River king salmon. ADF&G did not support the wording change for 2008.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those elderly without the strength to stand in the river to fish for reds. Those whose handicap prevents them from safely maneuvering a boat in high traffic fisheries but can slowly find a spot in Hole #3 and drop anchor. Youngsters in flimsy aluminum or inflatable boats who can safely play and fish in the calm water of Hole #3.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. There are those who disagree with F&G that Kelley River kings were adequately protected by the 25 June-14 July closure and who do not want any fish available for the local residents unable to fish apart from hole #3. They will disagree with this proposal, but will not suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Some desire a change to the closure boundary to exclude hole #3. This solution may not adequately protect the species and does not allow for fishing for reds from a boat.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Keys Property Owners Association (HQ-10F-058)

PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Reduce Killey River King Salmon Sanctuary Area to allow fishing at 3rd Hole as follows:

Move the lower marker up approximately 400 yards, allowing fishing at what is known as hole #3.

From January 1-July 31, the Kenai River from an ADF&G marker about ¼ mile downstream of the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to an ADF&G marker about 1 mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River is closed to fishing from boats and closed to fishing for King Salmon.

ISSUE: Closure of the Kenai River to fishing for king salmon at the Lower Killey River Sanctuary Area. There was an unintended consequence when the new regulation was enacted, the intent was to close the drift area from the middle Killey to the lower Killey that had in previous years been over fished. Hole #3 does not see the same pressure.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued crowding for king salmon fishing on lower Kenai River, fewer opportunities for locals to enjoy a quieter fishing experience.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local fishermen, they will have the opportunity to once again enjoy a quiet early June king salmon fishery in the preferred local fishing hole. This area has not been fished heavily for many seasons. The guide association has done a good job of not over fishing this area on their own over the last 5 years or so. This left it to a hand full of locals. In July it does not get much pressure, as there is too much boat traffic and most local fishermen are concentrating on sockeye. Estimated harvest from hole #3 early-run king salmon is 20 fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one that I can think of.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A return to the prior regulation that closed the area from June 25th – July 14th. This is my personal preference, but in talks with other people and groups, I seemed to get more support for the boundary being moved to open Hole #3.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Irvine, Dots Kenai River Fish Camp (HQ-10F-059)

PROPOSAL 228 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Repeal the seasonal boating restriction at the confluence of the Moose River as follows:

All waters of the Kenai River below the confluence of the Moose River are legal for boat anglers during the king salmon season.

ISSUE: The crowding and lack of opportunity for boat anglers on the Kenai River below the Moose River confluence during the king salmon season (January 1-July 31st).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have overcrowding by boat anglers and continued lack of opportunity for king salmon fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would return us to past regulatory policy; it would help alleviate overcrowding by boat anglers, and would improve social interactions and fishing success.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and nonresident sport fishermen, which ultimately affect the local and state economies.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? ADF&G and state park enforcement officers will have fewer regulations to enforce.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Opening all Kenai River waters below Skilak Lake. I rejected this option due to escapement concerns for the early-run king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: James K. Johnson (HQ-10F-121)

PROPOSAL 229 - 5 AAC 57.121(2)(J). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Increase Slikok Creek king salmon Sanctuary Area as follows:

Slikok Creek: From January 1–July 31, the Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 1 mile [300 YD] downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to ADF&G markers about 0.25 miles [100 YD] upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek is a fly-fishing-only water and is closed to fishing for king salmon.

ISSUE: Slikok Creek chinook salmon have been reduced to numbers that threaten the viability of the population. In 2008 and 2009 only 68 and 70 chinook salmon entered the stream (counts from a weir in the lower creek). In contrast, foot counts, which are minimum counts, averaged 165 from 1990 to 2004 (actual number of spawners was probably averaged in the 200-300 range). Actual peak counts by year are:

1990 –215; 1991 –160; 1992-156; 1993-307; 1994-295; 1996-88; 1997-313; 1998-61; 1999-180; 2000 –106; 2001-95; 2002 –71; 2003- 115; 2004-153; 2005 – 53; 2006 – 47 2008-33; 2009-10

The Sustainable Salmon Policy of the BOF states:

(A) a precautionary approach, involving the application of prudent foresight that takes into account the uncertainties in salmon fisheries and habitat management, the biological, social, cultural, and economic risks, and the need to take action with incomplete knowledge, should

- (i) consideration of the needs of future generations and avoidance of potentially irreversible changes;
- (ii) prior identification of undesirable outcomes and of measures that will avoid undesirable outcomes or correct them promptly;
- (iii) initiation of any necessary corrective measure without delay and prompt achievement of the measure's purpose, on a time scale not exceeding five years, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species;
- (iv) that where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measurable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource;
- (v) appropriate placement of the burden of proof, of adherence to the requirements of this subparagraph, on those plans or ongoing activities that pose a risk or hazard to salmon habitat or production;

As noted peak foot stream survey counts of 165 spawning fish are conservative as single counts rarely see more than 50% of the total population.

In contrast, the recent weir counts of 70 fish translates to less than 70 fish spawning as mortality takes place upstream of the weir site due to bear consumption and other causes. Therefore it is likely that this population is at risk of not sustaining itself. The foot survey during the weir counting period was just 10 fish in 2009.

ADF&G indicated in 2010 that they plan to study the situation and respond in the future. The problem with this approach is that it is not precautionary given this data set. At what count does ADF&G define a problem? If the weir counts goes lower than present it may be too late to recover this population. The risk/benefit analysis should favor the fish not the users in this case.

Unfortunately, there is only a single escapement objective for Kenai River early chinook salmon. This is the classic problem of escapement goal management that does not consider spawner distribution in tributary streams in setting the goal. Small stream systems that have lower productivity tend to be over-harvested. It is very important for the BOF to realize that small populations in small stream systems are the first to be lost relative to habitat and harvest issues.

Run timing of Slikok Creek chinook salmon extends from June to August with most fish entering between mid-July to early August. Therefore, chinook salmon headed for Slikok Creek hold in the mainstem Kenai River for a lengthy period of time and are exposed to harvest as the area closed to chinook fishing is not sufficient to protect these fish holding at the Creek mouth. This proposal would increase the size of the protection zone.

Additionally, recently released age/comp and sex ratio data of these stocks raises another area of concern. Weir data shows that of the 68 fish through the weir in 08 only 24 were female and in 09 only 16 were female. Therefore, a system that once produced 100's of early-run Kenai River chinook salmon has been reduced to producing just a few females.

The age structure of these stocks is even more unsettling as the majority of males (67% of fish age classed) in 09 were 1.2 age (jacks). This skewed age structure may be the result of selective harvest in the sport fishery. The lack of females may also be an indication of selectivity as they are more frequently harvested because they have the added attraction of roe to utilize for bait within the fishery.

All of these factors combine to illustrate a valuable stock that we should hold in grave concern and be proactive in protecting. We should always err on the side of conservation when we see scientific warning signs of these degrees.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Slikok Creek chinook salmon will go to extinction and may require an Endangered Species Listing if no action is taken by the Board of Fisheries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups as chinook salmon in Slikok Creek are a renewable natural resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Recreational fisherman who have historically over-harvested these fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Additional closures downstream of Slikok Creek may be warranted in the future.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition (HQ-10F-043)

PROPOSAL 230 - 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Revise the Kenai River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Undertake a comprehensive review and revision of the management plan based on new information published in an updated 2010 stock assessment for Kenai early-run chinook. Include consideration of the following alternatives:

Continuation, modification or elimination of the slot limit based on an assessment of benefits and unintended effects.

Regulatory alternatives for reducing fishery selectivity against small fish which coincides with an increasing percentage of small fish in the run (for instance, by increasing harvest rates by allowing continued fishing after retention of one additional fish <28”).

Adoption of other measures in order to avoid consistently exceeding escapement goals while improving fishery opportunity and predictability (e.g. opening the season with bait rather than by

in-season EO, allowing multiple hooks, definition of in-season triggers for catch & release or closure as necessary).

ISSUE: The current management plan for early-run Kenai kings results in chronic management problems. These include:

- consistent inability to regulate escapements within the current goals,
- loss of future yield and opportunity due to escapements exceeding the goals,
- unnecessary loss of current fishery opportunities,
- purposefully-selective harvest by size and sex,
- lack of consistency and predictability in in-season management, and
- unintended consequences of early run management on crowding in the late-run fishery.

Optimum escapement goals have been established and an updated 2010 stock assessment confirmed that the current OEG is consistent with maximum sustained yield. However, escapement goals are consistently exceeded despite management tools that could be employed to meet goals while also providing additional fishery opportunity. For instance, opening the season with bait, rather than with a late season EO, would substantially increase opportunity with very low risk of precipitating inseason restrictions at the current escapement goals.

An experimental slot limit has also been established for the purpose of reducing angler selectivity for large fish. However, new information published in an updated 2010 stock assessment shows that this regulation has actually increased the disparity in selectivity for different sizes and sexes while concentrating harvest on the large reproductive 4 and 5 ocean females that make up a large portion of the run at sizes just under the slot.

At the same time, angler selection against small fish has not been effectively addressed and the proportion of small fish in the run has greatly increased over the years. Under exploitation of small fish likely contributes to decreased fish sizes in the run and increasing exploitation rates of small fish is another way to attack this problem. However, rather than encouraging additional harvest of smaller fish by allowing anglers to continue to fish after retaining a fish < 28", a half-measure was taken at the last BOF meeting which allowed fish under 28 inches to be retained without counting toward the annual bag limit but requiring anglers to cease fishing for the day after retention. Subsequent evaluations of this regulation indicate that it can be liberalized without significant risk to minimum escapement goals.

Sonar counts have been inconsistently represented at different times as both valid estimates and inaccurate indices of escapement. Counts are the basis for the current EEG. In some years, counts are used as a basis to EO bait. However in 2009, bait was not EO'd despite counts which indicated that the minimum escapement goal would be met. It is confusing and contradictory to anglers on the one hand to use the counts to define an OEG while at that same time qualifying their use in management.

The inadvertent effect of early run bait and slot limit restrictions has been to discourage angler participation and effort, and to push effort into the already-crowded late-run fishery as anglers continue to seek opportunities to catch and retain the large kings for which the Kenai is famous.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Problems will continue unnecessarily.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Recreational anglers will benefit from increased opportunities when the fishery is effectively managed for current escapement goals in a simple and predictable management framework.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Postponing revision of the plan until results of current research are completed 3-5 years from now was rejected because management should be based on the best available science available at the this time. If there are obvious problems in the current management structure based on current information, then appropriate remedies should be taken now. Future fisheries can be managed adaptively based on new information as it is available.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-10F-087)

PROPOSAL 231 - 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Return early-run Kenai River king salmon escapement goal to pre-2005 level as follows:

Return early-run Kenai River chinook escapement goal to pre-2005 level: 7,200 – 14,500.

ISSUE: Current escapement goal for early-run Kenai River chinook is not high enough to support a healthy, genetically diverse and sustainable return.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Early run Kenai River chinook stocks will be more susceptible to low returns if we continue to manage for lower escapement goals. Smaller returns allow for less genetic diversity and make the entire stock more susceptible to mortality from overfishing, selective harvest practices, adverse ocean conditions, predation and other uncontrollable environmental factors. Chinook stocks statewide are at record lows and increasing the early run escapement goal will more adequately protect early-run Kenai River chinook for future generations. The current early-run Kenai River chinook escapement goal of 5,300 – 9,000 fish does not protect the run from less than reliable enumeration methods. Sonar estimates often contradict other enumeration methods such as inriver creel surveys, inriver test nets, and actual sport fishing success rates. Large Russian River sockeye returns often skew chinook sonar numbers and a more conservative escapement goal would more adequately ensure the lower end of the escapement goal is achieved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, a higher escapement goal will protect the run against imperfect enumeration methods and ensure more genetic diversity within the return.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who want early and predictable use of bait in the fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A. Catch and release only. This denies all harvest opportunity. B. Change EG to 6,500 to 12,000. This would still not adequately ensure genetic diversity or protect spawning stocks from imperfect enumeration methods and other factors that affect overall survivability.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Glassmaker (SC-10F-105)

PROPOSAL 232 - 5 AAC 57.121(1)(A). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Allow use of bait on May 1 or June 1 in the Kenai River early-run king salmon fishery as follows:

Open bait for early-run Kenai River king salmon on May 1st or June 1st, if the department determines in season that escapement won't be met, then they can close bait with an emergency order.

ISSUE: The unpredictability of the use of bait for early-run Kenai River king salmon. The early run is managed totally opposite of the late-run. The early run does not open for bait until an escapement projection can be made, while the late-run opens for bait at the beginning before escapement projections.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost opportunity on the early-run kings. Continued confusion and unpredictability of when bait opens each year. Continued opposite management policies of early and late-run kings.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Provides stability and predictability and reduces loss of opportunity for anglers fishing the early-run kings.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, because the use of bait can be closed with EO similar to the late-run.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (SC-10F-051)

PROPOSAL 233 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Repeal slot limit for Kenai River early-run king salmon as follows:

Remove all slot limit restriction in May and June for kings on the Kenai River.

ISSUE: The slot limit on early-run kings in May and June on the Kenai River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The slot limit has put disproportionate fishing pressure on age classes, concentrating harvest on large reproductive females, a significant component of the run just under the slot limit, in contradiction to the Sustainable Salmon Policy.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishery

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Szczesny (HQ-10F-076)

PROPOSAL 234 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Repeal slot limit for Kenai River early-run king salmon as follows:

One king salmon per day of any size for the early-run Kenai River king salmon

ISSUE: Slot limits on the early-run Kenai River king salmon, sports anglers harvest such a small percentage of the big kings there is no reason to have a slot limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of opportunity for anglers who have to release a slot limit fish, fishing on the Kenai can be slow at times and when somebody fishes all day or several days and gets lucky and catches one fish and then they have to release it, they are disappointed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improves the experience of the anglers fishing the river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson

(SC-10F-053)

PROPOSAL 235 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Extend slot limit through the end of July as follows:

The extension of the early run slot limit through July, thereby offering the same protection for large July kings as is currently provided for large May/June kings.

ISSUE: The problem is insufficient protection of larger four and five ocean Kenai River late-run chinook.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This biologically unique six and seven year old age class salmon will decline in numbers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal improves the quality of the resource as it protects more late-run chinook overall, as well as a unique and special portion of the run (4 – 5 ocean fish) that are actually targeted by anglers. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data actually shows a more severe decline of 4-5 ocean fish in July than during the May / June early run. This is likely due to increased angling pressure, the use of bait, and increased sorting that occurs in the July fishery. Precedent and ADF&G data is in place already with recent fecundancy study and recent Board of Fisheries action protecting larger Yukon River chinook.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who values the large, genetically unique late-run Kenai kings. Locals, tourists, and all businesses who benefit from tourism generated from the giant salmon that the Kenai is famous for, as well as future generations of anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those anglers who wish to harvest four and five ocean chinook during the July late-run.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Total catch and release – not biologically needed to protect all late-run Kenai kings. Also, doesn't allow harvest at all for those wishing to harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Brush

(SC-10F-104)

PROPOSAL 236 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Modify size and annual limits for Kenai River king salmon as follows:

1. Anglers may retain one 20 – 30” Kenai king per day and may continue to fish from a boat. This fish must be marked on the license but does not count toward the five king

2. Anglers may retain a total of one fish 30 – 46” or 55” and longer from January 1 to June 31. [ONE LARGE FISH IN MAY/JUNE].
3. Anglers may retain a total one fish 30” or longer from July 1 – July 31. [ONE LARGE FISH IN JULY].
4. For 21 designated days in July, king salmon 46 – 55” must be released. For 10 designated days in July, any salmon 30” or longer may be retained. [PARTIAL JULY SLOT LIMIT].

ISSUE: Size does matter. The average size at Kenai River king salmon has steadily decreased for the last twenty years. Many fish are now in the 10 – 20 lb range. This may be due in part to fishery regulations. With a two fish per year limit and a requirement to stop fishing when a fish is retained, small fish are often released in hopes of a bigger fish. Bigger fish, when landed, are more often harvested. This phenomenon over a period of years may be a primary cause of the decreased average fish size.

This problem has been previously identified by fisheries managers and a July slot limit has been implemented. Current regulations still may not sufficiently 1) encourage the harvest of smaller fish, and 2) promote escapement of larger fish in July.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We may diminish the greatest run of large king salmon on earth.

If big kings disappear, fishery businesses, anglers and Peninsula communities will have lost an invaluable resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal may help remedy depletion of Kenai River king salmon stocks in the 45 – 75 lb range. Healthy stocks of large salmon do improve the quality of the resource for anglers and businesses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Long term, all anglers and businesses will benefit if large king size can be restored.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Recreational fisherman and guide services may experience growing pains associated with changing regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A full July slot limit was considered, but the intent of this proposal is not to stop all retention of big fish, but rather to implement measures to repair a depleted resource.

Consideration was given to unlimited retention of all 20 – 30” fish. Some accounting of these fish seemed a better option. Since many Kenai River anglers are paying for guide services, we believe the primary reason that 20 – 30” fish are being released is the “stop fishing” provision.

Another idea for consideration is the protection of some mainstream spawning areas toward the end of the season. (There is a theory that many of the larger fish are main stream spawners and are therefore subjected to more repeated fishing pressure than smaller fish that enter tributary streams). If areas can be identified, this may be a future management alternative.

Any solution or variation of this proposal that encourages retention of smaller fish and escapement of larger fish will be welcomed.

PROPOSED BY: Nate Anderson (SC-10F-056)

PROPOSAL 237 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Increase size and bag limits for jack kings in the late-run on the Kenai River as follows:

Amend the regulation such that the allowable limits for late-run king salmon in the Kenai River are 10 fish less than 20 inches in length, 1 fish per day between 20 and 28 inches in length, one per day greater than 28 inches in length. If a fish greater than 28 inches is retained then fishing ceases for the remainder of the day. Amend the annual limit such that only fish over 28 inches in length are included in the annual limit.

ISSUE: The smaller age 4 (2 ocean) kings in the late Kenai run are usually released by anglers and are not harvested in proportion to their abundance. However, these smaller kings are almost entirely males which do not significantly contribute to the reproduction potential of the population. The commercial fishery harvests a wide range of king sizes and does not effectively balance the size selectivity of the sport fishery. Size selectivity problems are being addressed in the early Kenai run but not in the late Kenai run.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishery selection against small fish can shift age composition over the long term and reduce production, yield, and numbers of large kings. Anglers are unnecessarily foregoing the opportunity to harvest more of these smaller kings.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? King escapements and anglers fishing the Kenai River. Increased harvest rates of these smaller kings in the sport fishery can help balance the effects of size selectivity. Allowing anglers to retain more small fish may also encourage some to release the larger kings. Anglers will have the opportunity to retain additional fish without a significant impact to escapement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The status quo was rejected because it does not address the problem and unnecessarily limits angler opportunity.

A slot limit was rejected for the late-run because it compounds rather than corrects angler size selectivity and because the run continues to include large numbers of 5-ocean kings.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-10F-088)

PROPOSAL 238 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Allow the use of two hooks or treble hooks for Kenai River king salmon fishing as follows:

Allow the use of at least 2 single hooks or treble hooks for Kenai River king salmon in May, June, and July.

ISSUE: Restriction on multiple hooks for Kenai River king salmon fishery in May, June, and July – it is hard enough just to get a bite sometimes while fishing the Kenai for kings, and only allowing one hook makes it even harder to get a hook up or land a fish once you’re lucky enough to get a bite.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued missed fish and lost fish, currently there are many rules in place to reduce the success of anglers fishing for king salmon, no need for a single hook restriction when we have all the other restrictions such as seasonal limits, daily limits, no fishing after retention, etc.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Gives a better chance of hooking and landing a fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (SC-10F-049)

PROPOSAL 239 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Allow anglers to continue fishing after daily bag limits are met on the Kenai River as follows:

Kenai River anglers can continue to sportfish from boats after retaining their daily bag limit of either king or coho salmon.

ISSUE: The current restrictions placed upon anglers who have attained their bag limit of king or coho salmon on the Kenai River, and must suspend sport fishing from a boat that day on the Kenai River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers will continue to be deprived of angling opportunity for catch-and-release fishing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The promotion of catch-and-release fishing encourages conservation of our fishery resource. An ADF&G catch-and-release study indicated a low 8% mortality rate on king salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and nonresident anglers will be encouraged and will spend more time and money in the local area; they will better contribute to the Alaska economy. Alaska will be better able to compete with Canada for those anglers' dollars.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? ADF&G and state park enforcement officers will have less regulations to enforce.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Just continue the present restrictions, which the rest of the angling world has not adopted-for obvious reasons.

PROPOSED BY: James K. Johnson (HQ-10F-120)

PROPOSAL 240 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Prohibit anglers that are going to release fish from taking them out of the water as follows:

In the Cook Inlet area a salmon, rainbow, or steelhead trout that is not legal to retain or is foul hooked or that is going to be released cannot be removed from the water any more than is necessary to remove the hook, and then immediately release the fish. A fish that is going to be released under this section cannot be removed from the water for pictures and should incur as little damage as is possible.

ISSUE: Mishandling of fish that are going to be released. Current regulations state that the fish must be returned to the water without further harm, but do not address the initial harm already experienced. Everyone has seen fish drug up the bank, unhooked and kicked back into the water. Or all of the fish but a little piece of the tail is out of the water so a picture can be taken before it is released. This should be stopped!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fish will continue to be abused and a larger number than ADF&G estimates will die or at least not spawn.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Vanek (SC-10F-048)

PROPOSAL 241 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Close Kenai River to sport fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays as follows:

Close the Kenai River to sport fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays. Windows.

ISSUE: Crowding, habitat, and biodiversity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Habitat loss, pollution, accidents increase.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Private anglers, fish and the habitat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The board, state parks and KRSMA board have done nothing to relieve crowding.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-131)

PROPOSAL 242 - 5 AAC 21.359(b)(1)(B). Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan. Close large sections of the Kenai River to king salmon fishing on an annual rotational cycle as follows.

River miles 0-19 are closed for the entire year. River miles 19 – xx are closed the next year, river miles xx – xx are closed the next year and repeat the cycle. Provide window closures to ensure adequate spawning distributions up to Skilak Lake. From the mouth of the Kenai River to Skilak Lake, January 1 – July 31, all chinook harvested must be less than 46” or longer than 55”. chinook longer than 55” must be sealed by ADF&G.

ISSUE: With the intensity of fishing activity on the Kenai River, the current Monday closure does not provide enough time for large chinook to enter the river and have any real possibility of reaching a refuge or spawning area (s). The further up the Kenai River a chinook has to travel to reach a spawning or refuge area greatly increases the likelihood of catching and possible harvest. Increase the no fishing times, refuge zones, or successive up-river closures by year.

Kenai River Large, 55 inch, chinook sealings 2003-2009

Year	55' or smaller	55'' or larger	Total Sealings 2003- 2009
2003	4	7	11
2004	6	5	11
2005	6	10	16
2006	6	8	15
2007	2	3	5
2008	4	0	4
2009	3	1	4
Totals	31	34	65

Additional Points:

1. Thirty-one (31), or 47.7% of the 65 large chinook presented to ADF&G for sealing were below the 55' requirement.
2. All were males.
3. Only five (5) were over 80 lbs., which averages less than one per year over the 7 year period.
4. No 90 lb. chinooks were sealed during the 7 year period.
5. In the last three years, 2007, 2008, and 2009, only four (4) 55'' or greater, chinook were sealed.
6. No 55'' chinooks have been sealed in June.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Up-river and resident inriver, large spawning chinook are gradually disappearing from the Kenai River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Ensures chinook spawning escapement throughout the river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chinook and coho salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some recreational users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (SC-10F-080)

PROPOSAL 243 - 5AAC 57.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle

Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Harvested fish must be closely attended in the Russian River Area as follows:

(1)(X) from June 11 – August 20, in the Kenai River near the confluence of the Russian River, from the powerline crossing on the Kenai River upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing and the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the falls, anglers must keep their harvested fish closely attended; for the purpose of this subparagraph, “closely attended” means within view and readily accessible at all times.

ISSUE: The issue to be addressed concerns bears rather than the fishery resource. Recreation activities in the Russian River drainage area have not displaced bears and the presence of bears in the area has increased over the last 10 years, resulting in an increased risk of a negative human/bear encounters. Bears obtaining an easy meal from anglers may increase the likelihood of a negative encounter. The department is working cooperatively with federal land management agencies to help reduce negative human/bear encounters in the Russian River Area. Federal land managers regulate storage of food items and refuse within developed recreation sites.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The safety of the public may continue to be at risk.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Visitors to the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other solutions considered include managing fish waste from anglers who choose to partially or completely process their fish onsite and placing a “cage” at or near the cleaning tables to collect fish waste and facilitate offsite disposal of fish waste; installing a commercial grade fish grinder (requires electricity) and possibly develop a commercial-type grinder powered by water flow in the Kenai River; develop and provide anglers an enclosed, onsite processing facility(ies); and hire concessionaire or encourage local businesses/user groups to develop local commercial processing or storage facilities.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-171)

Note, the board does not have authority on taxing. The board could adopt a bounty program.

PROPOSAL 244 - 5 AAC xx.xxx. New section. Establish a tax for pike to sport fishing licenses and a bounty for pike turned in as follows:

A \$10 pike tax will be attached to all sport fishing licenses. A \$3 bounty will be paid for each dead pike turned in.

ISSUE: Pike.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fewer salmon returning.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All salmon fishermen and pike bounty hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Pike.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Dynamite.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-141)

PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Add an additional drift boat only day (Wednesdays) on the Kenai River as follows:

Make Wednesdays drift only on the Kenai River.

ISSUE: Crowding on Kenai River

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Water turbidity will silt over and suffocate spawned eggs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More fish will survive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users will appreciate a quiet day on the river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? In-river closures.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-10F-136)

PROPOSAL 246 - 5 AAC 57.121(3)(A). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Add an additional drift boat only day

(Thursdays) on the Kenai River as follows:

Under the heading “Drift-only Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake” change to read: Downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake No one may fish from any motorized vessel on Mondays (except Memorial Day) **and Thursdays** during May June and July.

ISSUE: Heavy, high density motorized vessel use is responsible for excessive hydrocarbon concentration, turbidity, increased erosion, and safety issues. There are other social issues associated with crowding that are compounded by motorized vessels in the current configuration of the fishery. Another drift day on the river, open to both guided and unguided anglers with no time restrictions, will help address hydrological and social issues and may promote more folks to invest in resource friendly drift boats. This would also allow more fish to move upriver and disperse during subsequent days. New boat use patterns indicate that most of the chinook fishing is now taking place in the lower 10 miles of the river.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The use of power-boats will continue to cause hydrological and social problems.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and those who would like to see the river use slow down with more peaceful days on the water. Commercial operators have the opportunity to add to their client base people who prefer non-motorized fishing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Power-boat users would lose a day on the water, however, this change may provide an opportunity for the fishing public to enjoy a quieter fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Power-boat users would lose a day on the water, however, this change may provide an opportunity for the fishing public to enjoy a quieter fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition (HQ-10F-048)

PROPOSAL 247 - 5 AAC 57.121(3)(A). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Allow the use of a motor downstream of Cunningham Park to exit the fishery on drift-only Mondays as follows:

Under the heading “Drift-only Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake” change to read: Downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake no one may fish from any motorized vessel on Mondays (except Memorial day) during May June and July. **Except on drift boat only days motors may be used downstream of Cunningham Park (approximately RM 6.6) for downstream navigation only after fishing from the boat has stopped for that trip.** [FOR

PURPOSES OF THIS REGULATION, A MOTORIZED VESSEL IS ONE THAT HAS A MOTOR ON BOARD]

ISSUE: Use of boat ramps in tidally influenced areas of the lower river requires drift boat operators to time fishing with tide stage or row downstream against flow when the tide is coming in. This results in most boats exiting the fishery at or above the Eagle Rock boat launch facility at river mile 11.5 contributing to crowding at boat launches in that area and precluding these boats from effectively fishing in the lower river. This lower section from Eagle Rock RM 11.5 to the Warren Ames Bridge RM 5.2 regularly produces the highest rate of harvest success for chinook salmon on the entire Kenai River, but has remained largely unattainable for drift boat fishermen below the Eagle Rock boat launch facility.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Drift boat operators will be effectively precluded from fishing the lower river on drift only days and crowding will continue to be a problem at accessible boat launches.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Drift boat fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition (HQ-10F-044)

PROPOSAL 248 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Prohibit drift boats from using motors to travel upstream in the lower Kenai River as follows:

From January 1 – December 31, in the waters of the Kenai River from the outlet of Skilak Lake downstream to Bings Landing, a motor may be used on a drift boat only after fishing from the vessel has ceased for the day; a person may not deploy sport fishing gear from a vessel after a motor has been used in these waters to propel that vessel on that trip.

ISSUE: The problem is drift boats using motors to move upstream and repeat multiple drifts are causing tremendous bank erosion and unduly causing loss of property. Drift boats are not designed to plane efficiently. Motoring drift boats upstream create more wake energy and do more damage than power boats that are designed to run on step. Drift boats are not designed to travel upstream under power. Motors could still be used to cross Skilak Lake and enter the river and used to exit the fishery but should not be allowed to travel upstream just to run multiple drifts through an area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Property owners will continue to unnecessarily lose property. The public will lose traditional fishing locations. Riparian habitat will degrade to an extent much greater than by natural causes or even powerboats.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Banks will be stabilized to the level expected through natural river conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Land owners and bank anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers fishing from a drift boat that want to run back upstream to fish a stretch of water.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Prohibiting motors on drift boats. Rejected because of the recognized need for motors to travel across Skilak Lake and usefulness to exit the river in a timely manner.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Schaff (SC-10F-087)

PROPOSAL 249 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Prohibit drift boats from using motors to travel upstream in the lower Kenai River as follows:

Prohibit drift boats from using motors to go upstream.

ISSUE: Excessive wakes by drift boats motoring upstream from Skilak to Naptowne Rapids.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Excessive wakes will continue to damage habitat and interfere with other fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Lowers wakes and lessens crowding; it also improves boat traffic.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, except a small number of primarily guided drift boats that motor upstream.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few drift boats that motor upstream.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate motors and drift boats, but motors are needed to cross Skilak and for safety.

PROPOSED BY: Ted Wellman (SC-10F-030)

PROPOSAL 250 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Establish 3 areas in the lower Kenai River for drift fishing during July as follows:

July 1-July 31 the following three signed areas are to be fished by drift fishing only. Top of Upper bluffs approximately Mile 15 to lower end of bluff at state park bathroom. Upper slough to Eagle Rock drift. Approximately Mile 12 to lower slough at the top of Crossover, top of lower bluffs approximately Mile 8. To treeline at lower end of Bluff.

ISSUE: Expansion of back trollers into historic drift fishing areas resulting in conflict between back trollers and drift fishermen.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Altercations between drift fishermen and back trollers will continue and degrade the quality of every ones fishing experience. Boating safety concerns for all anglers. Anglers who want to drift fish will have nowhere to fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen who like to fish without conflict. Locals who only know how to drift fish. Clients who prefer to drift fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Rude fishermen who sit in the middle of the drift and make other fishermen go around them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Only addressing the Eagle Rock Drift. This would only be a partial fix and would probably result in future proposals to address the other two historic drift fishing areas.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Hanes (HQ-10F-055)

PROPOSAL 251 - 5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Prohibit boats on the Kenai River and Russian River confluence back channel as follows:

Prohibit boats from transiting through the Kenai and Russian rivers confluence back channel (South side). Furthermore, prohibit boats on the south side of the “fly fishing only” section from anchoring or landing from May 1st through October 31st. The island (between Sportsman’s boat launch and the sanctuary) in the same area should remain open to landing boats as it does not interfere with the bank fishing or create a safety concern.

ISSUE: Safety. Every year during the sockeye fishery a few boats pass through the back channel endangering themselves and the multitude of fishermen fishing in the area. Occasionally, a boat will attempt to “land” in the area disrupting fishing and displacing fishermen in one of the few areas accessible to bank fishermen. Furthermore, each year a boat ends up stuck in a large sweeper present in the same area with passengers falling into the river endangering their lives and of those attempting to assist them. The alternative to avoid this sweeper is to push through the fishermen. Either option is a significant safety issue.

The exclusion of boats from anchoring or landing in the same area has several ramifications to include but not limited to safety concerns, conflicts between anchored boats and bank fishermen, landed boats taking up a significant portion of the bank preventing bank fishermen from fishing in key spots, forcing them to wade around these boats while fighting a fish and climbing over the anchor ropes. This particularly becomes problematic when several boats do this later in the season and is increasingly becoming commonplace.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A significant accident is waiting to happen which may result in the loss of life or limb.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This area is primarily a bank anglers fishing location and should be protected as such. By eliminating this problem, we will in fact improve the quality of the resource for our visitors and residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Visitors and residents who frequent this popular fishery and who pay to fish in this area from the bank will benefit from this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Given that there are equal or better access points for boaters for the same species, with equal or greater abundance, throughout the refuge beyond this area, no one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Employees of the Russian River Ferry, enforcement personnel and concerned citizens have contended with these issues every year and the problem is worsening as the amount of boats and personal watercraft increases on the Kenai River. We have collectively attempted to educate boaters of this concern with no positive results.

PROPOSED BY: Colin E. Lowe (SC-10F-088)

PROPOSAL 252 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Allow fishing for resident species from a motorized vessel on Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake as follows:

Downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake, no one may fish for king salmon from any motorized vessel on Mondays (except Memorial Day) during May, June and July. For purposes of this regulation, a motorized vessel is one that has a motor on board.

or

Downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake, a person may not sport fish for king salmon from a vessel during motor use (similar to the regulations on the Upper Kenai River).

ISSUE: Drift only Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake- the issue with not being able to fish from a vessel with a motor on board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This restricts the ability of people to drift and fish for freshwater species on this section of the river, though from my understanding, this regulation is used to protect the king salmon fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? From my understanding, the main purpose of this regulation is to reduce or eliminate most king salmon fishing on this day (Mondays). This update would address this issue of back trolling, while in the same turn allow those who would like to fish freshwater species while drifting (and have the ability to motor back up river to do it throughout the day).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that wants to drift fish for freshwater species on Mondays during this three month timeframe.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I do not foresee this affecting anyone in a negative way.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Completely eliminating drift-only Mondays on this section of river. I agree that there does need to be at least one day (if not more) that king fishing on this section of river should be restricted.

PROPOSED BY: Kip Minnery (HQ-10F-075)

PROPOSAL 253 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Allow fishing for sockeye salmon from a boat in the Funny River King Salmon Sanctuary Area as follows:

The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 1 mile downstream from the mouth of the Funny River, upstream to ADF&G markers about 200 yards upstream from the mouth of the Funny River is closed to all fishing January 1 – July 1.

ISSUE: Allow fishing from boats and the use of beads for the sport harvest of red salmon on the Kenai River in the area identified as “fly area only” immediately down river from the confluence of the Funny River and the Kenai River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Land owners in this area will not be allowed to fish from their boats moored to their property. More bank erosion will occur because of the increased pressure from concentrating fisherman on the limited bank space available. This is compounded by the length of time required to catch red salmon with flies vis-à-vis the use of beads which are more effective in the taking of red salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sport fisherman targeting red salmon on this part of the river. By changing the regulation fishermen will be able to catch their fish more efficiently. Fishermen will be allowed to fish from their boat moored to their private property. The river bank will be protected from erosion because fishermen will not remain on the banks for prolonged periods of time because they are required to use flies and not the more effective beads. Since there is a very limited area open to the public for bank fishing in this area, bank erosion over the past six years has been excessive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one; the changing of this regulation will not impact the taking of king salmon from this part of the river as this was the original reason for placing all these unnecessary restrictions on sport fishermen. Individuals who illegally target king salmon in this part of the river will do so no matter what the regulations state.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Limiting the closure of the part of the River from January 1 to July 14th as was the case in 2004. This closure of the river was to allegedly protect the taking of king salmon from this area; however, ADF&G data demonstrated that spawning king salmon had vacated this part of the river prior to July 14th and the closure was not necessary in July.

PROPOSED BY: Funny River Chamber of Commerce/Jim Harpring (HQ-10F-015)

PROPOSAL 254 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Allow fishing from power boats during the king salmon season on the Kasilof River as follows:

Remove the drift only restriction on fishing from a boat below the Sterling Highway Bridge through July 31, with a sunset clause until such point as public egress is provided below the traditional end point for chinook salmon fishing around Mile 3.

ISSUE: There is an inability to fully utilize the fishery resource on the Kasilof River in that there is a drift boat only restriction in place through July 31 for the Sterling Highway Bridge to the mouth of the Kasilof River, however there is no public egress for drift boats below the Sterling Highway Bridge.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public will be unable to utilize and enjoy the fishery resources on the Kasilof River through July 31 below the Sterling Highway Bridge.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to access the Kasilof River fishery through July 31 from a boat and are currently denied due to the lack of public egress below the Sterling Highway Bridge.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who currently enjoy the benefits of a public fishery restricted by a lack of public access.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? For the last decade, DNR and ADF&G have failed in attempts to provide public access and egress on the Lower Kasilof River (below mile 3). As such, with no public egress on the horizon below the Sterling Highway Bridge, the drift only regulation makes no sense and needs to be repealed.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Mortenson (HQ-10F-077)

PROPOSAL 255 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Prohibit fishing from a boat in the “People’s Hole” area adjacent to Crooked Creek as follows:

Revise the regulation 5 AAC 57.140 (b) language: **“ From ADF&G markers at the mouth of Crooked Creek downstream to ADF&G markers near the cut-bank area adjacent to the Crooked Creek State Recreation Site, fishing from a boat is prohibited January 1-June 30.”**

ISSUE: Competition and conflict between shore anglers and boat anglers within the very limited fishing area currently available to shore anglers continues to place shore anglers at a significant disadvantage relative to the total catch and harvest of chinook salmon available in the Kasilof River.

Because of private property restrictions the only location where shore anglers have public access to fish for chinook salmon on the Kasilof River, downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge, is at the People’s Hole adjacent to the Crooked Creek State Recreation Site.

Creel survey data from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game illustrate that shore anglers comprised 43% of anglers and accounted for 26% of the catch and 20% of the harvest during year’s 2004-2005. However, during the most recent period 2006-2008 shore angler’s increased to 49% of the total angler estimate but experienced a decline in both catch and harvest to just 18% and 13%, respectively.

We are therefore asking for this approximate ¼ mile section of the entire river below the Sterling Highway Bridge to be set aside for shore angling only. We believe this is a fair and reasonable solution to address the decline in shore angler success.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Competition between shore anglers and boat anglers within the very limited fishing area currently available to shore anglers will continue to place shore anglers at a significant disadvantage relative to the total catch and harvest of chinook salmon available in the Kasilof River. As such, the declining trend in catch and harvest by shore fishermen can be expected to continue on a downward track.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Shore anglers who fish the People’s Hole on the Kasilof River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Boat anglers who fish on the Kasilof River adjacent to the People’s Hole.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition (HQ-10F-046)

PROPOSAL 256 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Allow boat anglers to land a fish while anchored across from the “People’s Hole” area adjacent to Crooked Creek as follows:

Amend the regulations to include the following- **except within one oar length away from the water, line on the north side of the river (away from the Crooked Creek State Park), not to impede bank anglers to land a hooked fish.**

ISSUE: The safety of sportfishing boat anglers utilizing the Kasilof River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The possibility of a boat related accident may occur. When landing a chinook salmon the oarsman (usually the most experienced angler) must drop their oars to utilize the net. This releases the boat to the control of the river. This is unacceptable from a safety standpoint. Submerged rocks, boats and other anglers could be injured. This proposal would insure a “safe zone” to aid in the harvest of the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would allow the safe recovery of a harvestable resource of the safe handling of a resource that must be released due to regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sportsfishing anglers fishing from drift vessels hoping for a safe and relaxing day. All bank anglers who enjoy fishing this are from Crooked Creek State Park.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Scott Eggemeyer (HQ-10F-051)

PROPOSAL 257 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Change boundary marker location for seasonal motor use on lower Kasilof River as follows:

Modify existing regulation with a marker move, creating a demarcation line of the slough at Satellite Hole for motor use after stopping fishery and to exit the fishery.

ISSUE: The current regulation restricting motor use on the Lower Kasilof River to below Trujillo’s Landing is outdated, unnecessary, and raises safety concerns.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Drift boat anglers wishing/needing to exit fishery with high winds and/or incoming tide suffer unnecessary hardship and possible safety issues.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The proposal does not necessarily improve the quality of the resource, but improves the quality of the experience for all users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users wishing to exit the fishery quicker and safer during less than ideal conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those users who wish to never hear or see a small outboard on this river.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered not changing demarcation line, creates unnecessary hardships and safety concerns. Considered moving line to powerline – creates obstacles to navigate in large rocks in that area.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Brush (SC-10F-102)

PROPOSAL 258 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, bag possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai

Peninsula Area. Rename boundary marker for seasonal motor use on lower Kasilof River as follows:

(v) from January 1 – July 31, a motor may be used only between the mouth of the Kasilof River and [TRUJILLO’S LANDING] an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 3 miles upstream, and only after fishing from the vessel has ceased for the day; a person may not deploy sport fishing gear from a vessel after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on the same day;

ISSUE: This proposal is housekeeping in nature. The boat landing most commonly used and evident to boaters during the fishery, Trujillo’s Landing, is named in regulation as the lower boundary for motor use. Trujillo’s Landing is now closed to public use and no longer in business. An ADF&G marker is now the appropriate tool to provide the location reference point for motor use.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers unfamiliar with landmarks may unknowingly violate the motor prohibition regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will provide for orderly and lawful exiting of the fishery by drift boat anglers who have a motor on board the vessel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Drift anglers using the lower Kasilof River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-168)

PROPOSAL 259 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Reduce bag limit for king salmon on the Kasilof River as follows:

5 AAC 56.122 (a)(8)(A)(i) Special Provisions...Kenai Peninsula Area.

(i)The bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one [TWO] fish [OF] which [ONLY ONE FISH] may be a naturally produced king salmon...

ISSUE: The Kasilof River is very congested in June. There are also not as many fish as there have been historically, both hatchery and naturally-produced. Liberalization of bag limits has increased river crowding.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be decreased opportunity for the public to harvest fish. It is difficult for the average angler to catch a king salmon and far less

enjoyable. If the problem is not addressed, the river will continue to be crowded by guides who are trying to catch eight fish for their clients as well as other anglers who are trying to catch their limit of fish for the day.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. When anglers catch their fish, many of them will leave the river opening up another spot for a different angler to have an opportunity to catch a king salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general angling public who fishes on the Kasilof River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The small percentage of guides who kill eight fish per day. Nonresident anglers who try to maximize harvest in a short period.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Return to the original one fish limit with no restrictions on natural-producing fish. We feel that the proposal as written has a better chance to pass.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Soldotna Advisory Committee (HQ-10F-205)

PROPOSAL 260 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Repeal August 1 - 15 fishing closure on Kasilof River above Sterling Highway Bridge as follows:

Remove fishing restriction for coho but increasing enforcement for any illegal angler harassing spawning kings in that section of the river.

ISSUE: Closure takes away opportunity for law abiding users unnecessarily.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers will continue to unnecessarily shoulder the burden and potentially lose more opportunity (precedent) when regulations to protect spawning kings are already in place.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, improves quality of the resource as actual enforcement is more effective at deterring illegal activity than passing an unnecessary and additional regulation to stop all fishing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any and all anglers, as it opens a two week period in an area that is currently closed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Any angler attempting to illegally target king salmon in this section as other anglers will be present and enforcement will shoulder the burden rather than a total closure.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered allowing king salmon fishing on spawning beds in August – not an option. Considered closing other legal fisheries, sections, time periods to protect other species – not an option, as there is a regulation in place already prohibiting harassment of chinook after July 31 and this is strictly an enforcement issue.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Brush (SC-10F-103)

PROPOSAL 261 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Allow the use of bait in the Kasilof River for an additional two weeks in September as follows:

The use of bait is allowed in the Kasilof River from May 16 through September 15.

ISSUE: September 1 bait closure below the Kasilof River Bridge. Amend the proposal to align the entire river to a uniform bait closure of September 16.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued ambiguity of the regulations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would allow bank land owner and boat anglers to use bait to harvest coho salmon below the Kasilof River Bridge in a reasonable manner.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sportsfishing anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Professional Guide Association (HQ-10F-050)

PROPOSAL 262 - 5 AAC 56.140(2). Kasilof River guiding and guided fishing requirements. Allow guides to take more than one group of clients per day on the Kasilof River as follows:

Allow sportfishing guides the ability to take multiple (2) trips per day on the Kasilof River from May 1 through June 30.

ISSUE: Repeal this regulation “a guide may not take more than one group of clients per day on the Kasilof.”

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The failing tourist economy, both local and out of state, will continue its downward spiral to the detriment of the fiscal area. The spring fisheries are rampant with regulations and restrictions, the local population depends on the guided industry to keep them from breaking these regulations. This proposal will give the fishing industry the ability to offer a more economical trip to anglers from local areas as well as out of state travelers who otherwise could not afford the trip at this crucial time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would allow the harvest of more hatchery chinook salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All guided sportfishing anglers and the communities who thrive on the tourist based income in the area (Kasilof, Ninilchik, Kenai, Soldotna, and Cooper Landing).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Professional Guide Association (HQ-10F-049)

PROPOSAL 263 - 5 AAC 56.140. Kasilof River guiding and guided fishing requirements.
Limit guided sport fishing hours and days on the Kasilof River as follows:

Sport fishing guides are limited to 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., this can be implemented in 2011, and no guides on one of these following days, Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday (as these days you are allowed to keep native king salmon in May and June) from May 16 thru June 30 and Sundays from July 1 thru September 15, which will need to be implemented in 2012 due to many guides already having bookings for the 2011 season.

It is a regulation now preventing guides on Sundays in July but a lot come out in unmarked boats some with family and friends, but some also with clients.

ISSUE: Daily time limits for fishing guides on the Kasilof River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Guides fish 18 to 22 hours a day, not leaving any time for general public to fish the river without being crowded out and intimidated by the growing number of guides on the Kasilof River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This would limit the pressure on both king salmon runs (especially the early native run) as well as the dwindling silver salmon run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general public will get a chance to fish the river and the residents (on the river and around the drop off and pull outs) will get some peace in the very early morning and late evening hours.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishing guides will have to schedule daily trips at the allotted times. There is already a regulation stating that guides can only take one group of clients a day on the Kasilof.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Having two no guide days a week. This would limit the guides' seasonal income by about 16%.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Achia, Tom Ferguson, and Mike Zwack (HQ-10F-123)

PROPOSAL 264 - 5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Increase area open to king salmon fishing on the Kashwitna River as follows:

Kashwitna River drainage from its mouth upstream to the **Intertie Electrical Lines** (Alaska Railroad Bridge).

ISSUE: I would like the board to expand the area open for king salmon fishing and retention on the Kashwitna River drainage.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The fishery will continue to be congested in a small number of holes.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it makes for a more pleasant, un-crowded fishing experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who would like to king salmon fish above the Alaskan Railroad Bridge and have access to it.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who would not like king salmon fishing to be allowed above the Alaska Railroad Bridge.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered extending the king salmon fishery to the Eagle Nest Subdivision, but decided a more conservative approach would have a better change at being accepted.

PROPOSED BY: Stephan Warta (HQ-10F-099)

PROPOSAL 265 - 5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Standardize Willow Creek salmon fishing regulations upstream to Deception Creek as follows:

Have the same fishing regulations for king and other salmon from the mouth upstream to Deception Creek.

ISSUE: Willow Creek has multiple areas and diverse fishing restrictions. It is confusing for both fishermen as well as enforcement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confusion.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sportfishermen, enforcement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who like the status quo.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do nothing- maintains confusion.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (HQ-10F-113)

PROPOSAL 266 - 5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Prohibit fishing from boats at the mouth of Willow Creek and the Susitna rivers as follows:

The outright banning of boat fishing at Willow Creek and the Susitna River within ¼ mile of the mouth in the “combat zone” (mouth of Willow Creek fishing area only). Do not allow boats to anchor or beach themselves in this area either as that can cause more problems than it will solve.

ISSUE: Willow Creek is one of the most popular fishing spots for king salmon in Southcentral Alaska. During the weekend openers, thousands of people use this fishery. As crowded as it is there are conflicts between shore based and boat fishermen. Lines are constantly being tangled, fights break out and there have been armed confrontation, as well. In other popular shore fisheries, boat fishing is not allowed. It’s not uncommon to have people stake their claim on the bank for a midnight fishery opening to show up as early as 6:00 p.m. the evening before only to have someone in a boat show up about 11:45 p.m. and throw an anchor and get in the way of where a multitude of bank fishermen are attempting to cast. There have been boats speeding by along the shoreline going over peoples lines and causing fish to be lost.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Ultimately someone will be seriously injured or even killed unless we try to resolve the problem. Bank fishermen will continue to just

get so upset and pack up spoiling their fishing experience because of only a few inconsiderate people. Fights will continue to happen. Fish and tackle will continue to be lost because of all the damage to the lines from being nicked or tangled from fishermen fishing in the other direction.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It improves the quality of the fishing experience for the multitude of bank fishermen and encourages the boat based fishermen to travel to a more boat friendly fishing experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Law enforcement – less fights along the bank. Boat fishermen – they will not be interfering with bank fishermen and not having their lines entangled by bank fishermen. Bank fishermen – they won't have to worry about having an inconsiderate boater ruin their attempts to get a king.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few inconsiderate boat based fishermen who insist that they have the right to fish here and to hell with staying out of the way of everyone who also is trying to share the resource.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Ban bank fishing. No way possible. Ban boat fishing within 300 yards of the shoreline in the “combat zone”, that may work but enforcement may be an issue. Do nothing – this never changes a thing and no improvement to the fishery will happen.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Chryson (SC-10F-084)

PROPOSAL 267 - 5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Restrict passenger limits, anchoring, horsepower, boat length and air boat use on Lake Creek as follows:

For Lake Creek: Boating safety regulations enacted similar to those imposed on the Kenai River (to be set for all commercial and personal recreational watercraft) as follows:

Passenger limits- no more the 6 persons are allowed on board, including operator. This coincides with the 6-person limit regulated by the USCG Occupational Fresh Water “6-pack” license and required for all Alaska sport fishing guides.

Anchoring- no one may anchor a boat in the center channel of on Lake Creek that obstructs a primary traffic channel or drift fishing channel.

Horsepower restrictions- no one may operate a boat on the Lake Creek that is not a jet drive, and which has an outboard or combination of outboards having a total propshaft rating greater then 40HP must be a four-stroke motor or a direct fuel injection motor. Adding a jet drive to any motor does not change its equivalent propshaft HP rating. The maximum propshaft rating of

outboards must not exceed 75 HP.

Boat length requirements- no one may operate a motorized boat on Lake Creek that exceeds overall boat size to no more than 21 feet long and 106 inches wide.

Air boats- no air boats may be allowed on Lake Creek. Due to their size and inability to slow or stop they create a significant safety hazard.

ISSUE: Topics of concern:

Safety- heavy jet boat traffic; over-sized, over-powered fishing boats unsafely operated on a shallow, narrow river

Environmental impact of large powerboats-disruption of spawning salmon; siltation and/or washout of salmon redds; streambank erosion, likely riverbank smolt/parr habitat degradation.

1. Safety

As a way of background to this submittal, I am placing this proposal as a concerned lodge owner and as a fisherman on Lake Creek in the Susitna Valley. I have lived and guided on Lake Creek since 1998 and have been a lodge owner since 2001 where we employ 7 full-time guides. Lake Creek is a shallow, dynamic, ever-changing swift water system. Navigating this river by powerboat requires a high level of skill and knowledge of the waterway and its obstructions/limitations. Due to the fact that Lake Creek is off the road system, there is no medical response available which makes safety a big concern. Overall, I believe Lake Creek is likely one of the busiest and least enforced because of its proximity to the road system, jet boat rivers in all of remote Alaska.

There has been a steady increase in boater traffic on Lake Creek from year to year since 1998. The most significant increase in boat traffic has come from large inboard sleds (20-25 ft.+) and/or large airboats navigating the river throughout the summer. These sleds, such as Dickworth and Idaho designs, are now seen driving our river daily. Lake Creek in low water often has areas the width of a single boat. As is such, it is common etiquette and necessity for the upstream-traveling boat to slow to idle in a deep pool, while the downstream-traveling boat passes safely. The challenge is that skill plays a handicapped role when driving these larger jet sleds as a boat of that size cannot be controlled or easily navigated in the low water period of the year on such a river, especially when driving downstream. Typically these boats need to stay nearly full speed to stay "on step" in the water, and can not stop or turn around until they find one of a few deep open areas. These boats can and do easily travel 30-45 mph on a stream often only 20-30 ft across in width. They are unable to slow, stop or steer clear of other boats traveling in the opposite direction.

As a result of these larger inboard jet sleds staying on full throttle, going both up and down stream, we have had numerous close calls where our guides or other boaters have had to intentionally run our boats ashore or onto midstream gravel bars due to a large sled speeding downstream on a tight river bend or channel. We have had, witnessed, or responded to a large number of accidents as well, any of which we assume go unreported. There is no room in some areas of Lake Creek for boats of that magnitude to pass another safely. Even in wider areas of

the river where large boats are able to pass others freely, the big sleds cast a wake that nearly submerges smaller Jon boats of 18' or less. Most of these boats are too large and significantly over-powered to safely handle in a small stream. We see regular traffic of boats with outboards and inboards from 90HP to 350HP. The majority of these boats are used to access Lake Creek exclusively for sport fishing. The fact is, there is absolutely no need for such a large boat to get up Lake Creek as this river is only navigable for 5 miles up from the mouth. A smaller 18 ft boat with 40HP is the safest minimum set up for this size of waterway to safely transport 4 people up the river.

2. Environmental Impact

The increase in larger boat traffic on Lake Creek has created the potential for permanent disruption in the salmon spawning habitat. All these large inboard boats are jet-propelled causing tremendous updraft and churning of the gravel river bottom. These larger inboard jet boats, as opposed to smaller outboard jet boats, require a deeper draft and far greater thrust to keep the large boats "on step". During low water levels of late June, July and August, which are also the peak salmon spawning periods, larger inboard jet boats scatter spawning salmon off their beds and disturb eggs in turn increasing the mortality rate of reproduction. An increase wake cast by large watercraft also increases riverbank/habitat erosion.

According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, chinook and coho salmon reach their spawning areas between July and September each year. They choose to spawn in streams that are shallow, clear, and cold with a strong upwelling of water through the gravel. The female digs a bed, consisting of several pits, and deposits her eggs in the stream gravels. Chinook salmon fry are found primarily along the sides of pools and near the cover of over-hanging banks. As the fish grow, they increase their distance from cover and tend to occupy greater water depths and velocities where they can find shelter from the current. These large inboard boats cause a huge wake above water leading to excessive erosion of the river shoreline and creating damage to the riparian habitat required for subsequent and successful salmon escapement rates on the Lake Creek fishery.

In the late 1990s there were groups of 50-200 salmon (most notably kings) that would consistently spawn in specific channels and other adequate spawning areas of lower Lake Creek. Every year you would see roughly the same amount of salmon in the same spots in the same channels. Now there are hardly any fish that spawn in these classic habitat areas. Although I realize king escapements have been at historic lows over the past few years, the notable decline in spawning kings in lower Lake Creek has been a pattern seen over the course of the last decade, even during years of high king escapement. There is no doubt that fish are affected by excessive boat traffic, particularly large boats with large motors that displace a significant amount of water and river bottom sediment.

In conclusion safety is my #1 concern, for the fisherman first, but also for the significant environmental impacts on salmon habitat cannot be ignored. My motivation for addressing the above issues is to encourage and preserve the safety and overall habitat health and integrity of Lake Creek in the Susitna Valley. I believe with some regulations and guidelines, as have been imposed on the Kenai River system, we can avoid an inevitable deadly boating accident and reduce the siltation of the riverbank and minimize destruction of salmon spawning habitat in

busiest lower 5 miles of the Lake Creek River System.

Personal Statement: Due to the amount of accidents and near misses in the past 3 years in particular, I felt the obligation to say something to someone of state authority before a person or persons on Lake Creek is seriously injured or killed. I realize the privileges of a state recreational waterway, but some strict guidelines need to eventually be set to assure everyone has less of a chance for disaster. I can only assume the river will remain as busy and likely get busier in future years as access to our river by jet boat and popularity of the fishery will become more widely known. We are the highest lodge up Lake Creek, so we are inevitably the first responders. I have seen more accidents than I have ever seen anywhere else, and I can't stomach the idea of responding to a drowning or death in our river that I know can and should be prevented through good regulation. Medical care is limited to first aid in this remote location. The best solution to save lives is to do what is necessary to prevent accidents from occurring in the first place.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? First, a boater or boaters on Lake Creek will be significantly injured or killed. Based on the numerous boating accidents, flipped boats, submerged boats, collisions, etcetera. I am aware of or have witnessed, it is a blessing to one has been killed to date on this waterway.

Second, the riparian salmon spawning habitat will continue to suffer stress and destruction due to large inboard jet boats disrupting the gravel river bottom and also causing excessive erosion to natural protective shoreline areas used by salmon fry.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, note Salmon Spawning Habitat Impact and Riverbank Erosion statement made in the discussion following question #2.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All those that utilize and take pleasure in recreating on Lake Creek, and those concerned about its future as a safe and productive natural resource. This proposal aims to safeguard the immediate safety of the fisherman and the long-term preservation of the salmon habitat on Lake Creek.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who regularly operate large, high-powered boats on Lake Creek (lodges, guides, locals and visitors alike). Also potentially ourselves, as those who are supporting such change in legislation, as locals in the past have been destructive and even violent to those who have spoken out about any structured and managed change.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Per above, we have attempted for the last 10 years to impose a logical sportsmanlike conduct on the river by setting the best example in an attempt to have others voluntarily follow. While we have a few who respect us for our efforts, most simply say they are legally allowed to drive their boats where ever they please, irrespective to the fisherman and fish they could end up harming in the end. As such we feel that formal, State-imposed regulations is required.

PROPOSED BY: Jason Rockvam

(HQ-10F-052)

PROPOSAL 268 - 5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Prohibit fishing for king salmon after retaining a king salmon on the Talachulitna River as follows:

Within a one mile radius of the confluence of the Talachulitna River with the Skwentna River, **once you have taken a king salmon greater than 20 inches or more in length you may not fish for king salmon for the remainder of that day.**

ISSUE: Guides are locking up the most productive fishing spot for king salmon at the mouth of the Talachulitna River. The lodges park their boats in the log line at 4:00 or 5:00 a.m. and have another boat from the lodge deliver clients to the boat around 6:00 a.m., once their clients are tired of catching and releasing kings salmon they radio the lodge and have someone pick them up and replenish the boat with new clients. So in essence, these boats remain in the most productive fishing spot on the entire day from 4:00 a.m. through the 11:00 p.m. close.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lodges will continue to tie up all the productive fishing area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that wants an opportunity to fish from a boat in the most productive king salmon fishing area at the mouth of the Talachulitna River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: John Schwan, John DeLane, Gene Desjorlias, and Mark Hansen
(HQ-10F-054)

PROPOSAL 269 - 5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Extend use of bait for an additional week in Unit 5 of the Susitna River as follows:

In all flowing waters of Unit 5 only unbaited, artificial lures are allowed **September 8** [SEPTEMBER 1]-July 13.

ISSUE: I would like the board to increase the time allowed to use bait on the Talkeetna River by one week.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers will needlessly be restricted from harvesting surplus coho salmon by use of bait on the Talkeetna River drainage, at a time when most trout are located upstream in Talkeetna River tributary streams.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Coho salmon could be harvested easier during the first week of September.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like to use bait to harvest coho salmon for one more week on the Talkeetna River drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some additional mortality of trout will likely occur, so people more interested in avoiding small trout mortality than the harvest of the much more abundant coho salmon may suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Bait only allowed on the Talkeetna River mainstream, but this could make the regulations a little harder to understand.

Increase the bait time for coho salmon through September 10, and thus provide additional opportunity to harvest more silver salmon. But, this might increase the trout mortality.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (HQ-10F-098)

PROPOSAL 270 - 5 AAC 61.112. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area. Restrict sport, commercial, and subsistence fishing for Alexander Creek king salmon as follows:

Sport fishing for any species within ¼ mile of the mouth of Alexander Creek will be closed May 1 – July 14. This will prevent hook and release mortality of chinook salmon while they are staging and entering Alexander Creek. (A more restrictive regulation may also be in order, closing all of the mainstem Alexander Creek and Sucker Creek to fishing from May 1 – July 14, even for pike. The risk to chinooks through directed or accidental hook and release mortality is too high). An earlier start date may affect pike fishermen who are fishing through the ice for pike during the winter months. Sport fishing of pike in the Alexander system will be encouraged year round. **There will be no limit to the number of lines used year round, and methods and means will be liberalized. In open water, set lines with up to 20 hooks may be used, jug sets, and multiple fishing rods. Through the ice, there will be no limit to the number of tipups per angler. It will be illegal to intentionally release live pike back into the water. Bow and spear are acceptable methods of year round take.**

Northern District setnet will have three openers, beginning June 1 of 6 hours each. These are the regulations that were in place from 2002, when Alexander Creek was still producing excess chinook salmon. Restrictions to that fishery make sense, as the numbers of salmon returning to the Alexander have declined so steeply, and it harvests a number of Alexander Creek chinook.

Subsistence set gillnet shall be allowed one day per week, beginning the first day of June. One net of 100 feet or less in length may be used per household. Until Alexander Creek chinook stocks recover, all sources of mortality must be addressed and reduced. An unregulated gillnet fishery near the mouth of Alexander Creek cannot continue unabated if we are to see the stocks rebound.

If drastic measures are not taken, there will likely be no chinook left in the system in a very short time. From 2001-2006 the escapement averaged 2000 chinook. In 1998 it was nearly 6000 fish. In 2008 it had dropped to 150 chinook salmon. Of the last eight years, six have failed to meet escapement, the two that met escapement were just barely at the lowest threshold, and the last four have been a small fraction of the threshold (*Alexander King White Paper – Rutz, Yanutz*)(2009 escapement data)

ISSUE: Lack of stock of concern status for Alexander Creek. At the 2008 spring BOF meeting, Alexander Creek chinook were not listed as a stock of concern, though it was recognized as a run in decline and sport fishing was restricted to hook and release only. The main reason cited was pike predation in the Alexander Lake drainage, including Alexander Creek. Since there was no stock of concern action taken, no action plan was presented at this time, and there is still no formal action plan for chinook salmon in the Alexander Creek drainage. Without an action plan to address the decline of this chinook run, this historic fishery will completely disappear. The first action in this plan will be to place the highest stock of concern status upon the Alexander Lake Watershed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chinook stocks in Alexander Creek and Lake will be unable to rebound, and the multi-million dollar sport fishing industry which once existed on Alexander Creek and Lake will never rebuild. Thousands of chinook that were in excess of spawning needs will not be available to the commercial and subsistence users, either.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who depend on the subsistence, sport and commercial fishing of Alexander bound chinook for their livelihood.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fishermen who practice hook and release for kings at the mouth of Alexander. Commercial fishing interests that have benefited from the liberalization granted at the last two BOF meetings.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continue to recognize that a problem exists but take no action upon it. Rejected because it is not a defensible stance based upon the Sustainable Salmon Management Policy and the State's constitution mandates to manage its resources for the greatest good to its residents. Give up on salmon and develop a trophy pike fishery. Rejected because that is the status quo, and the status quo of Alexander is unacceptable.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Runyan

(SC-10F-115)

PROPOSAL 271 - 5 AAC 62.122(7) and (11). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. In Lewis and Theodore rivers, prohibit catch and release of kings or require barbless hooks, and determine impact of invasive species as follows:

A total solution goes way beyond a change to specific regulations and will require input at all levels. This problem needs to be elevated by the experts, biologists and other personnel with the expertise. It is recommended that the board consider assigning this problem to those that have the expertise to address a solution.

In the interim some stopgap items that should be considered:

1. Prohibit the catch and release fishery of king salmon, unless accidentally caught.
2. If catch and release is to be retained, require that only barbless single hook be used.
3. Determine the impact of the invasive species. If northern pike is a major factor, the problem needs to be elevated by the experts, biologists and other personnel with the expertise. It is recommended that this problem then be assigned to those that have the expertise for a solution

ISSUE: There is no evidence that the current regulations for the Lewis and Theodore rivers have improved the number of king salmon returning. These rivers have been closed to the retention or possession of king salmon for over 10 years and at least 3 life cycles, with little or no improvement. There are numerous factors that can be attributed to the decline of king salmon that range from the mortality rate of catch-and release, increased number of seals in rivers, other predators like the northern pike, or problems on the high seas. We have some or direct control of some of these such as the catch-and-release regulations and reduction/control in the numbers of northern pike.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? King salmon in these rivers will not recover or might totally disappear

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The natural fish population of king salmon should be restored. If action is not taken the impact will continue to affect all levels from sport and commercial fishing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who enjoy king salmon sport fishing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo was rejected. Only changing the sport fishing rules will have an impact but, will not solve the problem. Action by the highest levels will be needed to solve the problem. If no action is taken, all fishing in the Cook Inlet will continue to be reduced.

PROPOSED BY: Duane T. Gluth

(SC-10F-008)

PROPOSAL 272 - 5 AAC 60.170. Little Susitna River Coho Salmon Management Plan.
Repeal the Little Susitna River Coho Salmon Management Plan as follows:

5 AAC 60.170. Little Susitna River Coho Salmon Management Plan. Repealed: [(a) THE PURPOSE OF THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN IS TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE SPAWNING ESCAPEMENT OF COHO SALMON INTO THE LITTLE SUSITNA RIVER AND PROVIDE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES TO THE DEPARTMENT.

(b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE SPORT FISHERY IN THE LITTLE SUSITNA RIVER TO ATTAIN AN ESCAPEMENT GOAL OF 10,100 - 17,700 NON-HATCHERY COHO SALMON INTO THE LITTLE SUSITNA RIVER UPSTREAM OF THE PARKS HIGHWAY BRIDGE.

(c) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR COHO SALMON 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH IS TWO FISH, AND ONLY UNBAITED, ARTIFICIAL LURES MAY BE USED FROM JULY 14 THROUGH AUGUST 5.]

ISSUE: This proposal is housekeeping in nature. The *Little Susitna River Coho Salmon Management Plan* was originally adopted by the board in 1990. The original intent of the plan was to maximize harvest of hatchery produced fish and to establish an escapement goal for wild coho salmon. The department discontinued stocking coho salmon in 1995 and hatchery fish no longer return to the river. The original plan contained provisions for liberalizing the bag and possession limit after August 6 when hatchery fish used to dominate the fishery. The current plan no longer contains these provisions.

Seasons, bag and possession limits, methods and means are now described under 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.* The department uses its emergency order authority provided under 5 AAC 75.003 to manage this sport fishery. Therefore, the plan has become obsolete and is no longer necessary.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Incomplete and duplicative regulations will remain in regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal is housekeeping in nature and would repeal incomplete and duplicative regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Management of the fishery would remain the same.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-10F-165)

PROPOSAL 273 - 5 AAC 60.122(9)(f). 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. Prohibit fishing for coho salmon after retaining bag limit in the Little Susitna River as follows:

A person who takes a bag limit of other salmon 16 inches or longer from the Little Susitna River below the Parks Highway may not fish for any species of fish in the Little Susitna River that same day.

ISSUE: Omit reference to the ADF&G mile marker 32.5 (Little Susitna River).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Ongoing confusion; unnecessary landmark as the weir is no longer in the area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the current regulation encourages people to fish above 32.5 which can put more pressure on spawning salmon further up the river. It will also help reduce catch and release fishing for coho upstream of 32.5.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishermen who desire regulations that are easier to understand.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I don't think anyone because the bag limit for coho would stay the same.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Hensel

(HQ-10F-230)

PROPOSAL 274 - 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. Allow harvest of king salmon in the Little Susitna River above Parks Highway Bridge in Houston as follows:

Legalize king salmon harvest above the Parks Highway Bridge in Houston.

ISSUE: It is illegal to fish for king salmon above the Parks Highway Bridge in Houston.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? I will have to continue going through the hassle of launching in Houston and going downstream when I could drive to Houston and not need the boat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Less engine pollution from exhaust and refueling getting into the stream.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – hassle of towing, launching, and navigating a boat when not needed if above bridge harvest of kings were legal.

PROPOSED BY: James Garhart (SC-10F-109)

PROPOSAL 275 - 5 AAC 60.122(a). 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. Limit boat motors to no more than 25 HP on the Little Susitna River as follows:

Reduce boat motors to no more than a 25 horsepower motor to be used on the Little Susitna River.

ISSUE: Excessive speed by boaters on the Little Susitna River. I have seen a few close calls with boats speeding and coming up on other boaters anchored fishing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Safety of other boaters and fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Would protect the ground and water habitat from erosion. The additional benefit would be the safety of other boaters on the river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the Little Susitna River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The guides will probably say they would. I say, what's the rush, fish are all though the river during the season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Don't know of any.

PROPOSED BY: Michael A. Hendrickson (HQ-10F-033)

PROPOSAL 276 - 5 AAC 60.122(5)(A). 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. Create youth-only fishery on Fish Creek as follows:

On Fish Creek in waters from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located one-quarter mile upstream of the Knik Goosebay Road, is open to sport fishing for youth 16 years of age and under on the first Saturday and following Sunday in August. Fishing will only be allowed between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

ISSUE: A kids (16 and under) only fishery on Fish Creek on the 1st Saturday and following Sunday in August.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Kids will be denied the option of harvesting surplus fish in the Fish Creek drainage.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Kids 16 and under.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Su Anglers Sportfishing Club (HQ-10F-036)

PROPOSAL 277 - 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. Allow sport fishing for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek during July if escapement will be met as follows:

If the escapement threshold for Fish Creek (Big Lake drainage) sockeye is forecast to be met, then sport fishing will open the first weekend following July 15, Saturday and Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. This will hold sport fishing to the same standard as commercial, rather than to a higher standard that deprives people of the opportunity to sport fish. Refer to the commercial EO of July 30, 2009; specifically the following justification: “the sockeye salmon minimum inriver escapement goal in the Kenai River is projected to be achieved before the end of the season.”

ISSUE: Not enough sport fishing opportunity for sockeye in the valley.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mat-Su Valley sport fishermen will have to drive to the Kenai Peninsula to sport fish for sockeye salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishermen who would like to harvest sockeye for their freezers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who feel there should be limited or no sport fishing opportunity for sockeye in this stream near the core population area of the Mat-Su Valley.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. Rejected because with the importance of sport fishing to Southcentral Alaska, it needs to be encouraged and managed to allow opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Runyan (SC-10F-112)

PROPOSAL 278 - 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. Allow sport fishing for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek if escapement will be met as follows:

The opening date for Fish Creek (Big Lake drainage) sport fishing will be changed from its current fixed date in August to the following: **Upon achieving the escapement threshold for sockeye, Fish Creek will be opened to sport fishing, the following Saturday and Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If the threshold is not achieved, sportfishing will open the 3rd Saturday in August. There is no retention of sockeye; any sockeye must be released immediately.**

ISSUE: Not enough sport fishing opportunity for sockeye in the valley.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mat-Su Valley sport fishermen will have to drive to the Kenai Peninsula to sport fish for sockeye salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishermen who would like to harvest sockeye for their freezers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who feel there should be no sport fishing opportunity for sockeye in this stream near the core population area of the Mat-Su Valley.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. Rejected because with the importance of sport fishing to Southcentral Alaska, it needs to be encouraged and managed to allow opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Runyan (SC-10F-113)

PROPOSAL 279 - 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. Increase area open to king salmon fishing in the Knik River for the Eklutna Tailrace stocked fishery as follows:

Eklutna Tailrace, and all waters within a ½ mile radius of its confluence with the Knik River, and **downstream to Glenn Highway Bridge** [TO AN ADF&G MARKER LOCATED 2 MILES DOWNSTREAM OF THE CONFLUENCE] is open to fishing for king salmon from January 1-December 31.

ISSUE: Extend the Eklutna Tailrace area open to king salmon fishing downstream to the Glenn Highway Bridge.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Early season benefit from a publicly financed resource will remain nearly nonexistent. In May through mid June low water flow through the Knik River side channel connecting to Eklutna Tailrace prevents hatchery king salmon from swimming upstream into the waters open for king salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It provides an improved experience, by allowing anglers to fish an area where king salmon may be available during more of the season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers who would like an opportunity to fish in a relatively small area where hatchery king salmon may be available during a larger portion of the established king salmon fishing season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Since no other legal king salmon fisheries on the Knik and Matanuska River drainages have existed for more than 40 years few people would suffer-although some additional wild Knik and Matanuska drainage kings may likely be harvested if this new area were open to king salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The area could be opened on a shorter basis, through June 20. This unnecessarily complicates regulations, since ADF&G has emergency closure authority for conservation issues.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (HQ-10F-111)

PROPOSAL 280 - 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 Drainage Area. Extend area open to king salmon fishing in the Knik River as follows:

Eklutna Tailrace, and all waters within a ½ mile radius of its confluence with the Knik River, **downstream to the Glenn Highway Bridge** [AND TO AN ADF&G MARKER LOCATED 2 MILES DOWNSTREAM OF THE CONFLUENCE] is open to fishing for king salmon from January 1 – December 31.

ISSUE: Due to low water in the spring, the kings do not move into the closed area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Early season benefit from a publicly financed resource will remain nearly nonexistent. In May and early June, low water flow through the Kink River side channel connecting to Eklutna Tailrace keeps hatchery king salmon from swimming upstream into the area open for king salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows anglers to fish a small area where king salmon may be available for harvest earlier in the season, providing a better experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers who would like an opportunity to fish in a relatively small area where additional king salmon may be available earlier in the season (May and early June).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Since no other legal king salmon fisheries on the Knik and Matanuska River drainages have existed for more than 40 years, few people would likely suffer, although additional wild Knik and Matanuska drainage kings would likely be harvested if this new area were open to king salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The new area open to king salmon could be reduced by opening only to the Alaska Railroad bridge or further extended by opening to the Knik River mouth. Either would be acceptable.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee (SC-10F-100)

PROPOSAL 281 - 5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Allow king salmon fishing in the Matanuska River as follows:

Open Matanuska River drainages to king salmon fishing.

ISSUE: King salmon returning to the Matanuska River drainages. We don't want overescapement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be not utilization of this resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Will help remove pressure from the Susitna drainages.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishermen, Matanuska Valley businesses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (HQ-10F-115)

PROPOSAL 282 - 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. Repeal duplicate motor restriction regulation in Wasilla Creek drainage, including Rabbit Slough as follows:

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.

(11) the Wasilla Creek drainage, including Rabbit Slough,

(C) **repealed** [IS CLOSED FROM JULY 15 - AUGUST 15 TO MOTOR BOAT USE ON WEEKENDS];

ISSUE: This proposal is housekeeping in nature. There are inconsistent state regulations that govern use of motor boats to access the weekend-only sport fishery on Wasilla Creek/Rabbit Slough. Regulations governing sport fishing state Wasilla Creek drainage, including Rabbit Slough, is closed from July 15 - August 15 to motor boat use on weekends. In contrast, 5 AAC 95.505. *Palmer Hay Flat State Game Refuge Management Plan*, states only motorized watercraft capable of producing more than 42 pounds of thrust or three horsepower are prohibited during the weekend-only sport fishery. Inconsistencies between these two regulations inhibit effective enforcement and lead to confusion for users of the area. Limiting general motorboat use and horsepower is more appropriate within a refuge regulation. In addition, given the inconsistencies between the two regulations, there is no need to retain the sport fishing regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Users will continue to be confused as a result of inconsistencies between sport fish and refuge regulations. Enforcement of the regulation will continue to be ineffective.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone benefits from consistent regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Motor boat use capable of producing more than 42 pounds of thrust or three horsepower in the Wasilla Creek drainage will continue to be prohibited on weekends from July 15 – August 15.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-166)

PROPOSAL 283 - 5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Establish catch and release for trout on Little Willow Creek of Susitna River drainage as follows:

I would like the regulation to say “Catch and release only for all rainbow trout/steelhead” – upstream from the bridge on the Parks Highway.

ISSUE: Upstream from the Parks Highway Bridge on Little Willow has been an incredible “secret spot” for big rainbow trout. I have caught (and released) rainbows in the 26-30” range almost every year. Unfortunately, more and more people have found out there is good fishing for rainbows and salmon. A lot of anglers are targeting salmon but catching trout and not releasing them. In the past 5 years I have seen a lot more trout than salmon on “the banks.” I have also noticed a decrease in the average size of rainbows caught as well as a decrease in overall number caught.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? I am not a biologist, so I couldn’t say, but it would seem to me that if the same number of trout are kept every year we would lose a great trophy rainbow trout stream.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I believe so. By stopping the retention of rainbows, you would promote a more sustainable trout fishery (i.e. the Upper Kenai River).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who like to catch large rainbows year after year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who like to eat large rainbows.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I thought about more or stricter size regulations but they probably wouldn’t have as great of an effect as making that stretch of water a catch and release only area.

PROPOSED BY: Jason Jordet (HQ-09F-001)

PROPOSAL 284 - 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Repeal the size and bag limits and liberalize methods and means for northern pike in Alexander Lake as follows:

5 AAC 61.110.

(8) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in

(A) all lakes [EXCEPT ALEXANDER LAKE,] by spear and bow and arrow; the arrow must have a barbed tip and be attached by a line to the bow; for the purposes of this subparagraph, “bow” means a long bow, recurve bow, compound bow, or crossbow;

5 AAC 61.112.

(E) **repealed** [IN ALEXANDER LAKE, THE SIZE AND BAG LIMITS FOR NORTHERN PIKE ARE AS FOLLOWS]:

(i) **repealed** [NORTHERN PIKE LESS THAN 27 INCHES IN LENGTH; NO BAG OR POSSESSION LIMIT];

(ii) **repealed** [NORTHERN PIKE 27 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH];

(F) **repealed** [SPEARS AND BOW AND ARROW MAY NOT BE USED TO TAKE NORTHERN PIKE IN ALEXANDER LAKE];

ISSUE: Northern pike are not indigenous to the Susitna River and neighboring areas and were likely established through a series of illegal introductions in the early 1950s. Since pike have colonized nearly all of the drainage, chinook salmon production has declined significantly. Controlling pike abundance in Alexander Creek is warranted to reduce the immediate impact of pike predation on juvenile salmon.

On Alexander Lake, a size limit was instituted by the board in an effort to investigate potential management strategies that would provide opportunities for anglers to harvest large sized pike, but at the same time, reduce the number of small sized pike which are primarily responsible for decimating juvenile salmonid populations. Large pike serve as a control mechanism for decreasing small pike abundance through cannibalism. Large pike may ingest upwards of 40-60 smaller pike each year, thereby keeping the population of pike in balance.

Since the last board meeting, the department has implemented gillnetting in side channel sloughs on Alexander Creek and has plans to expand gillnetting efforts to include Alexander Lake in an effort to reduce abundance of northern pike in these areas and increase abundance of juvenile chinook and coho salmon in the Alexander Lake drainage. Now that the management strategy has changed to focus on removal of all sizes of northern pike, it is appropriate to provide the public with an increased opportunity to harvest large sized fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public will forgo an opportunity to harvest large northern pike that are being targeted for removal by the department.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; reducing the abundance of northern pike should increase productivity of salmon in the Alexander Lake drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those wanting additional harvest opportunity for pike in Alexander Lake.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-177)

PROPOSAL 285 - 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area. Liberalize bag limits and gear allowed for northern pike fishing in Alexander Lake and eliminate salvage requirements as follows:

(5) in the Alexander Creek drainage

(E) in Alexander Lake, the size and bag limits for northern pike are as follows:

No season No bag limit. Pike need not be salvaged but must be disposed of in flowing water or on land at least one mile from a dwelling.

[NORTHERN PIKE LESS THAN 22 INCHES IN LENGTH; NO BAG OR POSSESSION LIMIT; NORTHERN PIKE 22 INCHES IN LENGTH TO 30 INCHES IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; NORTHERN PIKE GREATER THAN 30 INCHES IN LENGTH; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH;]

(F) spears, **gill nets, pond nets,** and bow and arrow may [NOT] be used to take northern pike in **the Alexander Creek drainage including** Alexander Lake **October 15-May 31.**

ISSUE: The Alexander Creek System has historically produced tens of thousands of chinook salmon annually that were harvested in Alaska's commercial, subsistence, and sportfisheries. Alexander Creek king salmon are literally on the brink of extinction. Escapement over a 26 year period from 1979-2005 ranged from 6,200-1,500 kings with a mean of 3300. From 2006-present has ranged from 880-150, with a mean of about 400 even with complete closures of sport fishing and reduced northern district setnetting.

Many fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet have shown signs of weakness in recent years. The Alexander has crashed more than others due to a thriving population of invasive northern pike.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without immediate action to drastically reduce pike in this system we will lose an entire generation of king salmon and possibly face a complete extinction of kings in this stream.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? There are numerous individual volunteers and fisheries groups in South Central Alaska willing and able to actively participate in this worthwhile project.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Businesses dependent on Alexander pike.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Encourage ADF&G to poison the system periodically to control pike.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee (SC-10F-085)

PROPOSAL 286 - 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. Allow 5 lines and bait to fish for northern pike in Big Lake as follows:

Allow 5 lines and bait for pike in Big Lake. Closed March 15 - May 15. Lines must be closely attended. Fishing with five lines and bait is only during daylight hours, 1.2 hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, Big Lake time. The only baits that are legal for use are herring, hooligan, whitefish, or pike parts. Single hooks may be used, with a hook gap of ¾ or larger, “Swede hooks” and double bait holding hooks. Any species other than pike must be released immediately. It is illegal to release a live pike back into Big Lake.

ISSUE: Increasing number of invasive species, pike in Big Lake. Lack of methods and means to affectively deal with the problem.

Big Lake is part of Fish Creek. This is a very valuable sockeye fishery in the Valley. In 2009, over 80,000 sockeye passed through the weir, and 10,000 fish were caught in a dipnet fishery at the mouth. It also gets a strong coho return, and supports a strong sport fishery through the ice and in the summer months for rainbow trout, Dolly Varden/char, and burbot. The department has been resistant to the idea of using 5 lines and bait because of the potential impact on burbot in the lake. I believe the risk presented by pike to the sport and commercial fisheries on salmon entering the system far outweighs the risk to the burbot population of Big Lake. Tight regulation of pike fishing can greatly reduce risk to other species of fish. By limiting fishing to daylight hours, the chance of catching burbot goes down dramatically. With the single hook only restriction, it will be much easier to release a burbot unharmed. I believe every pike caught increases the outlook for burbot; any risk from incidental angler catch of burbot is far outweighed by the good of reducing pike numbers. Limiting baits to baitfish and pike parts only greatly reduces the chance of catching rainbow trout, Dolly Varden or juvenile salmon on pike sets. Logic demands that it be illegal to release an invasive species back into the waterway from which it came.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Pike will continue to increase in numbers, and the sockeye and coho returns to this system will end up like chinook and coho in Alexander Lake.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality no, quantity, yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers, sport, commercial and personal use who depend on the salmon and resident species of Big Lake, Fish Creek and their drainages, and the ecosystem which needs returning salmon to remain healthy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Pike, and those who wish to preserve them unmolested in Valley waters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do nothing – rejected. A do nothing approach does nothing but let the resource decline and endangers its future existence. It is not in keeping with a sustained yield approach to fisheries management.

Study the lake more, while doing nothing for the problem – also rejected. Studies are important, but must not replace or supplant action. It is already very well documented that pike eat other fish, and once eaten those other fish cannot reproduce. We have a very real and growing threat to the sockeye runs in Fish Creek, as well as the trout, char and burbot sport fisheries in Big Lake, and must take action now. Doing nothing is not in keeping with the Sustainable Salmon Management Plan nor the Magnuson Stevenson Act.

Request funding to enable Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) personnel or volunteers to net pike in the pike spawning areas in springtime. This is part of the solution which I hope the board and ADF&G, along with our legislative bodies, will agree upon to actively combat this and other pike populations. It is not a regulation that can be changed, though, so rejected due to improper venue.

PROPOSED BY: Susitna Valley Advisory Committee (SC-10F-110)

PROPOSAL 287 - 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. Allow 5 lines to fish for northern pike in Nancy Lake as follows:

Allow 5 lines for pike in Nancy Lake. Lines must be closely attended. Fishing with five lines and bait is allowed only during daylight hours, ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, Anchorage time. The only baits that are legal for use are herring, hooligan, whitefish, or pike parts. Single hooks may be used, with a hook gap of 3/4” or larger, “Swede hooks”, and double bait holding hooks. Any species other than pike must be released immediately. It is illegal to release a live pike back into Nancy Lake.

ISSUE: Growing population of invasive pike in Nancy Lake which threatens the native stocks of rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, and burbot, as well as the sockeye salmon which come up Nancy Lake Creek from the Little Susitna River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Population of pike will continue to rise while all other species decline and possibly disappear.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers, sport, commercial and personal use who depend on the salmon and resident species of Nancy Lake and her drainages, and the ecosystem which needs returning salmon to remain healthy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who dislike healthy ecosystems which include salmon as their core element.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do nothing – rejected. A do nothing approach does nothing but let the resource decline and endangers its future existence. It is not in keeping with a sustained yield approach to fisheries management.

Study the lake more, while doing nothing for the problem – also rejected. Studies are important, but must not replace or supplant action. The effects of introduced pike to native species is already very well documented. We have a very real and growing threat to the sockeye runs in Nancy Lake, as well as the trout, char and burbot populations and sport fisheries, and must take action now. Doing nothing is not in keeping with the Sustainable Salmon Management Plan nor the Magnuson Stevenson Act.

Request funding to enable Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) personnel or volunteers to net pike in the pike spawning areas in springtime. This is part of the solution which I hope the board and ADF&G, along with our legislative bodies, will agree upon to actively combat this and other pike populations. Since, it is not a regulation that can be changed; it was rejected due to improper venue.

PROPOSED BY: Susitna Valley Advisory Committee (SC-10F-111)

PROPOSAL 288 - 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 Knick Arm drainages Area. Liberalize methods and means for pike fishing in Big Lake and Nancy Lake as follows.

(g) In Sucker, Flathorn, Whiskey, Hewitt, Donkey, Three Mile, Trail, Neil, Kroto, Trapper, Figure Eight, No Name (cabin), Lower Vern, Upper Vern, **Big Lake, Nancy Lake,** and Lockwood Lake, and Nancy Lake Recreation Area lakes, [EXCLUDING NANCY LAKE], five lines may be used to fish through the ice for northern pike only if

- (1) Repealed 3/21/99;
 - (2) the fishing gear is closely attended by the angler as specified in 5 AAC 75.033(5) ; and
 - (3) all other species of fish caught are released immediately.
 - (4) **Fishing with five lines and bait in Big Lake and Nancy Lake is only allowed only during daylight hours, ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, Anchorage time. The only baits that are legal for use are herring, hooligan, whitefish, or pike parts. Single hooks may be used, with a hook gap of ¾” or larger, “Swede hooks,” and double bait holding hooks. Any species other than pike must be released immediately. It is illegal to release a live pike back into Big Lake or Nancy Lake.**
- (h) In the lakes specified in (g) of this section, bait may be used for fishing for northern pike if gear described in (g)(1) - (3) of this section is used.

ISSUE: Nancy Lake feeds into the Little Susitna River. This is one of the most productive king salmon and coho fisheries in the valley. It gets a strong sockeye run, most of which spawns in Nancy Lake.

Big Lake is part of Fish Creek. This is a very valuable sockeye fishery in the valley. In 2009 over 80,000 sockeye passed through the weir, and 10,000 fish were caught in a dipnet fishery at the mouth. It also gets a strong coho return, and supports a strong sport fishery through the ice and in the summer months for rainbow trout, Dolly Varden/char, and burbot.

The risk presented by pike to the sport and commercial fisheries on salmon entering the systems far outweighs risk to the burbot populations. By limiting fishing to daylight hours, the chance of catching burbot goes down dramatically. With the single hook only restriction, it will be much easier to release a burbot unharmed. I believe every pike caught increases the outlook for burbot; any risk from incidental angler catch of burbot is far outweighed by the good of reducing pike numbers. Limiting baits to baitfish and pike parts only greatly reduces the chance of catching rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, or juvenile salmon on pike sets. Logic suggests that since it is illegal to introduce a non native species into a waterway, that it also be illegal to release an invasive species back into a waterway once it has been caught.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Increasing pike populations may cause declines in other native fish populations as seen in other area drainages.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that value native game fish species over invasive pike.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No One

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No bait after March 1, when burbot begin to spawn. Rejected because this is also the time when pike become most active, and the longer daylight hours make it easier to target pike.

Allow use of treble hooks, size 1 or larger. Trebles are probably the most effective hook for pike, but if another species is caught, more injury usually occurs from a treble than a single.

Do nothing. Reject; A do nothing approach does nothing but let the resource decline and endangers its future existence. It is not in keeping with a sustained yield approach to fisheries management.

Study the lake more, while doing nothing for the problem. Also rejected; studies are important, but must not replace or supplant action. We have a very real and growing threat to the sockeye runs in Fish Creek, as well as the trout, char and burbot sport fisheries in Big Lake, and must take action now. Doing nothing is not in keeping with the SSMP nor the Magnuson Stevenson Act.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee (SC-10F-098)

PROPOSAL 289 - 5 AAC 62.122 (13) and (15). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Liberalize methods and means of harvesting northern pike in Threemile/Tukhalla and Chiutbuna lakes as follows:

A solution to this invasive species, northern pike, goes way beyond what an individual citizen is capable of recommending. This problem needs to be elevated to the experts, biologists and other personnel with the expertise. It is recommended that the board consider assigning this problem to those that have the expertise to address a solution.

In the interim, some stopgap items that should be considered to reduce some of the predation:

1. Increase the number of fishing lines that can be used in summer when sport fishing for northern pike to more than just a single line and more in line with 5 line regulation when fishing through the ice.
2. Allow flowing 5 jugs (milk, juice, etc containers) with a line and weight when fishing for northern pike.
3. Allow nets to be used for northern pike.
4. etc

ISSUE: The precedence of trout and salmon in Threemile/Tukhalla and Chuitbuna lakes have either been eliminated or drastically reduced by the invasive species northern pike.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trout and salmon in these lakes and rivers will totally disappear due to the northern pike. If this invasive species is not controlled, the northern pike will also migrate to the other lakes, rivers, Cook Inlet and eventually desecrate all fishing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The natural fish population of trout and salmon should be restored. If action is not taken, the impact will continue to affect all levels from sport, personal use, and commercial fishing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that would like to see the trout and salmon return. Personal use and commercial fishermen in the Beluga area. Sport fishermen coming to the Beluga area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo was rejected. Only changes to the sport fishing rules will have an impact but, will not solve the problem. Action by the highest levels will be needed to solve the problem. If no action is taken, all fishing in the Cook Inlet areas will be further reduced.

PROPOSED BY: Duane T. Gluth (SC-10F-007)

PROPOSAL 290 - 5 AAC 56.xxx. New section; 5 AAC 57.xxx. New section; 5 AAC 59.xxx. New section; 5 AAC 60.xxx. New section; 5 AAC 61.xxx. New section; and 5 AAC 62.xxx. New section. Allow for two fishing rods per single person craft on all still waters as follows:

A single person fishing from a craft is allowed to fish with two rods.

ISSUE: Allow two fishing poles per single person craft on all still waters. In open waters, an individual fishing alone can use two poles/rods at one time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fish and Game license revenue will not increase. Fishing tackle sales will not increase giving the individual a better chance to catch a fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, more people will enjoy the still waters of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fish and Game license sales will likely increase, sporting goods stores, more tackle sales, Park Division will sell more day passes. Takes pressure off the river resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We need trophy lakes with restriction barbless, one or no fish take.

PROPOSED BY: Bob Andres (HQ-10F-078)

PROPOSAL 291 - 5 AAC 56.xxx. New section; 5 AAC 57.xxx. New section; 5 AAC 59.xxx. New section; 5 AAC 60.xxx. New section; 5 AAC 61.xxx. New section; and 5 AAC 62.xxx. New section. Stock more rainbows than silvers in lakes as follows:

Quit wasting production space for fish that do not or are not pursued with economic vigor.

ISSUE: Increase production of rainbow trout for lakes by decreasing production to silvers for lakes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Money is wasted-fishermen pursue rainbows with economic vigor; fishermen do not pursue silvers in the lakes.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Increase the number of rainbows in the lakes. Some lakes have not been stocked and need rainbows.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen, tackle stores, kids, better chance to catch a bigger fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None that I am aware of.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? More 'no bait used', 'trophy lake'.

PROPOSED BY: Bob Andres (HQ-10F-079)

PROPOSAL 292 - 5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area; and 5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area. Remove Symphony Lake from list of stocked lakes and reduce bag limit for Arctic grayling as follows:

5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area.

(3) rainbow/steelhead trout may be taken from January 1 - December 31 in

(A) stocked lakes and ponds; bag and possession limit of five fish, of which only one may be 20 inches or greater in length; for the purpose of this subparagraph, "stocked lakes and ponds" include Alder Pond, Airstrip/Willow Pond, Beach Lake, Campbell Point Lake, Cheney Lake, University Lake (Behn or APU Lake), Clunie Lake, Delong Lake, Dishno Lake, Edmunds Lake, Fish Lake, Green Lake, Gwen Lake, Hillberg Lake, Jewell Lake, Lake Otis, Lower Fire Lake, Mirror Lake, Otter Lake, Rabbit Lake, Sand Lake, Spring Lake, [SYMPHONY LAKE,] Taku Campbell Lake, Triangle Lake, Upper Sixmile Lake, Waldon Lake;

5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area.

(17) in Symphony Lake

(A) open to sport fishing from 1 July through 1 May;

(B) the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is 2 fish, of which only one may be greater than 12 inches in length;

ISSUE: Symphony Lake is a 35.6 acre high alpine lake that was devoid of fish until it was stocked in 2001 with approximately 2,900 catchable (7 in) diploid grayling and stocked once more in 2003 with 4,200 fingerling diploid grayling. It has not been stocked since. Sampling in 2005 found a collection of age classes that ranged from 1-4 years old, indicating that the grayling were naturally reproducing. The present bag and possession limit for grayling is under the stocked lakes category of five fish even though this lake is no longer stocked. Annual angler effort and catch rates are increasing at this alpine lake and the most current catch in 2008 was more than 3,000 grayling.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers will continue to be able to harvest the stocked lakes limit of five grayling even though Symphony Lake is no longer stocked. The integrity of the age structure of the fishery will be compromised, increasing the potential for a stunted fish stock.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, there will be fish of all sizes and age classes available to catch and reproduce.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, fishery managers, and enforcers of fish and game regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who wish to catch and harvest more grayling.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-181)

PROPOSAL 293 - 5 AAC 59.122(15). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area. Prohibit retention of rainbow trout and require only one un-baited, single hook lure year round on Upper and Lower Six Mile lakes as follows:

Upper and Lower Six Mile lakes on Elmendorf AFB: Only one un-baited, single hook lure year-round may be used. No retention of rainbow trout year-round. This is the current rule, but it is an emergency order.

ISSUE: The possibility of ruining an excellent fishery on the Upper and Lower Six Mile lakes on Elmendorf AFB due to decreased number of rainbow trout.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the lakes are maintained at the current bag and possession limits I'm concerned the lakes population of trophy rainbow trout will be decimated. The lakes were last stocked in June 2006 with 480 trout.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I've fished these lakes for the past 15 years and have caught hundreds of rainbows from 18 – 28 inches and in the past few years I've noticed a significant reduction in the number and size of fish in the lakes. I'm worried the lack of stocking, and low numbers of fish stocked, in conjunction with fishing pressure, will ruin an outstanding fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who have access and fish these lakes including active duty and retired military.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I don't feel anyone will suffer. Those anglers who prefer to harvest fish to take home have an abundance of opportunities at the other stocked lakes on the base.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kenton Nichols (SC-10F-025)

PROPOSAL 294 - 5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area. Establish a seasonal spawning closure for rainbow trout in Campbell and Chester creeks as follows:

- (2) in the Campbell Creek drainage
 - (A) sport fishing is closed from
 - (i) its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located under the Dimond Boulevard Bridge; and
 - (ii) an ADF&G regulatory marker located near Shelikof Street upstream to an ADF&G marker regulatory marker located on the upstream side of Lake Otis Parkway Bridge;
 - (iii) April 15 to June 14 the Campbell Creek drainage is closed to all sport fishing;**

- (3) in the Chester Creek drainage

(B) from April 15 to June 14 is closed to all sport fishing;

ISSUE: Anglers are targeting wild rainbow trout stocks. Only triploid rainbow trout, which do not spawn, have been stocked since 1999. Therefore, all spawning rainbow trout in the Campbell and Chester Creek drainages are wild fish. Campbell and Chester creeks have not been stocked since 2007 and have been closed to harvest of rainbow trout by emergency order. Both creeks have bike trail access along long portions of their urban reaches making them popular summer fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Rainbow trout will continue to experience unnecessary stress due to angler pressure and handling during the spawning period.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wild rainbow trout in the drainage will benefit by reduced stress and mortality during the spawning season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who like to fish for rainbow trout prior to June 15.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-178)

PROPOSAL 295 - 5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area. Establish a seasonal spawning closure for rainbow trout in Ship Creek as follows:

(14) in the Ship Creek drainage

(G) from ADF&G regulatory markers located 100 feet upstream of the Chugach Power Plant Dam to the upstream side of the Reeve Boulevard Bridge,

(i) only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure may be used;

(ii) rainbow/steelhead trout may not be retained; rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(iii) closed to sport fishing from April 15 to June 14;

ISSUE: Anglers target spawning rainbow trout and salmon and illegally harvest them. The Department of Fish and Game has never stocked rainbow trout into Ship Creek so all spawning fish are wild fish. Ship Creek is an urban stream with a paved bike trail along the entire length of this lower reach providing excellent access.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Rainbow trout will continue to experience unnecessary stress and mortality due to angler pressure and handling during the spawning period.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wild rainbow trout in the drainage will benefit by reduced stress and mortality during the spawning season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who like to fish for rainbow trout prior to June 15.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10F-179)

PROPOSAL 296 - 5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area. Standardize opening date for coho salmon fishing in Campbell Creek as follows:

(2) in the Campbell Creek drainage,

(E) from **July 14 – September 30** [JULY 25 - OCTOBER 1, THE WATERS BETWEEN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED UNDER THE DIMOND BOULEVARD BRIDGE UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT THE DOWNSTREAM SIDE OF THE C STREET BRIDGE] in **the waters between ADF&G regulatory markers located under the Dimond Boulevard Bridge upstream to the ADF&G regulatory markers located near Piper Street, except the section between Shelikof Street and the Lake Otis Parkway Bridge which is closed to all sport fishing,** are open to sport fishing for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of three fish;

(F) **repealed** [FROM AUGUST 5 - OCTOBER 1, THE WATERS BETWEEN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT THE DOWNSTREAM SIDE OF THE C STREET BRIDGE UPSTREAM TO ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED NEAR SHELIKOF STREET AND BETWEEN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED ON THE UPSTREAM SIDE OF THE LAKE OTIS PARKWAY BRIDGE UPSTREAM TO ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED NEAR PIPER STREET ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR COHO SALMON 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF THREE FISH];

ISSUE: There are two opening dates for coho salmon on Campbell Creek, causing unnecessary regulatory confusion for anglers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be two different opening dates for coho salmon in Campbell Creek.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the earlier opening date will allow the harvest of fresher and brighter coho salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, fishery managers, and enforcers of fish and game regulations will benefit from having the same regulatory opening fishing dates.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-10F-180)

PROPOSAL 297 - 5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl drainages Area. Close Bird Creek to all sport fishing between January 1 and July 14 as follows:

(1) in the Bird Creek drainage

(A) from its mouth upstream 500 yards to an ADF&G regulatory marker is open **from July 14 – December 31** [FROM JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31] to sport fishing for salmon, other than king salmon, with a bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length of three fish;

(B) is closed upstream of the ADF&G regulatory marker located 500 yards upstream of the mouth to sport fishing for all salmon;

(C) is closed to sport fishing from January 1-July 13;

ISSUE: Anglers are catching and harvesting chinook salmon. Bird Creek has a small run of wild king salmon and is closed to fishing because it cannot sustain a fishery. The escapement since 2000 is an average of 128 fish. These chinook salmon are very vulnerable to anglers as they congregate in schools in the estuary prior to moving to the spawning grounds upstream.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bird Creek chinook salmon will continue to be caught, with the potential for illegal harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? It will be easier for Alaska Wildlife Troopers to enforce the chinook salmon closure. The small return of wild king salmon will benefit from the additional protection against illegal harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who may want to target the few Dolly Varden in Bird Creek during the closed season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-10F-182)

PROPOSAL 298 - 5 AAC 59.122(14). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area. Prohibit walking up and down the middle of Ship Creek prior to high and low tides as follows:

1.5 hours before high and low tides, no walking up and down the middle of the creek. Crossing the creek is allowed, or standing on the side to fish.

ISSUE: Walking up and down at high and low tide impedes bank fishers from fishing. Enforcement is needed on site, more often than during the derby.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High tide – you’re fishing off the bottom of the creek and along comes someone in the middle of the water, chest high walking in front of you and spooking the fish downstream, or you’re floating a bobber and someone starts slapping the water in front of you, after 8 to 10 slaps, they move down and start the same thing in front of someone else. Low tide – As the tide comes in, they walk up the middle of the creek, so you can’t drift a fly because they’re spooking the fish and snagging (which is already illegal, but generally unenforced). It appears they are pushing the fish down to their fishing hole, then start snagging them. Someone is going to get upset and words lead to a fight and more.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, more fish can be caught that are not ripped apart. Mechanical injuries make fish more susceptible to the invasion of bacteria or fungus, such as saprolegnia, and mortality loss increases with excessive snagging. Those fishing can bring their children without fear of them getting hurt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Young and old people, everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, because everyone can still get fish from the sides.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1. No one allowed in the water at all – you have to get in the water to retrieve fish. 2. Only allow fishermen to stand in the water up to about the thighs or waist – that would allow some opportunity, but they would still be impeding bank fishers ability to fish.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne “Penguin” Smartwood (SC-10F-029)

PROPOSAL 321 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons. Extend the season in the Kenai, Kasilof and East Forelands sections as follows:

1) Amend 5 AAC 21.310 by deleting
(2) (C) (i), (ii), (iii) [FROM AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 15, THE FISHERY IS OPEN FOR REGULAR PERIODS ONLY;]

2) Amend Kenai, Kasilof, and East-Forelands Sections: [delete language] : [UNLESS CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER AFTER JULY 31 IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE SEASON’S TOTAL SOCKEYE HARVEST HAS BEEN TAKEN PER FISHING PERIOD FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS;]

3) Amend the season closing as: through August 15, **or until closed by emergency order under even years.**

ISSUE: Pink salmon stocks are severely under-utilized; on even calendar years millions of pink salmon return to the Kenai River and only a small percentage is harvested. Lost benefit occurs on an abundant salmon resource available during the fishing season – causing millions of pinks to rot in the lower and middle reaches of the Kenai River.

Kenai River pink salmon run timing is between August 7th and August 30th. The sub-provision inserted in fishing seasons impedes pink salmon harvest through August 15, even when the Kenai sockeye goal is met or exceeded and can result in a minimum of 500,000 pink salmon to go unharvested. Less than 2 percent harvest exploitation rates occurs on the total Kenai coho return by the Eastside. Instead of managing the pink salmon resource - this sub-provision allows an abundant resource to go unharvested.

The Pink Salmon Management Plan and the Kenai Coho Conservation Plan were repealed; this provision should likewise be repealed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 95% of Kenai River pink salmon stocks will continue to be wasted (ADF&G estimates 5 - 8 million pinks).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? 1) The improvement would be harvest as food to American consumers, instead of being wasted. 2) Quality pinks are in high demand and the ex-vessel price has increased throughout the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishing families and fishing communities, the state's economy, and U.S. consumers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Write a Pink Salmon Management Plan. The board repealed the Pink Plan in 2008. The department should have the ability to open and close fisheries based on in-season assessments of salmon stocks as practiced around the rest of the State.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (HQ-10F-241)

PROPOSAL 322 - 5 AAC 21.310(C)(ii). Fishing seasons. Reinstate the July 1 season opening in the Kenai and East Forelands sections as follows:

(C) (ii): Kenai and East-Forelands sections; from July 1 [8] through August 15. [UNLESS CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER EARLIER UNDER (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; FROM AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 15, THE FISHERY IS OPEN FOR REGULAR PERIODS ONLY.]

ISSUE: The July 1 historical fishing season opening in the Kenai and East-Forelands Sections needs to be reinstated.

In addition, an inequity in available fishing time and harvest opportunity exists - in the Kenai and East-Forelands sections; the Central District drift gillnet opens June 19 (an earlier season opening date was provided in 2005 from July 1).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sockeye harvests that were formerly available during the regular weekly fishing periods (two 12 hour openings) will continue to be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Kasilof sockeye salmon are the predominate stock harvested at this time-frame; the ex-vessel value during the earlier openings are significantly higher.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishing families in the Kenai and East-Forelands sections. In addition, the July 1 opening provided valuable safety training hours within the one or two regular 12-hour fishing periods.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (HQ-10F-242)

PROPOSAL 323 - 5 AAC 21.310(C)(iii). Fishing seasons. Revise closing date in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections as follows:

Re-describe subparagraph (iii) as follows:

Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections: the season will close August 15.

Delete: [UNLESS CLOSED EARLIER BY EMERGENCY ORDER AFTER JULY 31, IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE FISHING SEASON'S TOTAL SOCKEYE HAS BEEN TAKEN PER FISHING PERIOD FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS; FROM AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 15, THE FISHERY IS OPEN FOR REGULAR PERIODS ONLY; FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH, "FISHING PERIOD" MEANS A TIME PERIOD OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING WITHOUT CLOSURE.]

ISSUE: Subparagraph (iii) impedes sockeye salmon escapement goal management for both the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers. This provision negates that a significant percentage of the total UCI run can return in August.

This provision dismisses in-season sockeye run timing and other variables that affect harvest levels. If a lull in sockeye harvest occurs in the first week of August – it cannot factor that large sockeye salmon escapement events won't occur later as it occurred in the past in August and resulted in significant over escapement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Fisheries directive to the department and commissioner to achieve established escapement goals in management plans as the primary objective can be significantly undermined.

Diminished yields result when spawning escapement goals are exceeded.

This provision will needlessly impinge on escapement goal management; prohibit available surplus salmon stocks from being harvested and result in significant economic lost opportunity.

This provision can completely undermine the utilization of pink salmon stocks available for harvest during even years in August - even when sockeye salmon goals have been met and/or above the goals.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal addresses sockeye run timing and escapement goal management. In addition, several million pounds of pink salmon can be better utilized as a harvested product under the fishing season closing date of August 15.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Management. Fishing family operations in the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof, Kenai, and East Forelands who depend on the resource and for the department to manage fisheries appropriately in-season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. This proposal essentially cleans up regulatory conflict and inconsistency. The Kenai Coho Conservation Plan was repealed in 2005 and in 2008 the board reinstated the fishing season closing date of August 15.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Change the Upper Subdistrict fishing season closing date as “until closed by emergency order” – consistent with other Central District Subdistricts and the Central District drift gillnet fishery. Instead, this proposal is specific to existing regulatory inconsistency affecting management of sockeye and pink salmon stocks in August.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (HQ-10F-240)

PROPOSAL 324 - 5 AAC 21.331(a). Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow for use of dual permits in Cook Inlet set gillnet fishery as follows:

5 AAC 21.331.(a) **Except as provided in (d) of this section**, no person...

(d)(2)XX A CFEC permit holder who holds two Cook Inlet set gillnet permits may not operate more than two legal compliments of gear and the aggregate length of set gillnets

operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 210 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 35 fathoms in length. The red keg or buoy at the seaward end must display the CFEC permit number followed by the letter “D” to identify a dual permit holder. Buoy stickers are required for both permits.

ISSUE: This proposal asks the board to exercise its authority under HB251, to allow one person to own and operate two Cook Inlet CFEC set gillnet permits in accordance with existing regulations, as the board has provided similar relief for the Kodiak and Bristol Bay Area set gillnet fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing families who have purchased additional permits over time in their fishing operation must continue to rely on a family member’s time made available for fishing during the summer months, as the second or third generation are going to or traveling from college, trades, and other educational programs, etc. There are financial considerations that can result, as well.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen who own dual permits. Fishing families who choose to stabilize their operational planning. Fishermen who are more inclined to rely on themselves rather than others. Fishermen who want to reduce the risks that are associated with permit transfers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Permits are owned, and available to any U.S. citizen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association (HQ-10F-249)

PROPOSAL 325 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Revise management plan as follows:

Revise the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan and other management plans affected, by re-establishment of a single spawning escapement goal range and single OEG range, as measured at river-mile 19 (sonar station).

ISSUE: Management of the commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries based on tiers on Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon.

Since 1999, 10 of the 11 years the abundance based goals and tiers operated under forecasted returns found to be incorrect; in-season management before July 20 and after July 20 differs, shifts to different tiers and different management provisions impacts: the final spawning escapement goal, yields, resource use, and resource users in-season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regardless of annual run strength, the level of escapement is to be maintained in order to achieve the spawning goal objective. Maximum benefit of fishery resources will not be maintained or utilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Kenai River sockeye salmon resources; to maintain maximum benefit and use of the resource in-season and for the future. Quantifies “improving the quality of the resource harvested.”

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Clearly defined escapement goals benefit: regulators, fishery managers, stakeholders, and public. Maintaining fishery resources for maximum benefit - benefits the State, the resource, and resource users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association (HQ-10F-248)

PROPOSAL 326 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.
Revise escapement goal for the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Revise the escapement goal to reinstate (400,000 – 700,000 spawners) under one OEG range. Amend (b) (2) as: achieve the inriver goal as established by the board and measured at the Kenai River sonar located at river mile 19, and

Delete (c) and re-write one inriver goal range as measured at the Kenai River sonar located at river mile 19, accordingly.

ISSUE: The poor returns on Kenai River sockeye salmon. Significant yield loss has occurred on Kenai River sockeye salmon stocks. In addition, management of the commercial and recreational fisheries is based on tiers that haven’t worked in achieving the spawning escapement goal, nor in distributing the escapement of sockeye evenly within the spawning escapement goal range.

Maximum benefits of a salmon fishery resource are not being maintained for optimum sustained yields (msy).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Poor Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon returns will continue. Maximum benefit has been reduced; adult recruitment is at all-time lows. Maximum benefit (yield) of a salmon fishery resource will not be realized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Protecting, maintaining, and managing for higher yields - improves the quality of the resource and harvest available.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups when clearly defined management objectives are managed for, implemented, realized, and understood.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (HQ-10F-238)

PROPOSAL 327 - 5 AAC 21.360(c). Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Remove windows from the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan as follows:

- 1) Delete hours per week in 5 AAC 21.360 (c).
- 2) Delete window per week management in 5 AAC 21.360.(c).

ISSUE: Windows fail fisheries management. Windows fail to provide predictable fishing in-river by trying to utilize a fishery resource (salmon) that is neither predictable nor stable (returns).

Hours per week on fishing periods impedes the departments ability to manage salmon fisheries, to achieve spawning escapement goal objectives, and to open and close fisheries in a timely manner based on in season stock assessments.

Windows and hourly provisions in regulation conflict with the board's primary management directive to the department to achieve the in-river spawning escapement goals and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the goal range.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problem has happened. Kenai River sockeye salmon stocks are undergoing very poor returns from consecutive years of significant over escapements - directly attributed to the prescribed hours per week and windows. Over escapement events will continue to exceed the Kasilof River sockeye salmon BEG.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Adaptive fisheries management is practiced elsewhere throughout this State in order to protect, ensure, maintain, and develop the state's salmon resources into the future – by achieving the spawning escapement goals objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups benefit from achieving spawning escapement goals. Higher sustained yields provide benefit to the nation, state, fishing communities, sport, and recreational fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association (HQ-10F-243)

PROPOSAL 328 - 5 AAC 21.360(g). Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan. Revise closure time for the Kenai River personal use fishery as follows:

Add (g) (1) Upon announcement that the lower end of the optimal escapement goal will not be met, the personal use fishery will close 24 hours later, and reopen when the department projects the lower end of the OEG will be achieved.

ISSUE: Inconsistent application of the current regulatory directive that commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries will be closed if the department projects the lower end of the optimal escapement goal will not be achieved.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The lower end of the optimal escapement goal may not be achieved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Regulatory clarity in order to achieve the minimum OEG. Ensuring production provides future harvests and benefits everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Every fishing sector is closed (suffer).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association (HQ-10F-239)

PROPOSAL 329 - 5 AAC 21.365(b). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Provide clarification of the BEG in the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan as follows:

(b) The Kasilof River sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) range is 150,000 – 250,000. Achieving the...

ISSUE: The Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement goal has a biological escapement goal (BEG) range of 150,000 – 250,000. The 150,000 – 300,000 optimal escapement goal (OEG) encompasses the BEG. The OEG range was put in to achieve the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye escapement goal, if necessary. For clarification, the BEG should be described in the management plan.

Provisions should be clearly defined.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The biological escapement goal (BEG) will not be described in a management plan.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (HQ-10F-244)

PROPOSAL 330 - 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Open the Kasilof Section within one-half mile when the KRSHA is opened by EO as follows:

(f) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) to the taking of salmon by gillnets when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the commissioner opens the KRSHA, it is the board's intent that additional fishing time be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first, and secondly that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, if necessary, to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans. **If the commissioner opens the KRSHA, the Kasilof Section within one-half mile will also be opened.** The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is defined...

ISSUE: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA). The KRSHA is not an orderly fishery when used exclusively.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A disorderly fishery operates. Including, intense user conflict among gear groups and different user groups.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, poor quality sockeye salmon will be significantly reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Traditional fishing family operations that rely on Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks. The personal use fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, as the department utilized concurrent half-mile Kasilof Section openings in the past and fishery conflicts were significantly reduced.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association (HQ-10F-247)

PROPOSAL 331 - 5 AAC 21.365(f)(1) and (3). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.
Expand the set gillnet area in the terminal harvest area of the Kasilof Special Harvest Area as follows:

- f (1) a set gillnet may be operated only within 1200 feet of the mean high tide mark;
- f (3) drift gillnets may not be operated in waters within 1200 feet of the mean high tide mark;

ISSUE: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association opposes the use of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. In a rare event situation: an inequity of area exists in the Terminal Harvest Area.

Instead of within the 600 feet of the mean high tide we propose that it should be 1200 feet of the mean high tide mark.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Set gillnet area is 6.6% of the terminal harvest area compared to drift gillnet area 93.4%. On low tides set gillnets can and do go dry in tidal mud – work in knee-deep mud to turn, pick, set, or retrieve a net.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No. Fish harvested in the terminal area have a reputation for poor quality. Harvest quality will improve for Setnet fishermen because they will have more water to work with and more time to remove the fish before the nets and vessel go dry.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetters who choose to fish in the Kasilof terminal area (closed waters).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drifters who operate smaller open skiffs nearest shore.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allocation of surplus harvest away from the traditional fisheries is a serious concern. We oppose any measure to undermine traditional fisheries in the Kasilof Section.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association (HQ-10F-246)
