

2010

Kenai River Dipnet Fishery



July 10 - 31

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"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / FAX: 907-283-3014



MEMO:

TO: City Council

FROM: Rick Koch

DATE: November 19, 2010

SUBJECT: 2010 Kenai River Dipnet (Personal Use) Fishery Report

The purpose of this correspondence is to transmit for your review and discussion the above referenced report.

As detailed in the following memorandum from Chief Sandahl to the City Manager, the City generated revenues of \$287,035 against expenditures of \$183,891.42.

The adopted 2010 City Budget anticipated dipnet revenues of \$217,000, or \$70,035 less than actual revenues.

The demands on City services continue to increase each year as the Kenai River Personal Use Fishery becomes more popular due to the restriction/elimination of access to the Copper River Fishery and the increased participation of Alaskans not living on the Kenai Peninsula.

In order to respond to the increasing demand for City services, it is my intent to bring before Council a supplemental budget appropriation for the following capital improvements and equipment:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Polaris Ranger XP (or equal) for South Beach Operations | \$ 15,000 |
| 2. Polaris Ranger XP (or equal) for City Dock Operations | 15,000 |
| 3. Barricades | 2,500 |
| 4. North Beach Fire Pits | 3,500 |
| 5. Items for the Fire Dept. Rigid Inflatable Boat | 5,000 |
| 6. Jersey barriers for City Dock | 5,500 |



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 7. Delineators for City Dock | 1,500 |
| 8. City Dock Fee Shack Construction | 5,000 |
| 9. Traffic Cones for City Dock | <u>1,000</u> |

Total \$54,000

The City accomplished, or will accomplish a number of capital improvements which have/will result in the protection of the City's natural resources and an increased level of service to the citizens of Kenai and the participants in the dipnet fishery. These improvements are:

1. Two (2) new vaulted toilets located at the end of Kenai Avenue
2. Additional barrier fencing to protect environmentally sensitive areas on the North Beach
3. Barrier fencing to protect environmentally sensitive areas on the South Beach
4. Elevated Walkways on the North Beach to protect environmentally sensitive areas
5. Replacement of the pedestrian bridge at Meek's Crossing
6. Improved pedestrian walkway at Meek's Crossing
7. Improved signage at both North and South Beach
8. New traffic barricades on trails leading to the North Beach
9. New "no parking areas" established along roadways in residential neighborhoods in proximity to the North Beach

In addition to capital improvements, the City increased the presence of seasonal enforcement officers on the beaches before, during, and after the dipnet fishery.

Thank you in advance for your time in reviewing this report.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.





"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

Kenai Police Department
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MEMO:

TO: Rick Koch – City Manager
FROM: Gus Sandahl – Police Chief
DATE: 10/13/10
SUBJECT: Dipnet Report Summary

Enclosed is the City of Kenai's annual Dipnet Report for 2010, with reports from Police, Parks, Fire, Public Works, and Finance. For the 2010 dipnet fishery, the City had total revenues of **\$287,035** and total expenditures of **\$183,891.42**. Grant revenues of \$156,920 are not included in the total revenue and expenditure figures. The grant funding is dedicated to dipnet improvements, which are listed in the Parks section of the report.

The Police Department had a significant increase in calls for service that were specific to cash pick-ups from the pay shacks. The more frequent cash pick-ups helped ensure the safety of cash attendants. Other dipnet calls for service (not related to cash pick-ups) actually decreased from 2009 to 2010. Police dipnet operations were efficient and relatively trouble-free, largely due to the staffing of four full-time Seasonal Enforcement Officers, whose primary obligation was to dipnet operations.

The Fire Department had more significant involvement in this fishery than in past dipnet fisheries. As a result, the Fire Department contributed a section to the 2010 dipnet report, detailing the Fire Department resources that were utilized as a result of the fishery.

As with past years, the Parks Department was very busy during the dipnet fishery. The peak weekend placed a strain on Parks staffing, especially as the Little League parking lot was utilized for overflow parking. Many Parks employees who work all summer on City landscaping were re-directed to dipnet responsibilities from July 10 to July 31.

The Public Works Department provided significant "No Parking" signage improvements on S. Spruce St., in Redoubt Subdivision, and also in Old Town. The placement of these signs helped alleviate parking issues that had previously congested City streets.

Traffic control volunteers were utilized at the City Dock and on Kenai Ave., providing approximately 300 work hours. Their welcomed efforts saved the City approximately \$3,600 (300 hrs x \$12 an hour – based on seasonal Parks employee pay rates).



One mobile food vendor from Anchorage sporadically stationed his van in the reserved vendor parking area on the North Beach. He paid a one-time fee of \$630 (\$30 per day parking fee for the 21 days of the fishery). He also paid nominal vendor fees to the City Clerk. He was an amicable person, who had nothing negative to say about the City's facilitation of vendors.

The City Departments have identified the following equipment needs (totaling about \$151,000) that would improve the City's future dipnet operations:

1. Police
 - Half ton pickup for SEOs \$34,000
 - Polaris Ranger XP for the South Beach \$15,000
 - Barricades \$2,300

2. Parks
 - 30' x 40' Parks & Recreation Storage Facility \$60,000
 - Dock Security Camera System \$10,000
 - Beach Fire Pits (replaces existing concrete units) \$2,500

3. Fire
 - Miscellaneous items for Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) \$5,000
(see Fire Department report for specifics)

4. Public Works
 - Polaris Ranger for City Dock \$15,000
 - Jersey Barriers \$5,100
 - Delineators \$1,212.50
 - Cones - 28" \$750

In addition to storing Parks equipment, the 30' x 40' Parks storage facility could be used to store the Fire Department's rigid inflatable boat (RIB), as well as storing other dipnet-related equipment (i.e. iron ranger pay stations, pay shack totes, etc.). The majority of RIB deployments occur during the three weeks of the dipnet fishery.

Every summer the North Beach parking lot and the overflow parking lot reach full capacity on peak weekends. Fortunately, Little League didn't host any All-Star tournaments during the dipnet fishery; otherwise there would have been very limited parking for dipnet participants in that overflow lot. The City could consider acquiring additional land in the Spruce St. area that could be utilized for dipnet parking and camping.

Overall, the City departments very effectively managed the City's responsibilities to the dipnet fishery. The remainder of the report provides greater detail of the City's 2010 dipnet operations. We will meet and plan this winter/spring for improvements the City can make for 2011.



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

Kenai Police Department
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Kenai Police Department Dipnet Report 2010

Prepared by: Trent Semmens (SEO), Jordan Chilson (SEO), Dominick Eubank (SEO), Sgt. Kelly George, Lt. David Ross, and Chief Gus Sandahl

Introduction

This report summarizes the Kenai Police Department activity specific to the dipnet fishery. The fishery opened on Saturday, July 10th at 0600 and closed on Saturday, July 31 at midnight. On July 24th, the dipnet fishery was opened 24 hours for the remainder of the season.

The Kenai Police Department employed four seasonal enforcement officers again this summer. Two returned with prior experience, and two were new this year. The presence of four SEOs again contributed significantly to smooth operations. They were a constant presence to answer questions, give direction, monitor and enforce parking and traffic flow, and provide immediate assistance for various issues. The SEOs spent a total of 517.5 hours working during the dipnet fishery. Out of these, a total of 369.9 hours were specific to dipnet (time on the beaches, at Kenai City Dock, or performing other dipnet-related duties).

Similar to previous years, the 2010 dipnet season started slowly and increased in intensity until its peak, one week into the season. The North Beach parking lots were completely full by July 15th. The South Beach, near the mouth, was also highly saturated by this date. This weekend



has been shown to be the busiest weekend of dipnet for the past three years. After this weekend the amount of people began to decline, often leaving the North Beach parking lot around 50% full. By the end of the season the North Beach parking lot was nearly empty.

In the spring of 2010 the Kenai Police Department purchased a Polaris Ranger side-by-side for the primary use of the SEOs during the dipnet fishery. The Ranger was equipped with emergency police lights and marked as a police vehicle in order to help provide a visible law enforcement presence on the North Beach during the dipnet fishery. In addition to the KPD Polaris Ranger, Alaska Wildlife Troopers again lent KPD a Polaris Ranger 6-Wheeler, which was utilized on the South Beach. Having a Ranger on each beach proved to be a valuable resource to officers and SEOs. The 6-wheeler was parked on private property near the South Beach entrance. The KPD Ranger was parked at the Sewer Treatment Plant. These locations allowed for efficient access to the fishery.



North Beach

The North Beach required the majority of Officer and SEO working hours. The problems most commonly encountered were parking violations (i.e. failure to pay or display permit). SEOs efficiently dealt with violators by leaving warnings and checking back within a few hours to see that the situation was resolved. SEOs only issued 5 citations this dipnet season.

As with every year, SEOs and officers encountered heavy congestion on Kenai Ave. Officers and volunteers worked hard to keep traffic moving as efficiently as possible. After that peak week there were only a few instances when officers and SEOs had to respond to traffic jams on Kenai Ave.



The little league ball fields served as overflow parking for the 2010 dipnet season, and this parking lot was heavily utilized during the peak week. In order to ensure future compliance with paid parking in this area, additional signage and additional Parks Department manning will be needed.

During the 2009 dipnet fishery SEOs left 25 citations for vehicles illegally parked on South Spruce. This year they left no citations due to significant “No Parking” signage improvements along S. Spruce.



Fencing at the end of Kenai Ave. continued to be a problem this year. Although the city put up temporary fencing, it was quickly trampled by campers and careless dipnetters. Permanent fencing at the end of Kenai Ave. would best protect the dunes and spare the city the hassle of constantly repairing temporary fencing.

SEOs left many warnings on tents that didn't display permits. It was determined in many of these cases that tent campers had paid for camping but did not have a permit displayed. Overall, camping fee compliance was the best it has ever been.

The North Beach had one mobile food vendor, who sold miscellaneous food items during the dipnet season from a mobile van. City employees had regular communication with the man, who had nothing negative to say about the City's facilitation of vendors in the parking lot. The City reserved four large parking spaces for vendors, and the presence of this vendor did not present a significant burden to city personnel during the dipnet fishery. The vendor paid \$630 in parking fees for the dipnet season, in addition to nominal vendor fees paid to the City Clerk.

A veteran set net fisherman utilizes the North Beach access every year to travel to/from his set net site. He had nothing but positive feedback again this year with regards to the City's facilitation of efficient traffic flow of his vehicles. He further agreed that the annual gravel improvement extension onto the beach worked well this year. From a set net fisherman perspective he had no recommendations for improving City dipnet operations next year.

Kenai City Dock

Activity at the dock quickly increased during the first week. During the second weekend the parking lot and overflow parking area nearly reached the capacity limit. During this weekend boaters waiting to load/unload their boats were backed up all the way to Bridge Access Road on multiple occasions. This situation was compounded on the peak Saturday when a dock worker and volunteers ended their assigned work shifts at the same time while traffic was still congested. This placed a significant work load burden on police personnel (including an investigator) who then dedicated the next several hours to alleviating the traffic flow problems. Police personnel responded to 38 calls for service on this particular Saturday, and the ability of on-duty officers to adequately respond to those calls was impeded by the dock congestion. For next year, the Police Department is hopeful that dock personnel will have the discretion/authorization to work extended shifts, as needed, to help control heavy traffic flow.

During the busy week, officers and volunteers worked to remedy City dock congestion by allowing two lanes of traffic from the one-way entrance all the way to the boat launch; one lane dedicated to loading and one lane dedicated to unloading. This worked out well; however, it required officer presence to regulate it. Despite the congestion, the longest wait in line for boaters was one hour during this dipnet season.

South Beach

The South Beach required less attention from Officers and SEOs than the North Beach. The most frequent violations were the following: minors not wearing helmets on ATV's; trash being strewn about; overflowing trash canisters; and the lack of camping passes displayed on tents. ATV operation in the dunes was not a problem this year.

In future dipnet seasons, trash should be picked up twice a day during the peak of the season to prevent overflowing.



Miscellaneous

During the 2010 season there were two dipnet-related boating accidents. An overturn occurred in the mouth of the river and a minor collision occurred near the City Dock. Neither incident resulted in death or injury. On another occasion, SEOs transported EMTs to a hypothermic individual on the South Beach (utilizing a Polaris Ranger).

The dipnet season resulted in SEOs collecting lost/mislaid/abandoned property including, but not limited to, dipnets, tents, keys, wallets, purses and fishing licenses/permits. SEOs were successful at returning many of the items.

City personnel provided the Kenai Visitors Center with color dipnet brochures and maps. Visitors Center staff said all of the brochures and maps were given away, and recommended making them available again next year. They felt they were able to adequately provide people with dipnet information and they did not have any further recommendations for how the City could improve future dipnet operations.

The Kenai Police Department received few, if any, complaints about dipnet parking in Redoubt Subdivision, thanks to temporary "No Parking" signs placed on S. Forest Dr., Toyon Way, Stellar Dr., and Fathom Dr.



Dipnet Fishery Statistics

This year, the Kenai Police Department responded to 272 dipnet fishery related calls for service, with 244 of those handled by SEOs. There were fewer problems with parking permits this year, which resulted in fewer warnings and citations being issued. 210 of the calls for service were cash pick-ups, with 62 other calls for service. By comparison, the previous year (2009) had 77 “other” calls for service.

DIPNET ACTIVITY

| 2009 Dipnet Fishery | 2010 Dipnet Fishery |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 141 Calls for Service | 272 Calls for Service |
| 26 Citations | 6 Citations |
| 0 Impounds | 0 Impounds |
| 196 Police Officer Hours Dedicated to Dipnet | 177 Officer Hours Dedicated to Dipnet |
| 337 SEO Hours Dedicated to Dipnet | 369.9 SEO Hours Dedicated to Dipnet |

Dipnet Calls for Service - 2010

Below are some of the 62 “other” calls for service by category and number of incidents:

- 11 parking or traffic flow
- 5 vehicle lock-outs
- 5 found property
- 5 illegal fish dumping
- 3 motor vehicle crashes
- 3 illegal dipnetting
- 3 thefts
- 3 speeding and/or reckless drivers
- 3 look for floating dipnetter
- 3 fights/harassment/tempers
- 2 vehicles stuck
- 2 misdial 911
- 2 boating accidents

Other calls involved: intoxicated person, fireworks, dumpster fire, unattended child, etc.

2010 Dipnet Expenditures for the Kenai Police Department

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Police Officers' Pay w/ benefits (165.5 hrs + 11.5 dedicated OT hrs) | \$10,496.81 |
| SEO Pay w/ benefits (301.5 hrs + 68.1 OT hrs) | \$6,737.26 |
| Dispatcher Pay w/benefits (51.25 hrs) | \$2,000.00 |
| Vehicle (Full-size pickup / Expedition equivalent rental - July \$1590 X2) | \$3,180.00 |
| ATV (Ranger purchase - Purchase Price spread over 10 years)* | \$1,437.30 |
| Fuel (SEOs \$1230.80, Officers \$500) ** | \$1,730.80 |
| Total Kenai PD Expenditures for the 2010 Season | \$25,582.17 |

*Using one borrowed ATV from Alaska Wildlife Troopers saved the City approximately \$1,437.30.

** Fuel expenses represent 90% of fuel used by SEO's in July and approximately 20% of fuel used by Officers in July.

Equipment Needs

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Polaris Ranger XP for the South Beach | \$15,000.00 |
| 1/2 Ton Pickup w/police accessories (light bar, radio, etc.) | \$34,000.00 |
| Barricades | \$2,300.00 |
| Total Kenai PD Equipment Needs for the 2011 Season | \$51,300.00 |

If the City purchased a second Ranger XP, the Police/Fire units would have guaranteed response vehicles for the North and the South beaches during the dipnet fishery. There is no guarantee that the Alaska Wildlife Trooper 6-wheeler will be available for future seasons. Outside of the dipnet season, a second City-owned Ranger XP will become a primary off-road response vehicle for the Kenai Fire Department.

Two of the SEOs are able to drive the department's ¾ ton pickup. The other two SEOs drive a marked Police Expedition. Preferably, the Seasonal Officers (who aren't fully armed police officers) would all drive a more toned down police vehicle (such as a pickup) instead of a traditional police cruiser.

Conclusion

Overall, the 2010 dipnet fishery went smoothly and posed few significant problems from a law enforcement perspective. The presence of the four seasonal enforcement officers was critical to the department's ability to respond to calls and maintain a law enforcement presence in and



around the dipnet fishery. Officers and SEOs spent many hours educating the public and enforcing city ordinances (in addition to handling dipnet calls for service).

Adult volunteers again provided worthwhile traffic control assistance to officers on Kenai Ave. and at the City Dock during the middle weekends.

Collaboration between the various City departments (i.e. Police, Fire, Parks & Rec., Finance, & Public Works) continues to improve the City's ability to manage the challenges associated with the fishery.



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MEMO:

TO: Gus Sandahl, Chief of Police

FROM: Robert J. Frates, Parks & Recreation Director

DATE: September 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Personal Use Fishery - 2010

The following is a summary of the Parks & Recreation Department's contribution toward the 2010 Personal Use Fishery, including observations and a suggested list of expenditures for the 2011 fishery.

The 2010 fishery opened on the traditional start date of July 10th and concluded on July 31st at midnight. Due to Alaska Department Fish and Game's (ADF&G) projected escapement goals seemingly being met, ADF&G liberalized the fishery to 24-hours beginning July 24th. As a result of the increased hours, staffing at the shacks was adjusted slightly to provide some additional coverage for purposes of fee collection.

Issues encountered by the Parks & Recreation Department throughout this season's fishery are probably best described as typical and were not viewed as out of the ordinary. Good management practices, policy governing use of the beach, and strong coordination between all the affected departments and agencies led to a successful season. The Cooperative Agreement COOP-10-096 between ADF&G and the City of Kenai for North Shore Fishery Improvements will be a "springboard" for continued enhancements in 2011. The fishery continues, however, to exert an extensive strain on the department's staffing resources during this period.

One interesting observation is the fact that in today's weak economy, more residents throughout Alaska appear to be making this fishery a well orchestrated destination point for recreational pursuits, while at the same time, motivated by putting food on the table. More people appear to be planning their vacations around the fishery and it has truly become a family affair. This is evident by the large and sometimes elaborate tent structures being deployed by users, large families, and extended stays.

Litter and Fish Waste Control

Alaska Waste provided dumpster service on the north shore while Peninsula Pumping provided dumpster service on the south shore. Park staff supplemented trash and fish waste removal efforts on the north shore daily and the KCHS ski team assisted on Mondays and Fridays. Approximately 234 man hours were provided by ski team. Two additional dumpsters were added on July 17th to the south shore to meet

peak demand. The department received one call as a result of a dumpster on the north shore not being emptied promptly which was a result of a vehicle partly blocking access.

Sanitation Facilities

Peninsula Pumping provided the portable toilet service again this season. Services to these units were increased to twice daily from July 17 through the 26th in order to meet peak demand. The department received one complaint about the toilets becoming too full. Services overall appeared to be adequate. Gaining access on Kenai Avenue for purposes of servicing portables appeared to be less of an issue this season. The addition of a permanent restroom facility will assist greatly in the future in eliminating the need for frequent pumping.

Sand Dune Protection

Negative environmental impacts to the dunes and surrounding bird nesting areas were very minimal due to the post-and-chain fencing, enforcement, and compliance from fishery participants. Post-and-chain was added to the south shore as well as approximately 1,200 linear feet to the north shore extending north of the sewer treatment facility. The success of this program was evident while examining the health and condition of the dunes shortly after the fishery compared to prior years.

Pedestrian Walkway Improvements

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game contributed the necessary funds to upgrade Meeks Trail leading from Old Town Kenai to the north shore. This area has become a very popular access point and the upgrades made it much easier for participants to carry their gear. Park staff dedicated a couple days completing the trailhead prior to the fishery. The addition of a new bridge (recently obtained but not installed) will further enhance people's recreational experience, both during the fishery and year around.

PARKS & RECREATION

Expense Summary

Materials, Equipment & Contract Services

| | |
|---|----------|
| Portable Toilets | \$24,670 |
| Dumpsters (South Beach) | 17,750 |
| Dumpsters (North Beach) | 2,535 |
| Beach Cleanup Services | 7,500 |
| Receipt Books | 1,951 |
| Parking & Camping Permits | 750 |
| Fee Envelope Box | 250 |
| Misc. Signs | 150 |
| Misc Supplies (propane/heaters, trash bags, pens, etc.) | 1,377 |
| Colored Maps | 295 |
| Phone/Minutes | 750 |
| Vehicles | 3,390 |
| Estimated Fuel Costs | 1,000 |

Sub-total \$62,368

Labor

| | |
|---|----------|
| Fee Collection (1,219 man-hrs) | \$16,187 |
| Temporary Fence Installation/Removal (21 man-hrs) | 249 |
| Beach Aide ¹ (94 man-hrs) | 1,115 |
| Beach Maintenance During/After ² (238 man-hrs) | 2,889 |
| Misc. Support & Set Up ³ (18 man-hrs) | 249 |

Admin. – Meetings, Training, & Planning⁴ (200 man-hrs) 7,048.20

Sub-total \$27,737

Total Material / Labor Expenses \$90,105

Miscellaneous Projects

Design Drawings For Beach Improvements (USF&W funded) \$16,500

Meek's Trail Improvement (USF&W funded) 21,700

North Beach Permanent Fencing (USF&W funded) 19,392

South Beach Permanent Fencing (AARA funded) 62,028

Design Drawings For Elevated Walkways (USF&W / NRCS funded) 2,800

Elevated Walkway Fabrication (USF&W / NRCS funded) 34,500

Total Project Expenses \$156,920

Grand Total Expenses \$247,025

¹ Labor costs are for one park aide assigned to beach for general patrol, litter/fish removal, fence work and assistance with traffic.

² Labor costs are for parks crew members supplementing work of Beach Aide for litter/fish removal, raking beach, restroom cleaning, fence mending and post-fishery cleanup.

³ Labor costs for trimming in parking lot on north shore, cleaning shacks, hanging signs, placement of cones.

⁴ Administration costs for meetings, staff training, and general administration support.

Boating Facility Expenses

Materials and Contracted Expenses

Portable Toilets \$1,500

Dumpsters 500

Restroom Pumping 275

Cleaning Supplies 200

Striping Paint 190

Sub-total \$2,665

Labor

Shack Attendants (388 man-hrs) \$6,393

Dock Worker Evenson (124.5 man-hrs) 5,238

Dock Worker Bralley (132 man-hrs) 5,140

Traffic Control (20 man-hrs) 860

Sub-total \$17,631

Grand Total Expenses \$20,296



Purchase Recommendations for 2011:

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Dock Security Camera System | \$10,000 |
| 2. 30' x 40' Parks & Recreation Storage Facility | 60,000 |
| 3. Beach Fire Pits (replaces existing concrete units) | 2,500 |
| Total | \$72,500 |



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Gus Sandahl, Chief of Police

FROM: Wayne Ogle, Public Works Director

DATE: September 20, 2010

SUBJECT: KENAI RIVER PERSONAL USE FISHERY - 2010;
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTION

This is a summary of Public Works Department's resource contributions to the Kenai River Personal Use Fishery for the 2010 season:

Preparation for the Personal Use Fishery:

1. **Set signage.** Add 4 signs in North Beach area: "No Fire", "No Camping", "Private Property". Add 30 additional temporary "No Parking" signs to Redoubt Terrace Subdivision, Olde Town & east side of South Forest Drive.

| <u>Materials</u> | | <u>No. of Units</u> | <u>Unit Cost</u> | <u>Cost</u> | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| "No Parking" signs, posts & arrows | | 30 | \$150.00 | \$4,500.00 | |
| <u>Workers</u> | <u>Hours Worked</u> | <u>Total Man hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | | |
| 3 | 4 | 12 | \$42.98 | \$515.76 | |
| <u>Equipment</u> | <u>Operating Hours</u> | <u>Total Equip Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | | |
| 1 4x4 Truck | 4 | 4 | \$38.00 | \$152.00 | |
| 1 Vactor Truck | 4 | 4 | \$150.00 | \$600.00 | |
| 1 City Backhoe | 4 | 4 | \$47.50 | \$190.00 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | Total: | \$5,957.76 |



2. Rebuild Roadway on North Beach for beach access.

| <u>Workers</u> | <u>Hours Worked</u> | <u>Total Man Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 4 | 8 | 32 | \$42.98 | \$1,375.36 |
| <u>Equipment</u> | <u>Operating Hrs</u> | <u>Total Equip Hrs</u> | | |
| 1 966 Cat Loader | 4 | 4 | \$96.00 | \$384.00 |
| 1 Grader | 4 | 4 | \$120.00 | \$480.00 |
| 3 Dump Trucks | 3 | 9 | \$80.00 | \$720.00 |
| <u>Materials</u> | <u>Loads</u> | <u>Yards</u> | | |
| 12-yd. Truck Loads of Gravel | 10 | 120 | \$8.50/yd. | \$1,020.00 |
| | | | | Total: \$3,979.36 |

3. Set toll booths and placing barricades (protection of toll booths) on North and South Beach areas. Place one traffic barrier at the corner of Main St. and Riverview St. in Olde Town to prevent public use of private parking lot.

| <u>Workers</u> | <u>Hours Worked</u> | <u>Total Man Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 5 | 8 | 40 | \$42.98 | \$1,719.20 |
| <u>Equipment</u> | <u>Operating Hrs</u> | <u>Total Equip Hrs</u> | | |
| 2 966 Cat Loader with forks | 4 | 8 | \$96.00 | \$768.00 |
| 1 Flatbed Truck & Trailer | 8 | 8 | \$48.00 | \$384.00 |
| | | | | Total: \$2,871.20 |

4. Grade parking lots and gravel roads. Apply dust control. (Parking lots and roads are graded during the Personal Use Fishery as needed).

| <u>Workers</u> | <u>Hours Worked</u> | <u>Total Man Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 5 | 24 | 120 | \$42.98 | \$5,157.60 |
| <u>Equipment</u> | <u>Operating Hrs</u> | <u>Total Equip Hrs</u> | | |
| 14H | 16 | 16 | \$120.00 | \$1,920.00 |
| 140G | 16 | 16 | \$120.00 | \$1,920.00 |
| Sander Truck (Small) | 8 | 8 | \$35.00 | \$280.00 |
| <u>Materials</u> | | <u>No. Units (bags)</u> | <u>Unit Cost</u> | |
| Calcium Chloride | | 1 | \$787.70 | \$787.70 |
| | | | | Total: \$10,065.30 |

5. Add gravel to Cannery Road - South Beach Entrance.

| <u>Workers</u> | <u>Hours Worked</u> | <u>Total Man Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 3 | 4 | 12 | \$42.98 | \$515.76 |
| <u>Equipment</u> | <u>Operating Hrs</u> | <u>Total Equip Hrs</u> | | |
| 3 Dump Trucks | 4 | 12 | \$80.00 | 960.00 |
| 966 Loader | 4 | 4 | 96.00 | \$384.00 |
| <u>Materials</u> | <u>Loads</u> | <u>Yards</u> | | |
| 12-yd loads of gravel | 4 | 48 | \$8.50/yd. | \$408.00 |
| | | | | Total: \$2,267.76 |

6. Update for current year the Kenai River Personal Use Fishery – General Information Pamphlet. Print 500 two-sided pamphlets for hand-outs to the public.

| <u>Workers</u> | <u>Hours Worked</u> | <u>Total Man Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Cost</u> | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 3 | 3 | \$34.12 | \$102.36 | |
| Materials | | | | | |
| Color Printer Ink & Paper (500 copies) | | | | \$500.00 | |
| | | | | Total: | \$602.36 |

Post Fishery Activity:

7. Retrieve Toll Booths & Barricades. Store in City yard.

| <u>Workers</u> | <u>Hours Worked</u> | <u>Total Man Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Cost</u> | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 5 | 8 | 40 | \$42.98 | \$1,719.20 | |
| Equipment | | | | | |
| | <u>Operating Hrs</u> | <u>Total Equip Hrs</u> | | | |
| 2 966 Cat Loader with forks | 2 | 4 | \$96.00 | \$384.00 | |
| 1 Flatbed Truck & Trailer | 8 | 8 | \$48.00 | \$384.00 | |
| | | | | Total: | \$2,487.20 |

8. Remove temporary signage. Store in City yard.

| <u>Workers</u> | <u>Hours Worked</u> | <u>Total Man Hrs</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Cost</u> | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 2 | 4 | 8 | \$42.98 | \$343.84 | |
| Equipment | | | | | |
| | <u>Operating Hrs</u> | <u>Total Equip Hrs</u> | | | |
| 1 Flatbed Truck & Trailer | 4 | 4 | \$48.00 | \$192.00 | |
| | | | | Total: | \$535.84 |

Public Works Department Resource Summary:

Public Works Department's direct contribution to the Kenai River Personal Use Fishery - 2010:

| | | <u>Total Cost</u> |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Man hours (rates vary) | 259 hours | \$11,449.08 |
| Equipment Hours (rates vary) | 117 hours | \$10,102.00 |
| Materials (Amin. Paper & Ink) | 500 sheets & printer ink | \$500.00 |
| Materials (yds of gravel) | 168 yds | \$1,428.00 |
| Materials (Calcium Chloride) | 1 Bag | \$787.00 |
| Materials ("No Parking" signs, posts & arrows) | 30 signs | \$4,500.00 |
| Fuel Costs @ \$3.71/gal for diesel | 884 gallons | \$3,279.64 |
| | | Grand Total: |
| | | \$32,045.72 |

Purchase Recommendations for Personal Use Fishery - 2011:

Equipment Purchases.

| Equipment | Unit Price (Approx) | No. of Units | Cost |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Cones – 28" | \$30.00 | 25 | \$750.00 |
| Delineators, 42" T-Top with 18# Base | \$48.50 | 25 | \$1,212.50 |
| Jersey Barriers | \$850.00 | 6 | \$5,100.00 |
| Polaris Ranger (All-Terrain Vehicle) | \$13,000.00 | 1 | \$15,000.00 |

Total: \$22,062.50



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / FAX: 907-283-3014



MEMO:

TO: Police Chief Sandahl
FROM: Fire Chief Tilly
DATE: September 23, 2010
SUBJECT: 2010 dipnet report

Chief Sandahl,

The following is a brief report on the Kenai Fire department's activities during the 2010 Subsistence fishery. Overall the department was busier than in years past with calls to the river although the majority of the calls were handled by the on duty crews. Speculation to the increase in calls might be because of more participation during this fishery than in past years. There also might be a relation to the storing of the new rescue boat at the City Dock. It would be easy to speculate that seeing the rescue boat there may prompt more calls because they know it is available. This year was also colder than years past and we had at least one call for hypothermia which I don't recall having in the past.

Run #0581-10 was for a vessel in distress. This was for 7 people in a boat that had lost power and would not run. Two people responded in the rescue boat to assist. A recall was done with 2 department members responding in to cover staffing. RECALL 2 people.

Run #585-10 was for a person floating in the mouth of the river. A person had lost their footing and was floating freely out in the mouth of the river. On duty units responded to the City Dock. It was reported that the person had been rescued by a passing boat and taken back to shore. Person did not need any additional medical attention and kept fishing. No RECALL

Run #588-10 was a fire in a dumpster on the North beach. This fire was in a bear proof container and because of an early detection and alarm, was easily extinguished. There was no damage to the dumpster. Fire was handled by on duty people and NO RECALL.

Run#593-10 was for a fisherman that had his boots fill with water and had been swept out into the mouth of the river. Victim was rescued by surrounding fishermen and brought back into shore but was seen by medics for potential hypothermia. There was no recall for this call and was handled by on duty people. NO RECALL

Run#599-10 Called for a reported man that had fallen in the water near the mouth of the river and was holding his chest. This call came in at almost 11pm. Medics arrived and found only bystanders and no victim. RECALL 1 person

Run#600-10 Called for reported man that had fallen in the river near the mouth and was swept down the river. His victim was also rescued by bystanders who had called 911. On scene patients was stable and refused transport. NO RECALL.

Run #608-10 Called for a reported Chest Pain at Kenai River @ Bridge access. On arrival, found a 56 year Female. Chief complaint of Chest pain. Pt was fishing at the river when she began experiencing chest discomfort. NO RECALL.

Run#622-10 Called to the City dock area for a man that was stuck in the mud. He somehow self extricated himself prior to units arrival. No victim found. NO RECALL

Run# 642-10 Called Kenai boat dock to respond the boat for an agency assist for the search of a body that was reportedly spotted in the river just upstream from the city dock. The search found nothing. NO RECALL.

Run#649-10 Called for an overturned boat. Bystanders had removed the victims from the water and had transported them to the City Dock. Patients were treated for hypothermia. NO RECALL.

Costs related to Dipnet Activity:

Annual Fire Department Budget: \$2,112,075

Number of calls annually: 1,599

\$1,321 per call x 10 dipnet-related calls = **\$13,210 attributed to 2010 Dipnet.**

Having a capable rescue boat in the inventory this year was a welcome addition. Having it available and stored at the river was the key element of quick response. Unfortunately the boat took quite a bit of abuse being moored at the City Dock. Waves and wind battered the vessel even while being lashed tight to the dock. The boat was constantly full of water when the crews went to check on it and bailing out the boat was a daily chore. Dip net fishermen used it for a step stool and who knows what else when we were not around. A safe, protected, easily accessible mooring area should be developed for this boat. I am not certain of the answer but would entertain ideas.

The boat did need some repairs prior to being placed into service with mostly air leaks being the problem. We are still finalizing some of those repairs. We had put together a wish list for repairs and additions to the boat prior placing it into service but funds were not available. The following is a list of items we feel we need to make the boat safer, make operation from within the boat safer and rescue operations more practical.

Raised arch for the rear. This was on the boat originally and was removed prior to sale for some reason. This is a mounting point for lights, pa speakers, antennas' or whatever else is needed.

Audible warning device: Some sort of siren or PA system so vessels in the river will give way. Also the public announcement system would allow us to address other people or vessels that do not have radio communications and direct their actions.

Visual warning device: Small beacon or strobe light to indicate emergency boat.

Marine VHF radio with antenna: this is used for talking with boats that may be compromised but still able to talk on the radio. Also we would have communications with any Coast Guard vessels in the area.

Compass: this would be used for operating in dense fog and finding your way home.

Hand held GPS: this would again be for operating in low visual conditions and navigations.

Fire extinguisher per Coast Guard regulations.

Life ring or throw device: used for floating victims or self rescue.

2nd oar. Boat came with 1 oar.

Anchor with chain and rope.

New set of hoisting straps for lifting the boat with the City Dock hoist.

Hand held search light. Working at night it is impossible without one.

Rescue knives: rescue knives stored with the boat and are used for cutting ropes, heavy lines or debris that may entangle a trapped person.

New lines for the bow and stern: present lines are worn and too short.

Binoculars: these are for long distance visualization of victims

PFD vests for responders both KPD and KFD

We do not have exact quotes for every item on this list but an estimate would be around **\$5,000.00.**



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

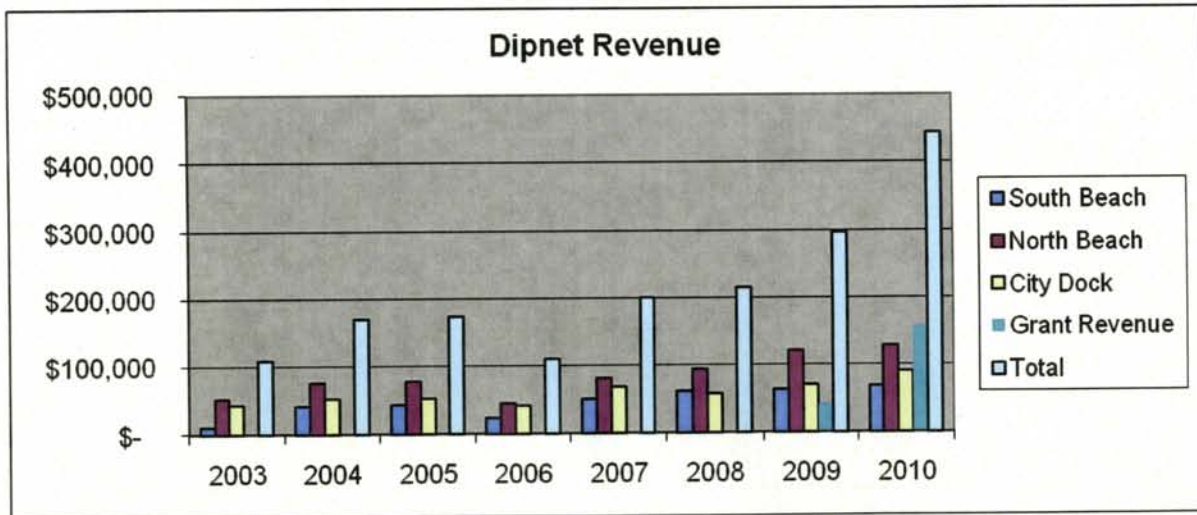
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
 210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
 Telephone: 907-283-7535 ext 221 / FAX: 907-283-3014

To: Rick Koch, City Manager
 From: Terry Eubank, Finance Director
 Date: October 8, 2010
 Subject: 2010 Dipnet Summary

Revenue and Participants

The 2010 dipnet season concluded with total revenue of \$287,035, a 12.58% increase over the 2009 season. The 2010 season's user fees remained unchanged from the prior year at the City's North and South Beach but increased by 25%, from \$15 to \$20 for daily launch and park, at the City dock. The following is a breakdown of revenue by location from the 2003 season through this season.

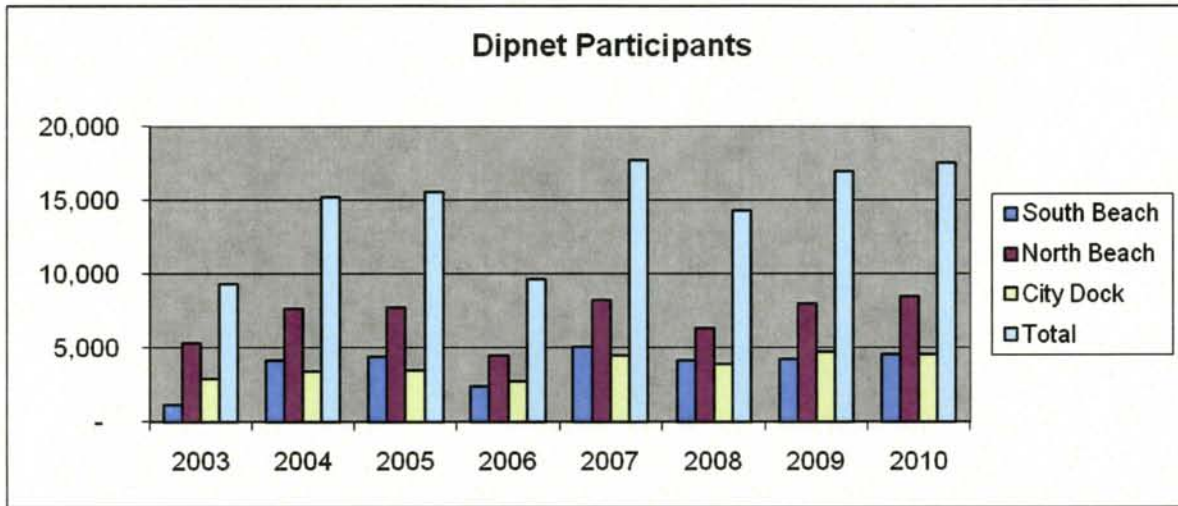
| | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| South Beach | \$ 11,336 | \$ 41,465 | \$ 44,078 | \$ 24,153 | \$ 50,418 | \$ 61,820 | \$ 64,008 | \$ 68,380 |
| North Beach | 52,935 | 76,720 | 77,370 | 45,222 | 82,115 | 94,874 | 120,391 | 127,533 |
| City Dock | 43,654 | 51,770 | 52,017 | 41,115 | 67,812 | 58,131 | 70,563 | 91,122 |
| Grant Revenue | - | - | - | - | - | - | <u>41,150</u> | <u>156,920</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 107,925</u> | <u>\$ 169,955</u> | <u>\$ 173,465</u> | <u>\$ 110,490</u> | <u>\$ 200,345</u> | <u>\$ 214,825</u> | <u>\$ 296,112</u> | <u>\$ 443,955</u> |



2010 Finance Department
 Dipnet Summary

Total revenue increased in 2010 as a result of an increase in participants at both the City's north and south beaches. Participant numbers decrease at the City's dock but revenue at the dock increased due to an increase in fees. The following represents an estimate of the number of participants by year. This is a very simple estimate and does not represent actual participant counts.

| | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| South Beach | 1,134 | 4,146 | 4,408 | 2,415 | 5,042 | 4,121 | 4,267 | 4,559 |
| North Beach | 5,294 | 7,672 | 7,737 | 4,522 | 8,211 | 6,325 | 8,026 | 8,502 |
| City Dock | <u>2,910</u> | <u>3,451</u> | <u>3,468</u> | <u>2,741</u> | <u>4,521</u> | <u>3,875</u> | <u>4,704</u> | <u>4,556</u> |
| Total | <u>9,338</u> | <u>15,269</u> | <u>15,613</u> | <u>9,678</u> | <u>17,774</u> | <u>14,321</u> | <u>16,997</u> | <u>17,617</u> |



Conclusion:

Overall the 2010 dipnet season was a success from the Finance Department's perspective. The safety of our employees continues to be our strongest focus with reducing the amount of cash present at fee stations our number one priority.

2010 DIPNET REVENUE EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

REVENUE

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| NORTH SIDE PARKING | \$ 127,533.00 |
| SOUTH SIDE PARKING | 68,380.00 |
| CITY DOCK FEES | 91,122.00 |
| GRANT REVENUE | <u>156,920.00</u> |

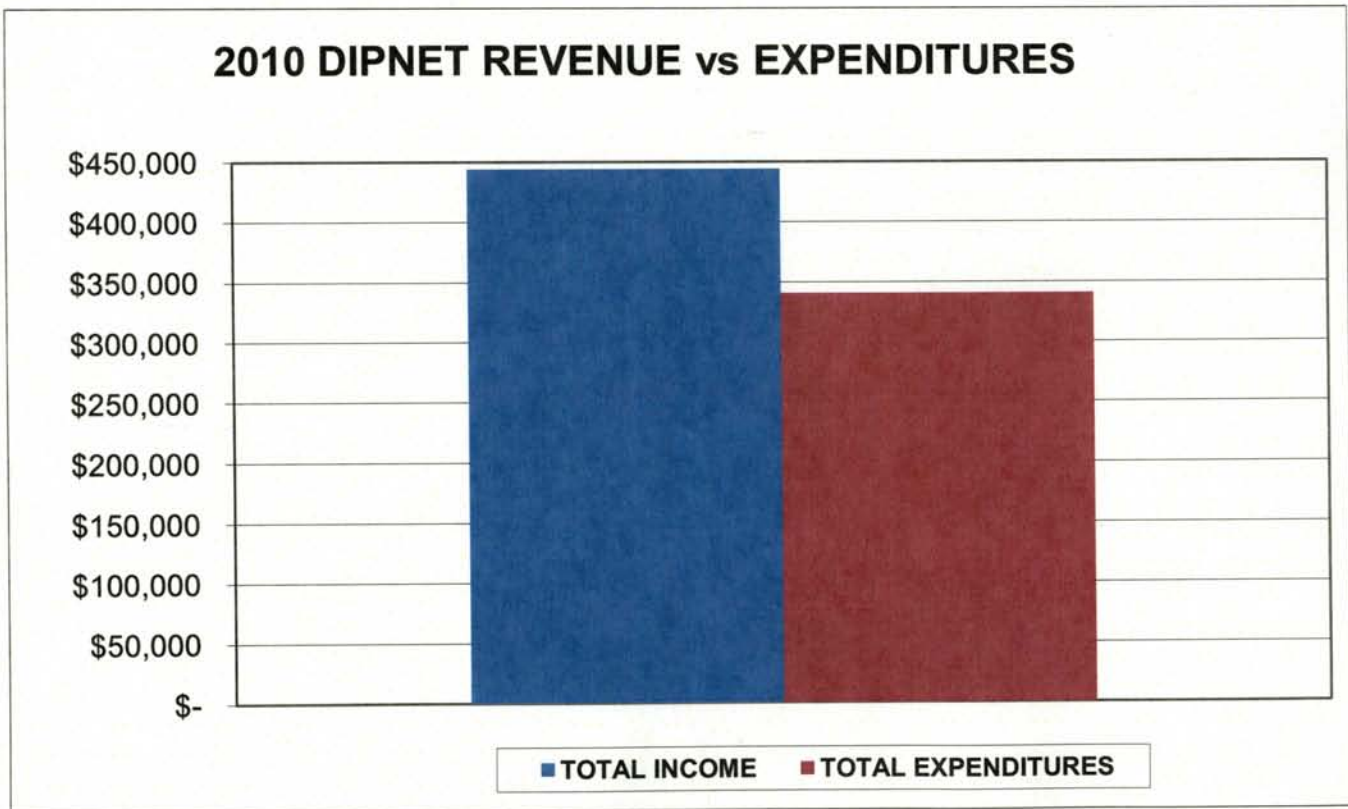
TOTAL INCOME **\$ 443,955.00**

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| FINANCE | 2,652.53 |
| PUBLIC SAFETY | 38,792.17 |
| PARKS & RECREATION | 247,025.00 |
| CITY DOCK | 20,296.00 |
| PUBLIC WORKS | <u>32,045.72</u> |

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 340,811.42**

REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES **\$ 103,143.58**

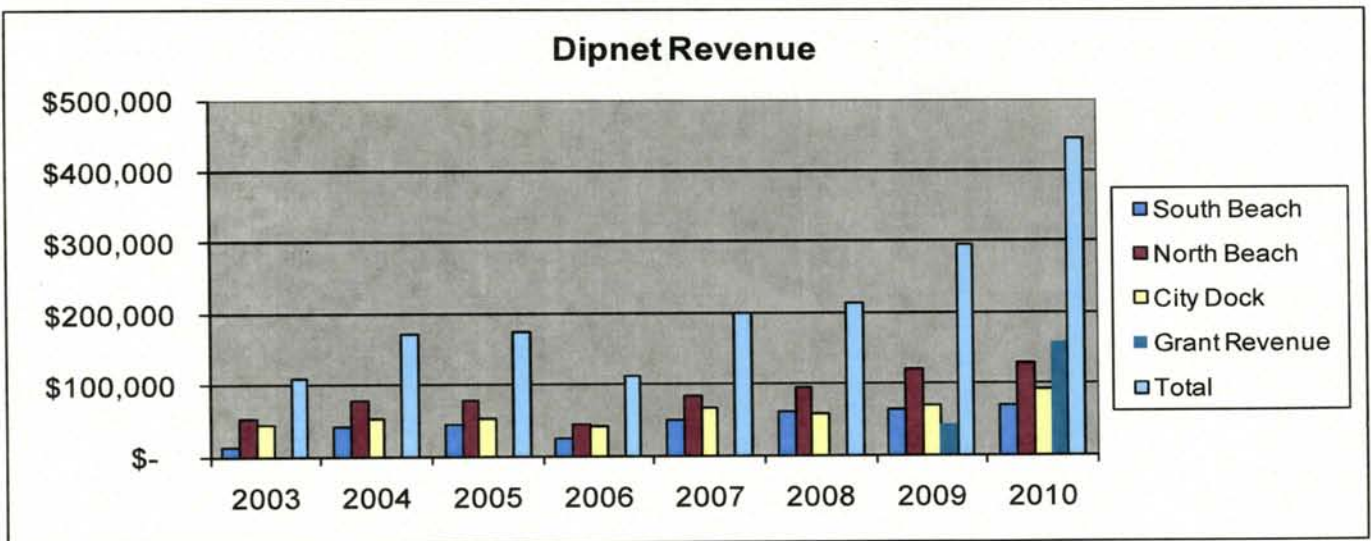
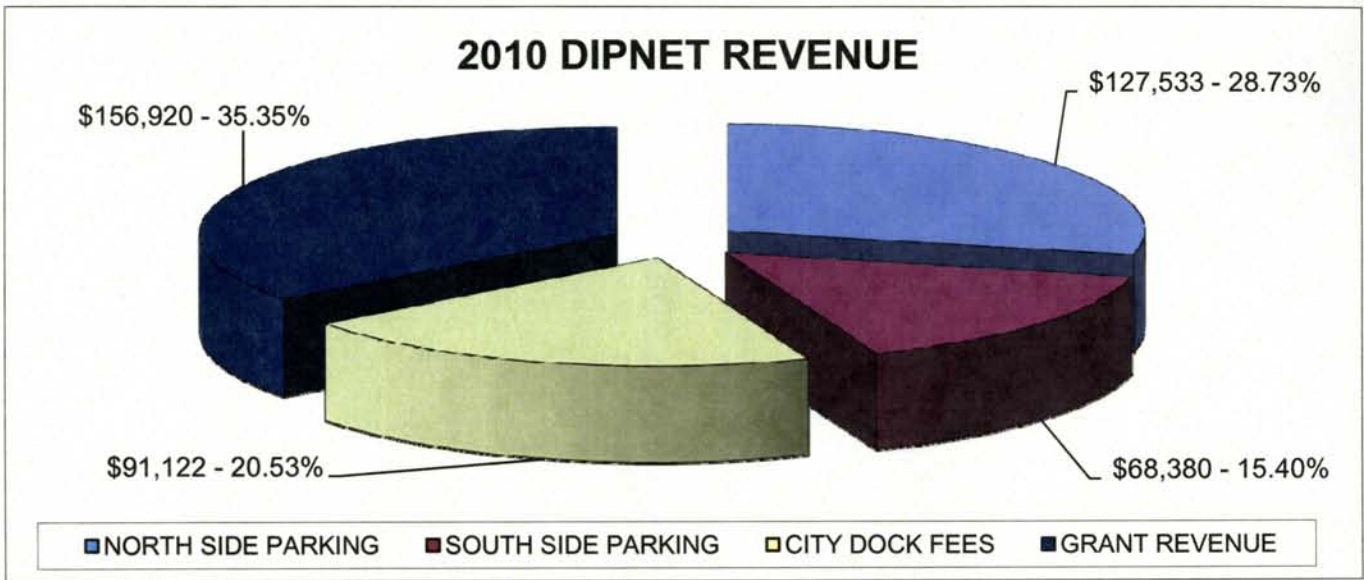


2010 DIPNET REVENUE SUMMARY

REVENUE

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------|
| NORTH SIDE PARKING | \$ 127,533.00 | 28.73% |
| SOUTH SIDE PARKING | 68,380.00 | 15.40% |
| CITY DOCK FEES | 91,122.00 | 20.53% |
| GRANT REVENUE | <u>156,920.00</u> | 35.35% |

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 443,955.00**

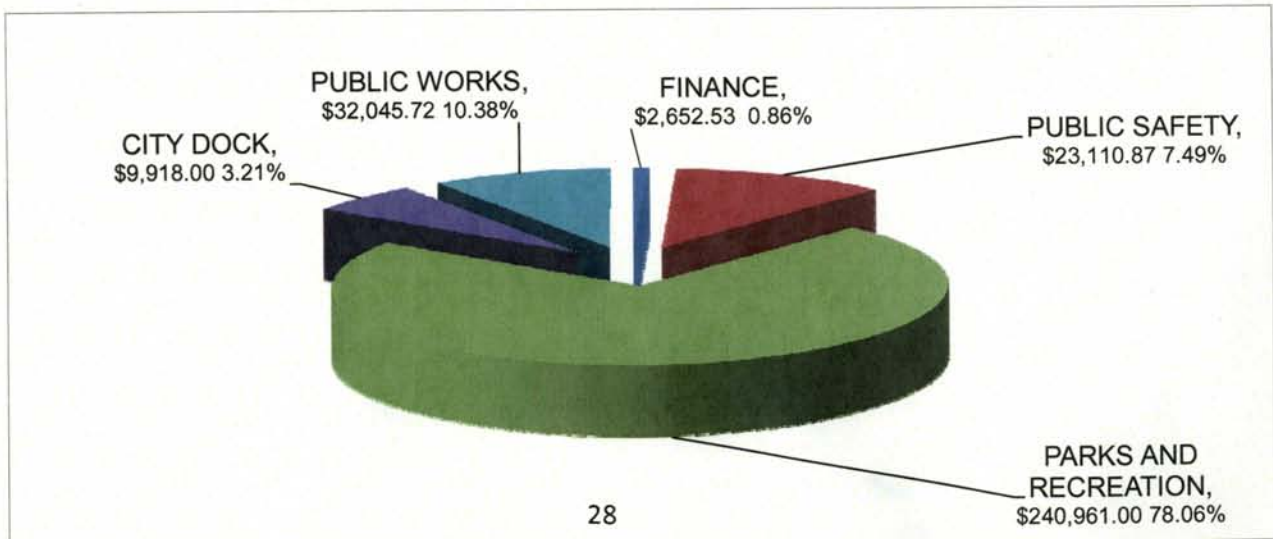


2010 DIPNET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

| | <u>QUANTITY</u> | <u>UNIT COST</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| EXPENDITURES | | | |
| FINANCE | | | |
| STAFF TIME | | | |
| DAILY CASH RECEIPT RECONCILIATIONS | 67.00 HOURS | 39.59 | \$ 2,652.53 |
| TOTAL FINANCE | | | \$ 2,652.53 |
| PUBLIC SAFETY | | | |
| STAFF TIME | | | |
| FIRE & EMS RESPONSES | 10.00 CALLS | 1,321.00 | 13,210.00 |
| POLICE OFFICER - REGULAR TIME | 165.50 HOURS | 57.44 | 9,505.97 |
| POLICE OFFICER - OVERTIME | 11.50 HOURS | 86.16 | 990.84 |
| KENAI DISPATCH - REGULAR TIME | 51.25 HOURS | 39.02 | 2,000.00 |
| SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICERS - REGULAR TIME | 301.50 HOURS | 16.69 | 5,030.86 |
| SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICERS - OVERTIME | 68.10 HOURS | 25.04 | 1,706.40 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY STAFF TIME | | | 32,444.07 |
| EQUIPMENT | | | |
| PICK-UP / EXPEDITION RENTAL | 2.00 MONTH | 1,590.00 | 3,180.00 |
| ATV | 1.00 MONTH | 1,000.00 | 1,437.30 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT | | | 4,617.30 |
| DIRECT EXPENDITURES | | | |
| FUEL | 1.00 ACTUAL | 1,730.80 | 1,730.80 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECT EXPENDITURES | | | 1,730.80 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY | | | \$ 38,792.17 |
| PARKS AND RECREATION | | | |
| STAFF TIME | | | |
| SHACK ATTENDANTS | 1,219.00 HOURS | 13.28 | 16,187.00 |
| FENCE INSTALLATION - SOUTH BEACH | 21.00 HOURS | 11.86 | 249.00 |
| BEACH AIDES | 94.00 HOURS | 11.86 | 1,115.00 |
| BEACH CLEAN-UP | 238.00 HOURS | 12.14 | 2,889.00 |
| MISCELANEOUS SETUP SUPPORT | 18.00 HOURS | 13.83 | 249.00 |
| DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT | 200.00 HOURS | 35.24 | 7,048.00 |
| TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF TIME | 1,790.00 | | 27,737.00 |
| EQUIPMENT | | | |
| PICK-UP 1 TON | 3.00 WEEKS | 580.00 | 1,740.00 |
| PICK-UP 1/2 TON | 3.00 WEEKS | 550.00 | 1,650.00 |
| TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION EQUIPMENT | | | 3,390.00 |
| DIRECT EXPENDITURES | | | |
| PORTABLE TOILETS | 1.00 ACTUAL | 24,670.00 | 24,670.00 |
| DUMPSTERS | 1.00 ACTUAL | 20,285.00 | 20,285.00 |
| CONTRACTED BEACH CLEAN-UP | 1.00 ACTUAL | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| RECEIPT BOOKS, FEE ENVELOPES, & BROCHURES | 1.00 ACTUAL | 1,951.00 | 1,951.00 |
| FUEL | 1.00 ACTUAL | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 1.00 ACTUAL | 3,572.00 | 3,572.00 |
| TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECT EXPEN. | | | 58,978.00 |
| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS | | | |
| SOUTH BEACH PERMANENT FENCING | 1.00 ACTUAL | 62,028.00 | 62,028.00 |
| NORTH BEACH PERMANENT FENCING | 1.00 ACTUAL | 19,392.00 | 19,392.00 |
| NORTH BEACH BATHROOMS, MEEK'S TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS & MEEK'S BRIDGE DESIGN | 1.00 ACTUAL | 16,500.00 | 16,500.00 |
| MEEK'S TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS | 1.00 ACTUAL | 21,700.00 | 21,700.00 |
| NORTH BEACH DUNE'S ELEVATED WALKWAYS | 1.00 HOURS | 37,300.00 | 37,300.00 |
| TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION DUNE FENCING | | | 156,920.00 |
| TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION | | | \$ 247,025.00 |

2010 DIPNET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

| | <u>QUANTITY</u> | <u>UNIT COST</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| CITY DOCK | | | |
| STAFF TIME | | | |
| SHACK ATTENDANTS | 388.00 HOURS | 16.48 | 6,393.00 |
| DOCK STAFF TIME | 256.50 HOURS | 40.46 | 10,378.00 |
| TRAFFIC CONTROL | 20.00 HOURS | 43.00 | 860.00 |
| TOTAL CITY DOCK STAFF TIME | | | 17,631.00 |
| DIRECT EXPENDITURES | | | |
| PORTABLE TOILETS | 1.00 ACTUAL | 1,775.00 | 1,775.00 |
| DUMPSTERS | 1.00 ACTUAL | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 1.00 ACTUAL | 390.00 | 390.00 |
| TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECT EXPEN. | | | 2,665.00 |
| TOTAL CITY DOCK | | | \$ 20,296.00 |
| PUBLIC WORKS | | | |
| STAFF TIME | | | |
| REBUILD NORTH & SOUTH BEACH ACCESS | 44.00 HOURS | 42.98 | 1,891.12 |
| DIPNET SHACK AND BARRICADE PLACEMENT | 40.00 HOURS | 42.98 | 1,719.20 |
| PARKING AND ROAD GRADING | 120.00 HOURS | 42.98 | 5,157.60 |
| DIPNET SHACK AND BARRICADE RETRIEVAL | 40.00 HOURS | 42.98 | 1,719.20 |
| INSTALLATION & REMOVAL OF TEMPORARY SIGNAGE | 20.00 HOURS | 42.98 | 859.60 |
| GENERAL ADMINISTRATION TIME | 3.00 HOURS | 34.12 | 102.36 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS STAFF TIME | 267.00 | | 11,449.08 |
| EQUIPMENT | | | |
| PICK-UP | 4.00 HOURS | 38.00 | 152.00 |
| BACKHOE | 4.00 HOURS | 47.50 | 190.00 |
| 966 LOADER | 20.00 HOURS | 96.00 | 1,920.00 |
| FLATBED TRUCK AND TRAILER | 20.00 HOURS | 48.00 | 960.00 |
| GRADER | 36.00 HOURS | 120.00 | 4,320.00 |
| DUMP TRUCK | 21.00 HOURS | 80.00 | 1,680.00 |
| VACTOR TRUCK | 4.00 HOURS | 150.00 | 600.00 |
| SANDER TRUCK | 8.00 HOURS | 35.00 | 280.00 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT | | | 10,102.00 |
| DIRECT EXPENDITURES | | | |
| GRAVEL | 168 YARDS | 8.50 | 1,428.00 |
| PAMPHLET PRINTING | 500 EACH | 1.00 | 500.00 |
| SIGNAGE | 30 ACTUAL | 150.00 | 4,500.00 |
| CALCIUM CHLORIDE | 1 ACTUAL | 787.00 | 787.00 |
| FUEL | 884 GALLONS | 3.71 | 3,279.64 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS DIRECT EXPENDITURES | | | 10,494.64 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS | | | \$ 32,045.72 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | | \$ 340,811.42 |



**Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition
Position Statement and Comments
On
2011 UCI Fisheries Proposals**

The Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition (KAFC), with a membership of over 200 families, is pleased to submit our comments on the Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) fisheries proposals.

We will note that KAFC has objected to most of the proposals and the rationale for these positions is that UCI fisheries have been functioning well over the last three years and the allocation of resources between users groups is reasonably fair and equitable. We do have concerns about micro-management of the UCI fisheries by cumbersome management plans.

Our philosophical position on UCI fisheries has been consistent since we formed as a group. These are easily stated:

1. **Resource first** – We put conservation of the resource first and foremost before user group desires and allocations. In this context our conservation biologists on staff have recognized that there are five major threats to UCI fish resources. These are known around the world as HIPPO – habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution, population, and over harvest. We try to make sure any proposal before us does not violate or increase the risk to the fish stocks as a result of these five threats. We encourage the Board of Fisheries (BOF) to do the same.
2. **Escapement goal management** – We strongly support escapement goal management and the setting of goals that are achievable and that maintain high sustained yields.
3. **Adaptive management** – We have many years of fishery management and research experience invested in the UCI area as biologists associated with the KAFC organization. We have consistently stated that the lack of flexibility in UCI fishery management is a detriment to meeting goals and objectives. We encourage the BOF to simplify the plans and remove time and area restrictions that reduce the adaptive management flexibility of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). We also support strongly the emergency order authority of the Commissioner of ADF&G to override the management plans to achieve escapement objectives.
4. **Clear and concise goals and objectives** – The UCI management plans are cumbersome and are confusing to the general public. We encourage the BOF to set clear goals and objectives that can be achieved and measured.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dwight Kramer – Chairman for the KAFC Board of Directors

Summary of KAFC Comm. Fishery Proposal Positions, UCI BOF meeting 2011 (Page 1 of 3)

| Proposal No. | Dept. Position | KAFC position | Issue |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| 102 | N / O | O | Modify gear for subsistence fishing. |
| 103 | N / O | O | Modify the amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) for the Skwentna |
| 104 | O | O | Mirror east side salmon escapement corridor in the Central District open. |
| 105 | N | O | Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye. |
| 106 | N | O | Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye. |
| 107 | N | O | Allow for earlier harvest of Kasilof sockeye. |
| 108 | N | O | Extend the commercial fishing season. |
| 109 | N | O | Revise opening and closing dates for the Upper Subdistrict of the Kenai |
| 110 | N | O | Amend set net fishing to close by emergency order. |
| 111 | N | O | Extend closure time by three hours in the Central District. |
| 112 | N | O | Modify the weekly fishing periods in Upper Cook Inlet. |
| 113 | N | O | Require removal of gear during closures. |
| 114 | N | O | Close fishing on Saturdays and Sundays in Upper Cook Inlet. |
| 115 | N | N | Ban use of monofilament salmon web in Cook Inlet. |
| 116 | N | O | Reduce mesh depth in the Central District. |
| 117 | N | O | Modify amount of gear used by CFEC permit holder. |
| 118 | N | O | Revise gear limitations when fishing two permits in Cook Inlet. |
| 119 | N | S | Allow the use of dual drift gillnet permits. |
| 120 | N | S | Allow four shackles of gear to be fished. |
| 121 | N | O | Prohibit commercial vessels from fishing within five miles of mouth of |
| 122 | N | O | Modify Upper Cook Inlet Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan. |
| 123 | N | O | Revise the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. |
| 124 | N | O | Amend the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management plan. |
| 125 | N | O | Delete references to Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4. |
| 126 | N | O | Revise Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. |
| 127 | N | O | Restrict commercial drift gillnet in the Western Subdistrict of Cook Inlet. |
| 128 | N | O | Create a single optimal escapement goal to eliminate confusion of |
| 129 | N | N | Establish a management plan for pink salmon bound for the Kenai River. |
| 130 | N | O | Amend the Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management plan. |
| 131 | N | O | Modify the Northern District Salmon management plan. |
| 132 | N | O | Add pink salmon to the Northern District Salmon Management plan. |
| 133 | N | O | Make consumptive use a priority for fishing king and coho salmon. |
| 134 | N | S | 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 | N | S | Update the management plan to reflect Yentna sonar count modifications. |
| 136 | N / NA | O | Modify the OEG on the Susitna River sockeye. |
| 137 | NA | O | Amend management plan based on Bendix-like numbers from Yentna |
| 138 | N | O | Remove gear restrictions in the Northern District after July 30. |
| 139 | N / O | O | Establish a terminal fishery for Fish Creek Area. |
| 140 | N / O | O | Modify coho management plan. |

N = Neutral; S= Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action

Summary of KAFC Comm. Fishery Proposal Positions, UCI BOF meeting 2011 (Page 2 of 3)

| Proposal No. | Dept. Position | KAFC Position | Issue |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| 141 | N | O | Modify Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. |
| 142 | N | O | Revise the Northern District King Salmon Management. |
| 143 | N | O | Modify the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan to articulate recreational use priority. |
| 144 | N | N | Establish a Susitna River small stream and river management plan. |
| 145 | NA | O | Conduct stock assessment of kings caught during marine fishery off Deep Creek. |
| 146 | N | O | Modify the Kenai River late run king salmon management plan. |
| 147 | N / O | O | Establish an effective allocation of sockeye to personal use and sport fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet. |
| 148 | NA | O | Increase optimal escapement goal of late-run sockeye in the Kenai River, Russian River and Hidden Lake. |
| 149 | N / NA | O | Revise the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. |
| 150 | N / NA | O | Change escapement goals. |
| 151 | N | O | Remove the three tier system from the Kenai River Sockeye Management Plan. |
| 152 | N | O | Amend the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon management plan. |
| 153 | N | O | Modify wording in several management plans to allow harvest over the course of king runs. |
| 154 | N | O | Modify wording in several management plans to allow harvest over the course of coho runs. |
| 156 | N | O | Develop a management plan for the early Russian River sockeye run. |
| 157 | NA | S | Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. |
| 158 | N | O | Restrict all harvest until minimum escapement goals are reached. |
| 159 | N | O | Amend regulation to minimize incidental harvest of non-targeted species in Upper Cook Inlet. |
| 160 | N | O | Revise the Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Plan. |
| 161 | N | O | Revise Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. |
| 162 | N | O | Amend the Kasilof River Salmon Management plan. |
| 163 | N | O | Revise the sockeye optimal escapement goal in the Kasilof. |
| 164 | N | O | Amend Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan to the Kenai in-river |
| 165 | NA | O | Keep Saturday free of emergency commercial openings. |
| 166 | N | O | Revise the Kasilof River Sockeye Harvest Management Plan |
| 167 | N | O | Expand the fishing area in the North Kalifornsky Beach statistical area |
| 168 | N | O | Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan |
| 169 | N / O | O | Open KRSHA to gillnet salmon fishing when escapement exceeds 275,000 |
| 170 ^a | N / O | O | Modify the area that may be fished if the commissioner opens the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area |
| 171 | N / O | O | Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan |

N = Neutral; S= Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action

Summary of KAFC Comm. Fishery Proposal Positions, UCI BOF meeting 2011 (Page 3 of 3)

| Proposal No. | Dept. Position | KAFC Position | Issue |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| 321 | N | N | Extend the season in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections |
| 322 | N | O | Reinstate the July 1 season opening in the Kenai and East Forelands |
| 323 | N | O | Revise closing date in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections |
| 324 | N | O | Allow for use of dual permits in the Cook Inlet set gillnet fishery |
| 325 | N | O | Kenai River mgt plan single goal range |
| 326 | N | O | Expand the fishing area in the North Kalifornsky Beach Subsection. |
| 327 | N | S | Kenai River sockeye mgt plan - delete windows |
| 329 | N / O | O | Kasilof escapement goal range of 150,000-250,000 |
| 330 | N / O | O | Modify the area that may be fished if the commissioner opens the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. |
| 331 | N | N | Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. |

N = Neutral; S= Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition Sport Fish Proposal position and Comments

| proposal # | fishery | description | kaifc position | comments |
|------------|--------------|---|----------------|---|
| 172 | personal use | Require users to complete a class and obtain a dipnet education card prior to receiving a dipnet permit | oppose | |
| 173 | personal use | Repeal sport fish license requirement to participate in Cook Inlet personal use fisheries. | oppose | support if sf license also valid |
| 175 | personal use | Establish a July 17 opening date for the Kenai River personal use fishery on runs under 2 million. | oppose | limits dept authority; support tiered harvest tied to total return as part of sockeye management plan |
| 176 | personal use | Open Kenai River personal use fishery after 350,000 sockeye pass the sonar. | oppose | |
| 177 | personal use | Close fishing on the south bank of the Kenai River until minimum in-river goals are met | oppose | |
| 178 | personal use | Open dipnet fisheries in Cook Inlet only after over escapement goals are met. | oppose | |
| 179 | personal use | Open Kenai and Kasilof dipnet fisheries only after over escapement goals will be achieved. | oppose | |
| 180 | personal use | Close Kenai River personal use fishery on Tuesdays and Fridays until 450,000 sockeye pass the sonar | oppose | |
| 181 | personal use | Establish a harvest cap of 150,000 for the Kenai River Personal Use Fishery | oppose | |
| 182 | personal use | Set allocation of 100,000 - 150,000 sockeye in Kenai River personal use fishery | oppose | |
| 183 | personal use | Establish a guideline harvest for Cook Inlet personal use fisheries based upon run size. | oppose | support 183 in principle with time restrictions to reduce harvest in low forecast years |
| 184 | personal use | Establish GHIL for sport and personal use harvest in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers | oppose | |
| 185 | personal use | Set allocation based on harvest and use in Kasilof River personal use fishery | oppose | |
| 186 | personal use | Establish a bag limit of 15 per family in the Kenai River personal use fishery and no fishing until escapement goal will be achieved. | oppose | |
| 187 | personal use | Reduce household limit to 10 fish in Cook Inlet personal use salmon fishery | oppose | |
| 188 | personal use | Reduce bag limit or delay opening of the Kenai River dipnet fishery | oppose | |

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition Sport Fish Proposal position and Comments

| proposal # | fishery | description | ka/c position | comments |
|------------|----------------------------|---|---------------|----------|
| 189 | personal use | Prohibit retention of king salmon in Cook Inlet dipnet fisheries. | oppose | |
| 190 | personal use | Allow one king per household for the all Cook Inlet personal use dipnet fisheries. | oppose | |
| 191 | personal use | Reduce allowable mesh size in Cook Inlet dipnet fisheries or prohibit release of fish | oppose | |
| 192 | personal use | Prohibit possession of sport and personal use caught salmon on the same day | oppose | |
| 193 | personal use | Prohibit dipnetting from boats in Kenai River personal use fishery. | oppose | |
| 194 | personal use | Prohibit dipnetting from boats in Kenai River personal use fishery. | oppose | |
| 204 | coho salmon sport fishery | Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in the Kenai River Drainage Area | oppose | |
| 205 | coho salmon sport fishery | Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon in the Kenai Peninsula Area | oppose | |
| 206 | coho salmon sport fishery | Increase bag and possession limit to 3 coho salmon on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. | oppose | |
| 207 | coho salmon sport fishery | Align coho salmon bag limit with adjacent waters in the Russian River sanctuary area and Russian River. | support | |
| 208 | Kenai/Kasilof guide issues | 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. | support | |
| 209 | Kenai/Kasilof guide issues | Prohibit guided sport fishing just above the king salmon sonar station downstream to Cunningham Park | oppose | |
| 210 | Kenai/Kasilof guide issues | Modify existing Kenai River guide hours from 6am-6pm, to 7am-7pm | support | |
| 211 | Kenai/Kasilof guide issues | Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel on the Kenai River 24 hours per day during May | oppose | |
| 212 | Kenai/Kasilof guide issues | Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel on the Kenai River on Sundays during May | oppose | |
| 213 | Kenai/Kasilof guide issues | Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel on the Kenai River on Sundays during June | oppose | |
| 214 | Kenai/Kasilof guide issues | Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel for coho salmon on Mondays during August - November | oppose | |
| 215 | Kenai/Kasilof guide issues | Allow fishing from a registered guide vessel for coho salmon on Mondays during August and September | oppose | |

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition Sport Fish Proposal position and Comments

| proposal # | fishery | description | ka/c position | comments |
|------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| 215 | Resident Species | Prohibit barbed hooks when using beads in the Kenai River | oppose | social issue; no evidence that mortality is increased in fly and or drift fisheries of the kenai |
| 216 | Resident Species | Increase the allowable size limit of rainbow trout in the lower Kenai River | oppose | the current reg focuses limited harvest primarily to pre-spawners |
| 217 | Resident Species | Establish a bag limit for burbot in the Kenai Peninsula Area | support | |
| 218 | Resident Species | Establish a steelhead/rainbow trout spawning closure for all tributaries of Tustumena Lake | support | |
| 219 | Resident Species | Correct list of Kenai River Drainage Area rainbow trout stocked lakes. | support | |
| 220 | Resident Species | Add Rainbow Lake to the list of Upper Kenai River drainage stocked lakes | support | |
| 221 | Resident Species | Correct list of Kenai River Drainage Area and Kenai Peninsula Area king salmon stocked lakes. | support | |
| 222 | Resident Species | Repeal the special sport fishing gear regulations that apply to Arc Lake, Cisca Lake and Scout Lake | support | |
| 223 | Resident Species | Add a new section to increase emergency order authority flexibility to address invasive northern pike | support | |
| 224 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Reduce effective dates for fly-fishing-only waters in Killey River sanctuary area from July 31 to July 15 | oppose | opposed; reopens spawning closures in sanctuary |
| 225 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Reduce Killey River king salmon sanctuary closure date from July 31 to July 15 | oppose | some sentiment to allowing trout fishing in closed areas from boat with appropriate gear limitations |
| 226 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Reduce Killey River king salmon sanctuary closure date to June 25 - July 14 | oppose | |
| 227 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Reduce Killey River king salmon sanctuary area to allow fishing at 3rd Hole | oppose | |

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition Sport Fish Proposal position and Comments

| proposal # | fishery | description | ka/c position | comments |
|------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| 228 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Repeal the seasonal boating restriction at the confluence of the Moose River | oppose | |
| 229 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Increase Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area | support | |
| 230 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Revise the Kenai River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan | oppose | |
| 231 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Return early run Kenai River king salmon escapement goal to pre-2005 level | oppose | |
| 232 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Allow use of bait on May 1 or June 1 in the Kenai River early-run king salmon fishery | oppose | generally oppose any liberalization of chinook fishery |
| 233 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Repeal slot limit for Kenai River early-run king salmon. | oppose | |
| 234 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Repeal slot limit for Kenai River early-run king salmon. | oppose | |
| 235 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Extend king salmon slot limit through the end of July. | support | do support change to slot limit to 40" to 52". Would also support limiting harvest to one fish over 40" annually if no slot limit in the late run |
| 236 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Modify size and annual limits for Kenai River king salmon | oppose | |
| 237 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Increase size and bag limits for jack kings in the late-run on the Kenai River | oppose | |

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition Sport Fish Proposal position and Comments

| proposal # | fishery | description | kafc position | comments |
|------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 238 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Allow the use of two hooks or treble hooks for Kenai River king salmon fishing | oppose | |
| 239 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Allow anglers to continue fishing after daily bag limits are met on the Kenai River | oppose | oppose- liberalization |
| 240 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Prohibit anglers that are going to release fish from taking them out of the water. | oppose | oppose- liberalization |
| 241 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Close the Kenai River to sport fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays | oppose | |
| 242 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Close large sections of the Kenai River to king salmon fishing on a annual rotational cycle. | oppose | |
| 243 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Harvested fish must be closely attended in the Russian River area. | support | |
| 244 | Kenai River salmon sport fishery | Establish a tax for pike to sport fishing licenses and a bounty for pike turned in | neutral | |
| 245 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Add an additional drift boat only day (Wednesdays) on the Kenai River | support | as alternative to kafc proposal |
| 246 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Add an additional drift boat only day (Thursdays) on the Kenai River | support | |
| 247 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Allow the use of a motor downstream of Cunningham Park to exit the fishery on drift-only Mondays | support | |
| 248 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Prohibit drift boats from using motors to travel upstream in the lower Kenai River | oppose | |
| 249 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Prohibit drift boats from using motors to travel upstream in the lower Kenai River | oppose | |

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition Sport Fish Proposal position and Comments

| proposal # | fishery | description | ka/c position | comments |
|------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| 250 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Establish 3 areas in the lower Kenai River for drift fishing during July | oppose | social issue |
| 251 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Prohibit boats on the Kenai & Russian River confluence back channel | neutral | |
| 252 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Allow fishing for resident species from a motorized vessel on Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake | oppose | |
| 253 | Kenai River Vessel Restrictions | Allow fishing for sockeye salmon from a boat in the Funny River king salmon sanctuary area | oppose | |
| 254 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Allow fishing from power boats during the king salmon season on the Kasilof River. | oppose | still egress at kasilof cabins |
| 255 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Prohibit fishing from a boat in the "People's Hole" area adjacent to Crooked Creek | support | support ka/c proposal |
| 256 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Allow boat anglers to land a fish while anchored across from the "People's Hole" area adjacent to Crooked Creek. | oppose | opposed |
| 257 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Change boundary marker location for seasonal motor use on lower Kasilof River | support | support; using a motor to exit the fishery is a philosophy not a spot on the map |
| 258 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Rename boundary marker for seasonal motor use on lower Kasilof River | support | support dept proposal |
| 259 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Reduce bag limit for king salmon on the Kasilof River | oppose | ??? |
| 260 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Repeal August 1 - 15 fishing closure on Kasilof River above Sterling Hwy bridge. | neutral | enforcement issue |
| 261 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Allow the use of bait in the Kasilof River for an additional two weeks in September. | | |

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition Sport Fish Proposal position and Comments

| proposal # | fishery | description | ka/c position | comments |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| 262 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Allow guides to take more than one group of clients per day on the Kasilof River. | oppose | |
| 263 | Kasilof River salmon sport fishery | Limit guided sport fishing hours and days on the Kasilof River. | oppose | support making days and hours of guide restrictions same on both rivers |



Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition
Position Paper

Proposal 229

**Decreasing Chinook Salmon Runs into the Kenai River
Tributary of Slikok Creek**

KENAI AREA FISHERMAN'S COALITION
POSITION PAPER ON SLIKOK CREEK CHINOOK SALMON

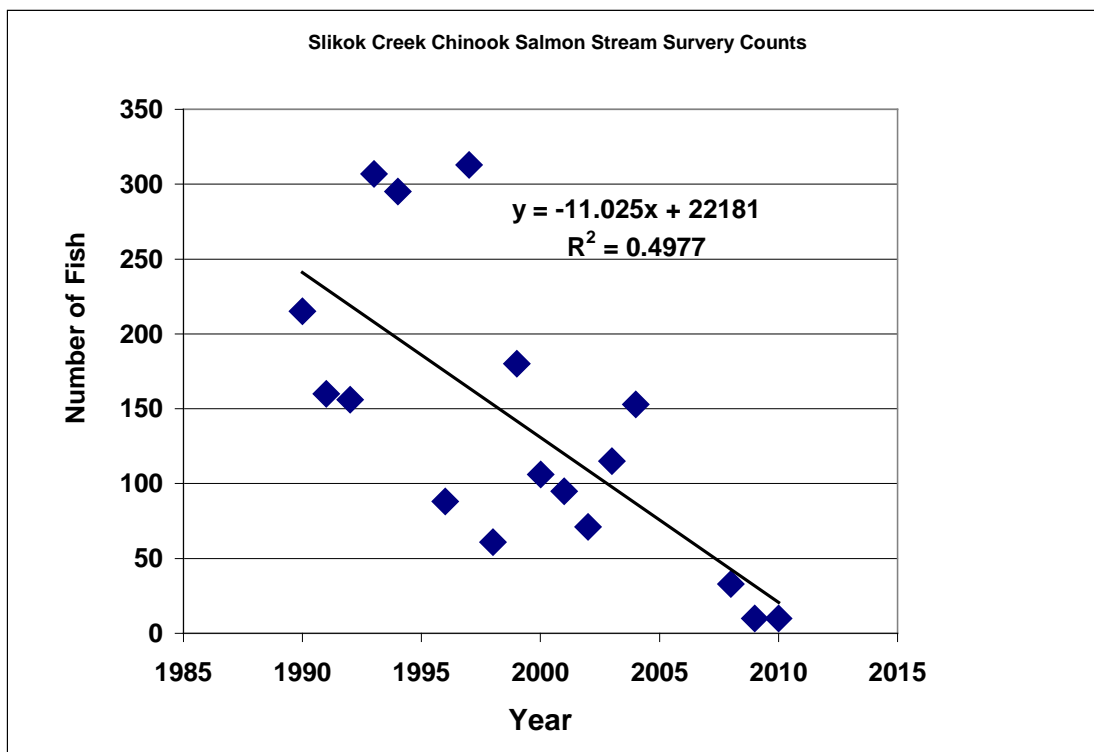
STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The Kenai River early run Chinook salmon return is composed of a number of tributary and mainstem spawners. As a result it is imperative that fish managers not only set goals for the mainstem Kenai River but monitor and assess spawner distribution to assure long term productivity is maintained.

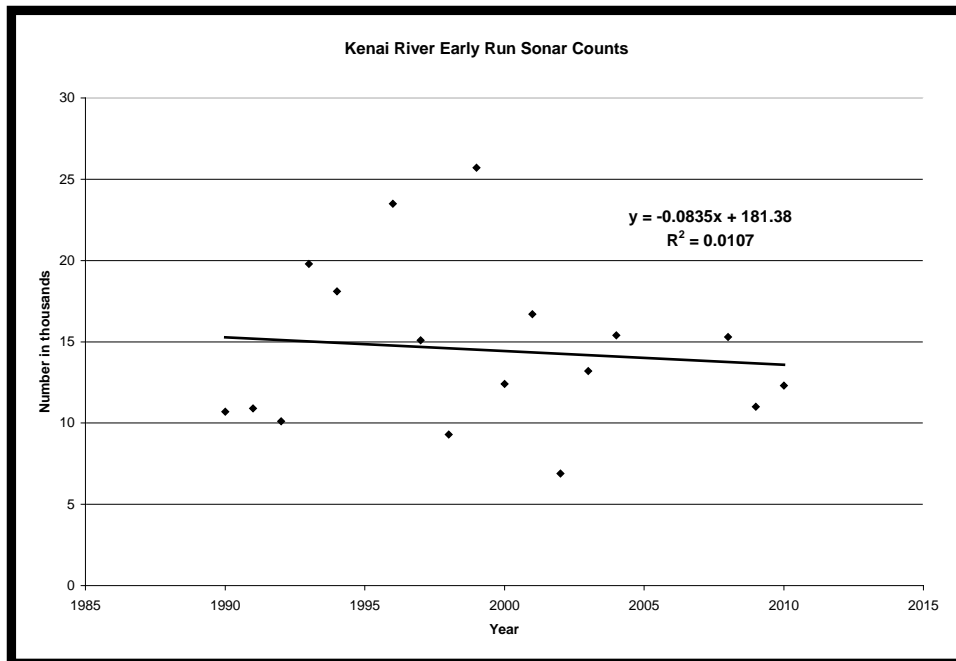
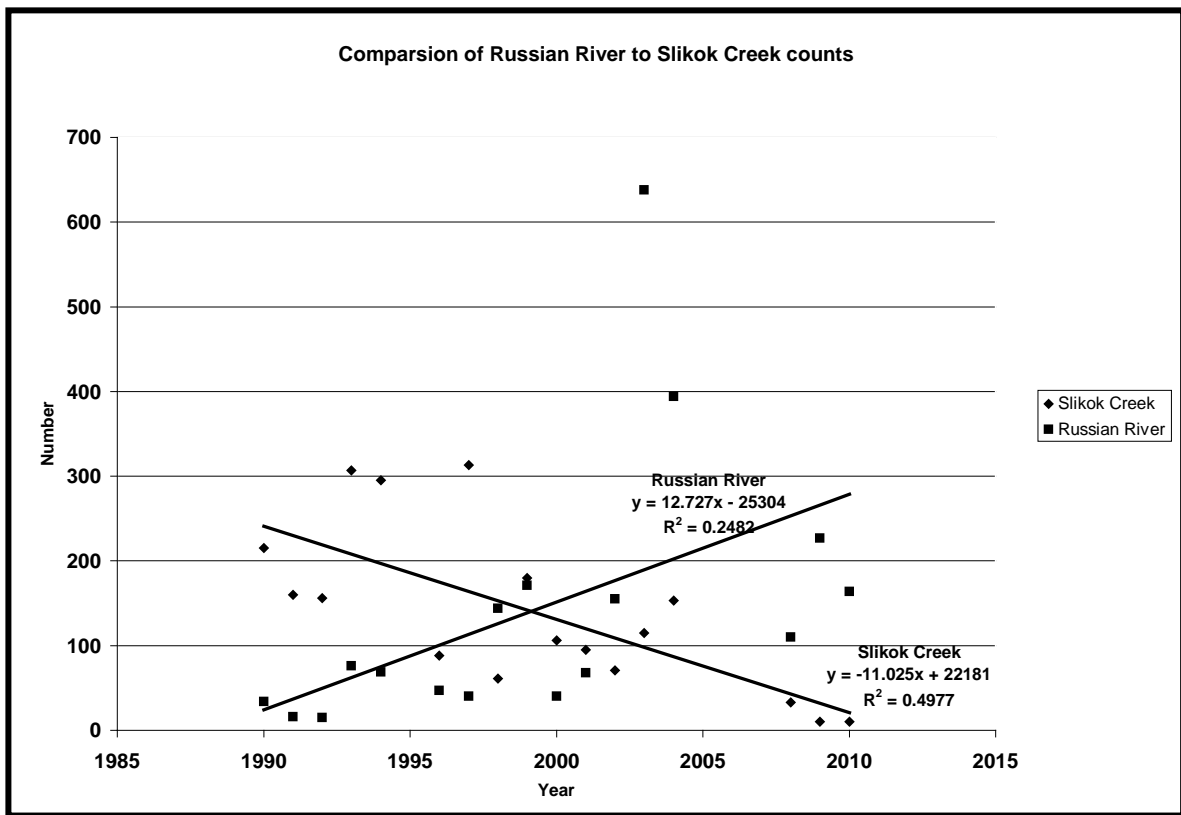
In this context a number of tributary streams that produced Kenai River early run Chinook salmon have been monitored over the last few decades to make sure that distribution of spawning Chinook salmon was meeting long-term objectives.

Unfortunately, recent counts of Chinook salmon in Slikok Creek indicated an alarming trend that threatens the long-term stability of this stock and production overall in the Kenai River.

Below is a figure that illustrates this decline and suggests this sub-stock of Chinook salmon may be eliminated if action is not taken soon.



In contrast to Slikok Creek, Russian River Chinook salmon have been increasing while Funny River has decreased but not to the level observed for Slikok Creek. Kenai River sonar counts for early run Chinook have been fairly stable and above the goal range for most years.



Quality of Data

The data used for preparations of these figures is from the ADF&G database and represents primarily peak foot surveys for Slikok Creek and weir counts for Russian River.

Foot surveys typically count only a fraction of the total return to a system. This is because fish are entering and dying over time and a peak survey only captures one point in time. It is not unusual for foot surveys to count less than half the fish in the total return. This is particularly alarming since peak counts in the Slikok Creek drainage were over 300, which would translate to escapements of 300-600 fish in the 1990's. In contrast, weir counts in the last three years are 59, 70, and 28. Of these counts females accounted for 23, 16, and 16 fish.

Straying of Crooked Creek (Kasilof River) fish has been discussed as a possible reason for inflated production in Slikok Creek. ADF&G did mark Crooked Creek Chinook salmon and tag recoveries (adjusted for tagging rates) in Slikok Creek, with the exception of one year, were a small percentage of the total counts. Even if one assumed that 30% of the fish are Crooked Creek hatchery fish the production drop is still significant and represents hundreds of fish in lost production.

OTHER BIOLOGICAL FACTORS TO CONSIDER

The run timing of Chinook salmon entering Slikok Creek is delayed relative to other early run sub-stocks. The run timing of Slikok Creek fish during 2008, 2009, and 2010 was between July 14th and August 10th. In contrast fish entering the Funny River and Killey River were 80% into the closed waters of these streams by July 15th.

Terry Bendock, a biologist for ADF&G, studied the migratory movement behavior of hooked and released Chinook salmon in the Kenai River from 1989-1991. His report noted the following:

Chinook salmon tracked to small tributaries such as Slikok, Juneau, and Quartz creeks spent a larger proportion of their stream life in the mainstem than fish utilizing the Funny and Killy rivers or Benjamin Creek. Tagged fish utilizing small tributaries expended 91% of their average stream life in the mainstem, while fish utilizing Benjamin Creek, Killey, and Funny rivers expended 58% in the mainstem... tributary spawners often milled for extended periods in the mainstem at or below their destinations confluence. This behavior was particularly evident for Funny River spawners which held along the south bank between rkm 45 to 48 (rm 28-30) and Slikok Creek spawners which held in "College Hole" below rkm 25...

In management of large river systems ADF&G has set goals near the mouth of the systems and assumes that spawner distribution is adequate in the tributaries if goals are reached. This is not an unreasonable approach to management.

However, a single goal does not replace the need to monitor spawner distribution or adjust goals or close additional waters if spawner distribution is not being achieved. While this can become impractical for some systems, in the case of Slikok Creek it is practical and prudent to adjust closed waters. The loss of a tributary stream can never be justified for maintaining a single goal approach to fisheries management.

A perched culvert has been removed and some public and staff believe that this will increase Slikok Creek spawners. However, one must realize that this culvert was not a barrier to the migration of adult salmon for decades and thus the decline cannot be attributed to this culvert.

Juvenile salmon can move upstream from the mainstem Kenai River and areas below the culvert to rear and this potentially could have a positive impact on overall Kenai River production. However, spawning salmon tend to return to their birth area not their rearing area and thus production from Slikok Creek may increase spawners in other parts of the system but not in Slikok Creek.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In summary, Slikok Creek early run Chinook salmon are threatened with extinction if action to increase spawning numbers is not implemented immediately. Three years of less than 23 females counted through a weir and the probability that not all these fish spawned makes this stock a conservation concern. In addition, longer resident time in the mainstem Kenai River sport fishery and inadequate closed waters around the stream mouth are further hindrances to recovery.

K AFC strongly recommends that the Board of Fish take additional action to protect this sub-stock and implore ADF&G to continue its weir or video counting program on Slikok Creek.



Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition
Position Paper

Proposal 246

Rationale for Additional Drift-Boat Only Day on The Kenai River

In 1999, the Alaska Board of Fisheries designated Mondays as a day on which fishing from a drift boat was permitted. Prior to that year, Mondays were closed to fishing from a boat. Although proposals that year asked for drifting on a day currently open to power boat anglers, the Board chose Monday to allow Managers to gauge the popularity of this fishery without disrupting the established guided angling industry. By not including guided anglers in the Monday fishery, the Board also partly addressed concerns about the disparity in harvest between guided and non-guided anglers. The board deliberations also touched on the need for guides to explore alternatives to the current fishery that was already causing social and environmental problems in the lower Kenai River, and talked about revisiting this issue in the future.

The social issues identified then are still at the core of angler concerns today. The Kenai River Recreation Use Study recently completed for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicates that significant majorities of users say the river is too crowded at certain times and in certain areas. The Lower River Chinook fishery in July is cited as the most contentious fishery. The source of these problems is perceived to be too many boats, lack of knowledge of boating technique, and aggressive behavior associated with attempts by anglers to fish the ‘best holes’.

The public, and resource agencies, also acknowledge that the River is facing significant habitat issues that pose a threat to long term salmon production. These issues are a result of excessive power boat traffic and uncontrolled development in the riparian corridor.

The complex issues affecting the productivity of the river requires a coordinated effort by Agencies, Governments, and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Alaska DNR is now tasked with developing strategies to address the myriad of issues identified by their study that are within their purview. The BOF also needs to recognize that they have a part in addressing issues for which they have regulatory authority.

Perhaps the most widely proposed first step to addressing some of the issues is to add another day of driftboat only fishing on the river that is open to all anglers. This idea is favored by many constituent groups. The DNR commissioned Kenai River Recreation Use Study found that “Majorities of driftboat users (80%), driftboat guides (85%), and bank anglers (55%) support additional “drift-only” days on the Lower and Middle River.

The Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition submitted proposal 246 asking for an additional day of drift only fishing. Attempts at previous BOF meetings to gain additional drift boat days have raised numerous objections. The remainder of this paper provides a brief response to those objections, and other reasons why additional drift boat only fishing is beneficial to the social and environmental health of the Kenai River.

1. **Adequacy of boat launch infrastructure.** The attached maps show the locations of public and some private launches as well as access points that are or can potentially be used as launch sites. There are many additional private launch sites throughout the river not marked.

Launch site parking issues facing Upper and Middle river anglers are currently addressed by professional drivers who deliver vehicles and trailers to pull out locations. These services evolved to meet the needs of the fishery. This same adaptation will occur in the lower river, as will services that trailer boats and transport them back to the point of origin.

2. **Adequacy of Bathroom facilities.** The attached maps show the locations of public restrooms. They are located at two to three mile intervals throughout the lower river and have temporary boat tie-ups. Most private launches that cater to customers paying per launch also provide facilities. A significant portion of guides also have river accessible business locations.

3. **Egress is limited below Eagle Rock.** There are two high volume pull out locations downstream of Eagle Rock. Downstream transportation is addressed by a K AFC companion proposal (247) to allow motor use to navigate downstream when fishing has ceased for the trip. This approach has worked well for many years in the Kasilof River fishery.

4. **Potential for anchor dragging.** Dragging of an anchor is already prohibited in the Kenai River, as is anchoring that obstructs passage in the channel. These regulations apply regardless of the type of fishery. The coho fishery, which is primarily an on-anchor fishery, is subject to the same regulations. There have been no citations for improper anchoring in the Coho or any other existing fishery on the Kenai River.

5. **Potential reduction in catch efficiency.** Efficiency of Chinook salmon fishing is related to a variety of factors, especially the use of bait. Current ADF&G data suggests little difference in efficiency between non-guided anglers in the drift boat and powerboat fisheries, leading to the conclusion that there would also be no difference in efficiency in guided angler fisheries.

6. **Participation in the late run Chinook salmon fishery will go down with an additional drift boat day.** Monday drift boat participation is currently approaching 20,000 angler days per year and has doubled in the last five years. The powerboat fishery results in about 200,000 angler hours per year during the last decade, down about 15% from the previous decade.

In terms of average angler hours per day, power boaters appear to outnumber drift fisherman about 2 to 1. However, the same numbers of non-guided anglers are fishing on the drift only days as any other day of the week. The difference in participation is due to the lack of a guided angler component. We anticipate that the growth of the guided angler drift fishery will equal that of the current non-guided angler effort.

7. **There is a cost to the guide industry in new equipment.** Approximately one third of guides currently register a drift boat with DNR.

8. **A change would discriminate against those not able to row.** All fishing methods discriminate against some fishermen. The cost of a powerboat discriminates against a large portion of the fishing public. Further, fishing from a drift boat can be conducted in a variety of ways including at anchor and drifting, both of which require very little rowing.

9. **Auto fuel increases associated with transporting.** This argument has been made without documentation of vehicle and boat fuel tradeoffs. Upper and middle river anglers currently employ professional drivers who deliver vehicles and trailers to pull out locations. These services evolved to meet the needs of the fishery. This same adaptation will occur in the lower river, as will services that trailer boats and transport them back to the point of origin.

10. **Monopolizing the fishing hole by using an anchor buoy.** This is an issue in the Coho fishery where anchor buoys are used to 'reserve' a spot when a boat unhooks to chase a hooked fish. The boat then returns to the marker buoy to resumed anchored fishing. Pulling the anchor in a drift fishery generally results in downstream displacement. Regardless, use of anchor buoy to reserve a fishing spot does not occur in other current Chinook fisheries and is presumed to be a non-issue.

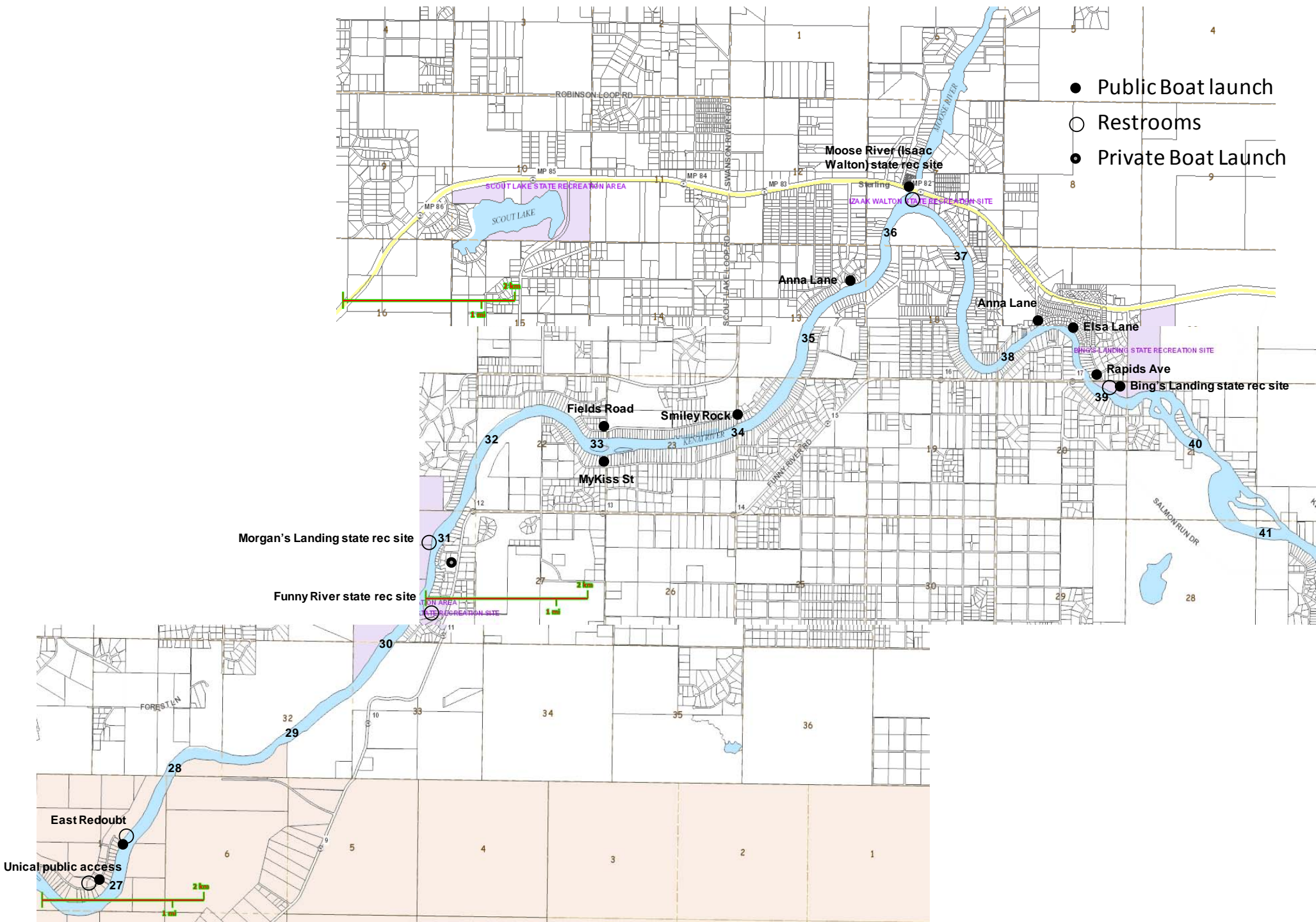
11. **Shuttling of clients to an anchored drift boat.** This does not occur in current fisheries and can be addressed by making it illegal to haul Chinook salmon in motorized shuttles that were caught in the drift only fishery.

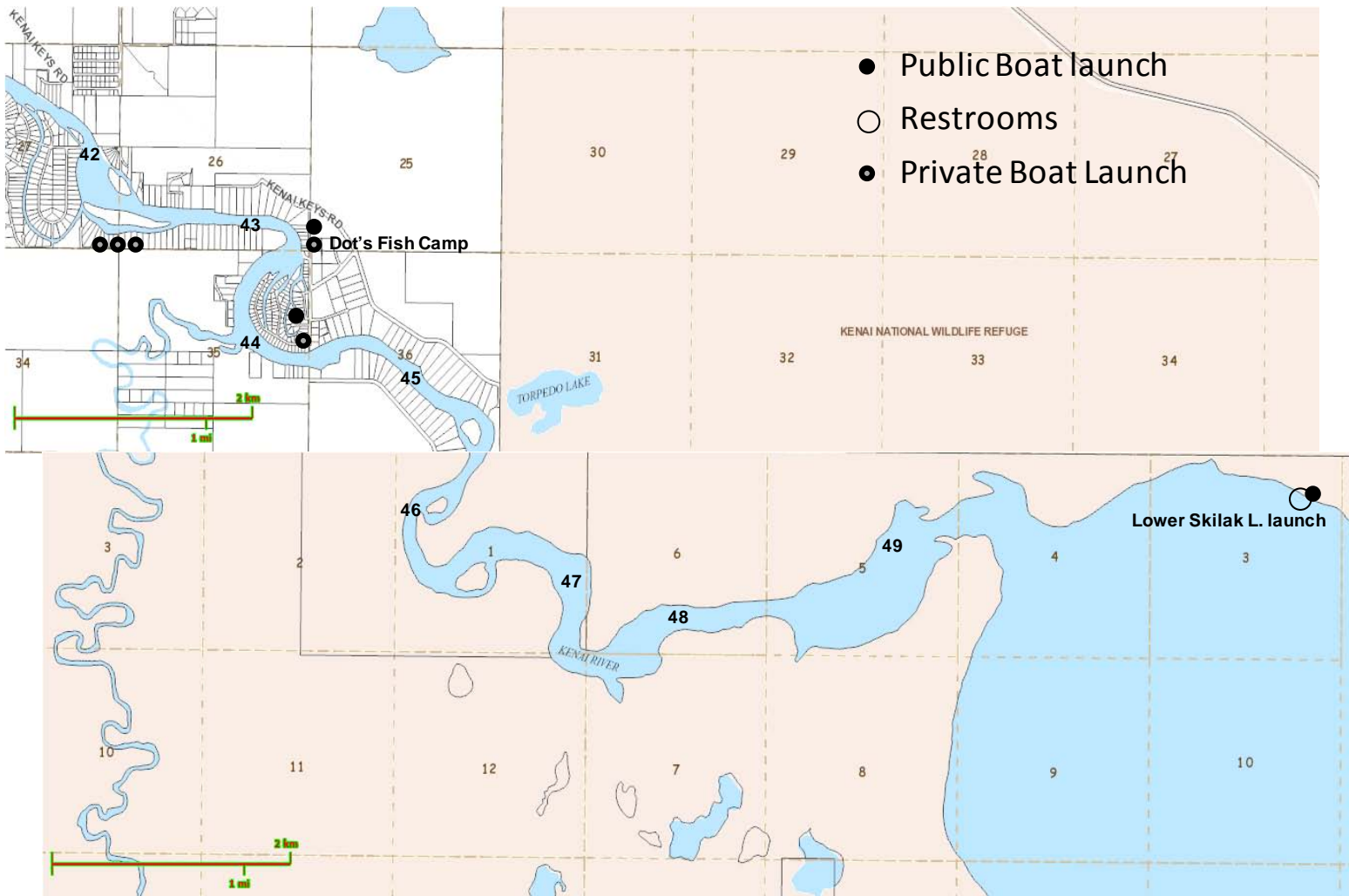
12. **The rise of hog lines.** This doesn't currently happen in the drift fishery. There is no reason to believe that this will change when guides are allowed to participate.

There are numerous positive reasons for drift only fisheries. Environmentally, the river is recovering from excessive hydrocarbon levels, but long term chronic low level consequences are unknown. Boat wakes are causing a measurable increase in erosion, and more recently are exceeding Environmental Protection Agency limits for turbidity at certain times and locations.

Drift boat anglers tout the quality of the experience without the constant roar of outboard motors, and the perception that there are fewer people on the river because of the absence of running. There is also evidence that fish behavior is altered by constant boat motor frequency and prop noise. Distribution of fish on drift only days may offer catch opportunities in areas currently avoided by fish due to disturbance.

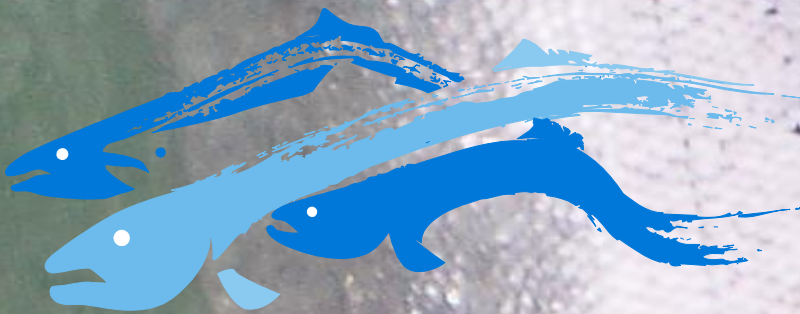
Guides will get the chance to explore new business models and attract a whole new and different group of anglers.





2011 UPPER COOK INLET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

**REPORT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF
FISHERIES**



**KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING
ASSOCIATION**

Kenai River Sportfishing Association

KRSA is a membership-based, non-profit, fishery conservation organization dedicated to preserving the greatest fishing river in the world – the Kenai – through program work in habitat protection, fisheries management, research, and angler education.

The association supports sustainable and balanced management of Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) sport, personal use, and commercial salmon fisheries based on sound science and verifiable studies. Toward this end, KRSA funds scientific research, seeks independent peer review of fishery management practices and proposals by scientific experts, and participates in public involvement processes for fish conservation and fishery regulation conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF).

| KRSA Proposals | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------|
| <u>Num.</u> | | <u>Pg.</u> |
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UCI Fishery Management Challenges

UCI salmon support the largest public (non-commercial) fishery in the state whether measured by participation, harvest or economic value. State fisheries management systems continue to grapple with the unique nature of the UCI sport, personal use and commercial salmon fisheries.

The economic values of sport and personal use salmon fisheries in UCI now greatly surpass those of the commercial salmon fisheries by every available measure. The state constitution mandates conservation of the fisheries resource and optimization of associated recreational, social and economic values. The constitutional goal of “maximum benefit” accruing from these common property resources is not nearly achieved by current salmon fishery management strategies.

The fundamental salmon fishery problem in UCI is management of commercial fisheries primarily to achieve escapement goals for strong sockeye runs in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Commercial fishery managers consider attainment of these escapement goals to be their highest priority. Incidental to sockeye management, managers also hope to:

1. achieve escapement goals for smaller sockeye stocks in the Susitna/Yentna drainage;
2. “minimize” commercial harvest of late-run Kenai kings, at least to the point that escapement goals are reached; and
3. “minimize” commercial harvest of coho to provide a harvestable surplus throughout UCI and meet escapement goals enumerated post-season in a few Knik Arm streams.

That is an awful lot to hope for. Too much, in fact, when sustained yield and so much economic value rest on consistently positive outcomes.

Chinook, coho and sockeye are all very highly valued by UCI sport and personal use fisheries. Yet, the only explicit sport fishery allocation of salmon after July 1 is the 150,000 sockeye that are “built” into the in-river sonar goal for the Kenai River. No salmon are explicitly allocated to the personal use or sport fisheries downstream of the Kenai and Kasilof sonar counters. These fisheries are the next most likely to provide a public harvest opportunity. However, harvest opportunity drops precipitously when the commercial fishery is deployed for days at a time.

All other public fisheries throughout UCI depend on highly variable levels of “incidental escapement.” As Kenai and Kasilof sockeye run sizes increase, so does the intensity of the commercial fishery. The bigger the runs, the less “incidental escapement” of everything everywhere else. During years of abundance sockeye, in-river returns of late-run kings and coho are likely less dependent on run strength than on commercial exploitation levels.

This unfortunate situation is only made worse by implicit allocation priorities for commercial fisheries in UCI management plans and plan implementation by commercial fisheries managers. Current plans direct commercial fisheries to be conducted in a manner that “minimizes” the commercial harvest of late-run Kenai River king salmon, early-run Kenai River coho salmon, and Northern District coho salmon. However, management to maximize commercial yield of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye invariably trumps management to optimize yields of all species in all fisheries. All other stocks and species and all other fisheries pay the price for keeping the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers within their respective sockeye escapement ranges.

KRSA has submitted a suite of proposals that address problems we have identified with the fisheries management of salmon in UCI. We address problems associated with strong-stock commercial sockeye management and a number of specific sport fishery issues. Additional discussion and recommendations for all fishery management and conservation concerns identified in proposals by KRSA may be found in subsequent sections of this report.

KRSA Recommendations

Early-season Management

- Maintain early season sport fishing priority for early-run Russian River sockeye and Kenai River king salmon – no directed commercial fishing on these stocks.
- Mandate that any “cost-recovery” efforts for sockeye target Kasilof sockeye, during established commercial fishing seasons, area and time.

Late-season Management

- Recognize that prioritizing the attainment of escapement goals for Kenai and Kasilof sockeye at the expense of all other UCI salmon escapement goals is both a poor fisheries management practice and shortchanges sport and personal use management objectives.
 - In 21.363 UCI Salmon Management Plan, remove section (e) in its entirety or at least remove “in-river goal” as one of the management objectives.
 - Keep the abundance tiers for Kenai River late-run sockeye – the tiers acknowledge recognition of the problem in UCI of complex, mixed stock salmon fisheries.
- Put more late-run Kenai River kings in the river by fishing the East Side Set Net (ESSN) different and / or fish less.
 - Shallow up set net gear in ESSN from 45 to 29 meshes.
 - Keep and expand “windows.”
 - Fish the Central District drift fleet independent of the ESSN in the corridor.
- Put more early-run Kenai River coho and Northern District sockeye and coho in the respective drainages and into the sport fishery.
 - Establish an effective fish passage corridor for Northern District salmon stocks in 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.
 - End the UCI commercial season Aug. 5 to allow coho to enter UCI drainages.
 - Don’t encourage expansion of the commercial fishery by targeting chum and pink salmon at the expense of coho.
 - Return to the historical sport fish harvest opportunity of three fish per day for coho throughout the season and throughout UCI.
- Leave the Personal Use fishery alone – it provides Alaskan residents with the best opportunity to harvest fish for their dinner table.

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INTRODUCTION

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) is home to some of the most difficult fishery management problems in Alaska. Conservation and allocation continue to dominate a divisive debate over management of the valuable common property resource. To the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), falls the thankless job of crafting management policies and plans to balance and optimize competing values while also protecting the fish.

Virtually every decision on UCI fishery management plans and implementation has both a biological and allocation effect. Alaska's dedication to sustainable, scientific management provides a solid biological foundation for UCI salmon fisheries. Ongoing research and evaluation programs regularly provide new scientific information that needs to be incorporated into management. However, information gaps and uncertainties still leave many questions unresolved which muddies the line between biological and allocation concerns.



Fish fight!

Sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries all currently support vital shares of the economy and social fabric of the local community. However, management practices and priorities in UCI have been historically slow to respond to changing needs and new information. Historical allocation and management was primarily driven by commercial values. More recently, regional population growth has fueled large increases in sport and personal use fisheries. Commercial fisheries have been increasingly challenged by competition as well as variable market economics.

Like the fisheries they regulate, management plans must necessarily evolve over time to adapt to changing conditions, unforeseen events, and new information. This booklet reviews background information on UCI salmon management plans, and describes proposals submitted by Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) for consideration at the upcoming BOF meeting for UCI in February, 2011. We address management plans and issues of particular concern to the sport and personal use fishery community of the Kenai region.

“Cook Inlet Board meetings are like a Muhammad Ali versus George Foreman fight. Both groups are hardened and there is not much backing down.”

Robin Samuelson, ex-Board of Fisheries member, Peninsula Clarion, July 18, 2001

Fish Runs

Chinook salmon return to large rivers and streams throughout the upper Inlet. Of course, the special nature of Kenai run is the reason for the KRSA. Kenai king numbers average about 15,000 in the early-run (May-June) and 60,000 in the late-run (July). Susitna kings are the most numerous in Cook Inlet with an average run believed to exceed 100,000 fish. Susitna kings typically return from late May to early July and include many substocks including the Talkeetna, Deshka, Parks Highway streams, and Lake Creek. Other notable UCI Chinook runs include the Kasilof, Little Susitna, and Western Inlet (Chuitna, Lewis, Theodore). Hatchery production of Chinook is relatively small and includes the Kasilof early-run and Ship Creek. Recent returns of Chinook stocks throughout the region have been substantially less than average resulting in missed escapement goals in several rivers and proposed designation of stock of concern status.

Sockeye salmon runs average about 5 million per year. Over 3 million of these are typically from the Kenai late-run. Other significant runs return to the Kasilof (1 million) and Susitna (300,000) systems. These numbers are based on historical counting methods – recent sonar and mark-recapture studies have found that significantly more sockeye are entering the Susitna and Kenai rivers than were previously estimated. Most sockeye migrate through Cook Inlet from late June through early August. Earlier runs also return to some rivers including the Russian. Some stocks, particularly the Susitna, are comprised of a diverse complex of populations that spawn in lakes, rivers, and sloughs throughout the system. Hatchery releases in UCI are currently limited to the Kenai's Hidden Lake. Historical hatchery programs have been discontinued in the Kasilof (2004) and Fish Creek (2008). Escapement goals are generally met or exceeded for Kenai and Kasilof sockeye but have not consistently been achieved in the Susitna and Fish Creek.

Coho salmon return to over 900 UCI streams with major runs in the Susitna, Kenai, Little Susitna, Swanson and Kustatan rivers. Genetic studies have shown that major runs are comprised of many subpopulations returning to different areas. Coho return to freshwater from July through late fall. Numbers and trends are difficult to estimate for coho due to their widespread distribution and protracted run timing. Annual coho harvest typically averages about 400,000 evenly split between the commercial and sport fisheries. Current escapement numbers and indices show that numbers have rebounded from lower levels observed during the late 1990s. Hatchery coho are released in several Anchorage-area streams including Ship, Campbell and Bird creeks.

Pink salmon return to streams and rivers throughout UCI with large populations in the Kenai and Susitna rivers. UCI runs are even-year dominant. Return timing is concentrated in late July and early August. No escapement goals have been established for pink salmon in UCI. Escapement is not estimated except in a few systems incidental to monitoring for other species. Fishery exploitation rates are low. Declining harvest trends over time reflect a drop in effort for pink salmon as well as other changes in Cook Inlet commercial fisheries rather than a decline in pink salmon abundance.

Chum salmon spawn returns to rivers and streams throughout UCI but predominately in western and northern portions of Cook Inlet. Return timing is mid-July through mid-August. Data on chum is poor and status is uncertain. The offshore test fishery provides some data on

annual chum numbers which have apparently fluctuated at low levels since 1990. Only a single SEG is established in Clearwater Creek and this escapement goal is often not met. Chum salmon historically supported large commercial harvests in UCI which peaked at over 1.4 million in 1982 and declined to just 100,000 chum annually over the last 10 years.

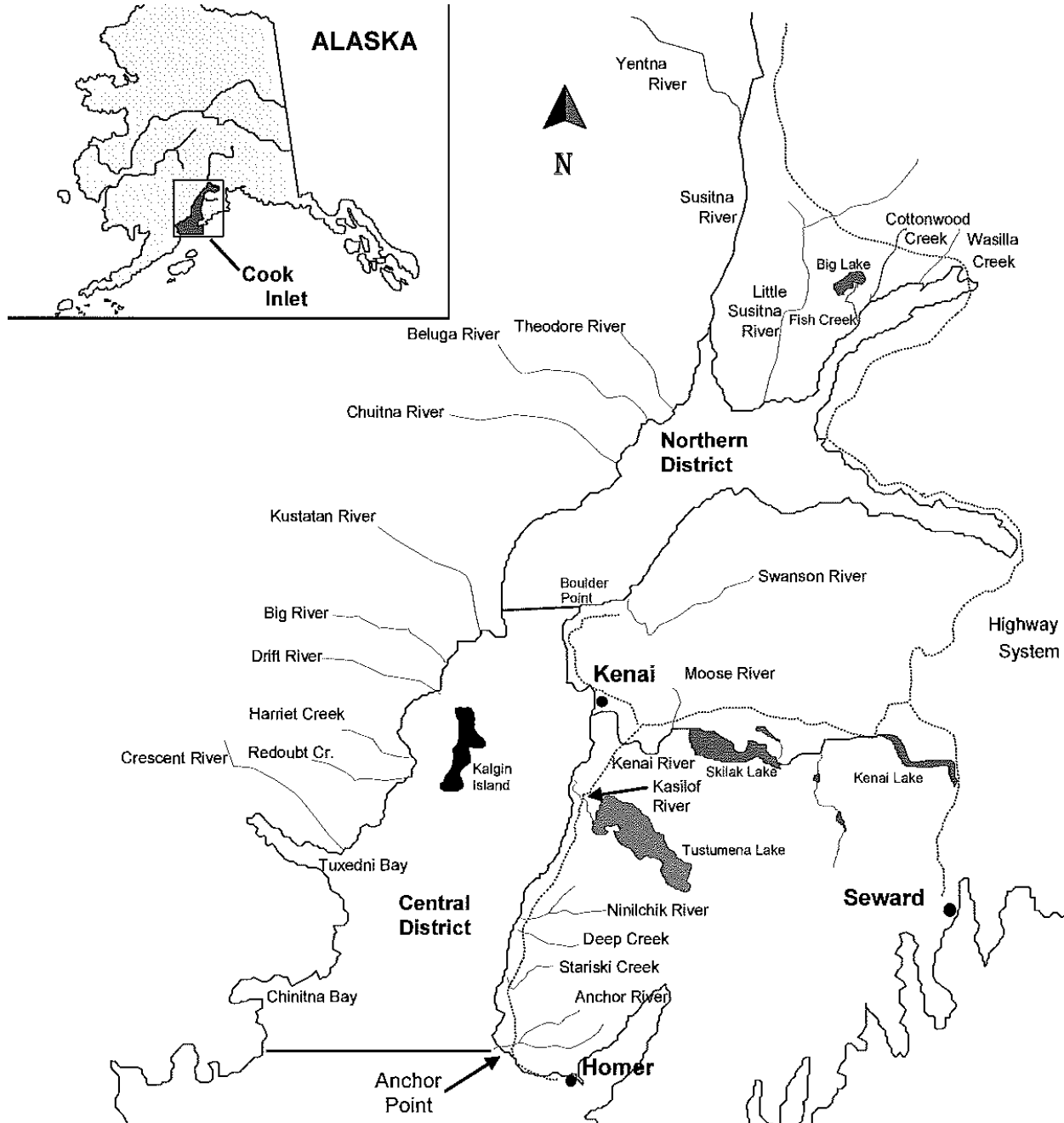


Figure 1. Map of significant Upper Cook Inlet rivers and streams (Shields 2010).

Fisheries

Sport fisheries for salmon occur in rivers and streams throughout UCI. Kings and silvers are the focus. Sport salmon fishing occurs primarily in freshwater except for a small near shore fishery for early kings along the southern Kenai Peninsula. An average of 160,000 anglers – Alaskans and visitors – fish for salmon in UCI each year. The Kenai Peninsula accounts for over



500,000 angler days per year for all fish species. Almost three quarters of resident Alaskan anglers live in the Southcentral region and these anglers concentrated 95% of their sport fishing effort in the region. More than half of all summer fishing trips in the state are in UCI. Economic values of the sport fishery have exploded with the growth of population and participation in Southcentral Alaska.

Personal Use fisheries for salmon are open to Alaska residents and occur in portions of the Kenai River, Kasilof River, Fish Creek, and the Beluga River. Fishing methods include dip nets from boat and/or bank (Kenai, Kasilof, Fish Creek, and Beluga) and set gillnets (Kasilof). Fisheries occur during June and/or July. Openings are regulated by dates (Kenai, Kasilof) or escapement (Fish). Harvest has averaged 97% sockeye with small numbers of other salmon species. Combined harvest of sockeye reached a record 457,500 in 2009. Personal use fisheries have a long and dynamic history in UCI but current fisheries were generally established in 1996. Since then popularity and participation have steadily increased. Over 20,000 permits are now issued annually with a peak effort of 37,500 angler days in 2009. The vast majority of participation in the Kenai and Kasilof personal use fisheries comes from residents of areas outside the Kenai Peninsula as other regional personal use opportunities are quite limited. The Fish Creek fishery opens only occasionally. The Beluga River fishery is very small. Additional details on the personal use fisheries may be found in this booklet under the Personal Use Fishery Management Plan section.



Figure 2. Personal use dip netters on the south bank of the Kenai River mouth in July 2005.

Commercial fisheries for UCI salmon are dominated by the Central District drift gillnet and set gillnet fisheries. A number of smaller, more localized fisheries also occur in portions of Cook Inlet including the Northern District, West side, Kustatan, and Kalgin Island. The fisheries occur from late June through early August when sockeye are present. Sockeye account for by far most (85%) of the harvest which averaged 2.9 million per year in 2000-2009 (Shields 2010). Average harvests also included approximately 200,000 silvers, 200,000 pinks, 100,000 chums and 16,000 kings per year over the same period. Commercial harvest has declined from peaks of over 10 million salmon in 1987 and 1992 and has fluctuated from about 2 to 6 million fish per year since 2000 (Figure 3).

The drift gillnet fishery is generally limited to offshore waters of the Central District where they often fish the current rips and eddies with good effect. This fishery harvests a mixed sockeye stock including fish bound for the Kenai, Kasilof, Susitna, and other areas. This fishery typically accounts for roughly half of the annual UCI commercial sockeye harvest. A majority of the commercial coho harvest occurs in the drift gillnet fishery, including a significant portion of the front end of the silver run destined for Northern District and other Cook Inlet streams. Silvers comprise an increasing proportion of the harvest after July. This fishery historically harvested large numbers of pink and chum salmon but harvests of these species have steadily declined since the 1980s.

The set gillnet fishery primarily occurs along eastside beaches off the Kenai Peninsula where it targets the large returns of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. This fishery typically accounts for about half of the annual UCI commercial sockeye harvest. A majority of the commercial king harvest occurs in the drift gillnet fishery, including primarily late-run Kenai and Kasilof fish.

A total of 570 drift gillnet permits and 738 set gillnet permits are registered in Cook Inlet as of 2009 although not all permits are fished each year. The UCI commercial fishery comprises less than 5% of the annual Alaska salmon harvest although values are clearly significant to the local region. UCI commercial ex-vessel values have averaged \$16 million per year from 2000-2009 but fluctuated between \$8 million and \$33 million. Salmon prices declined from peaks in the

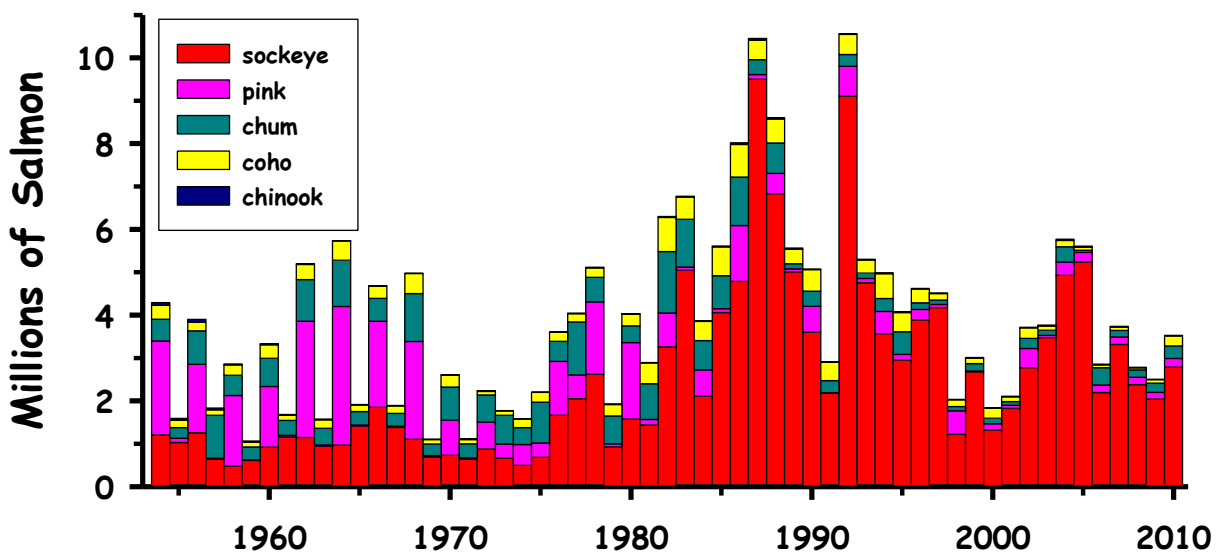


Figure 3. Trends in UCI commercial salmon harvest by species.

Management Plans

Current management in UCI under the Sustainable Fisheries Policy is instituted through a series of management plans including an overarching “Umbrella Plan” that provides general guidance and a series of “step down plans” that provide fishery or stock specific direction (Figure 4). Plans include direction for: 1) equitable allocations for sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries, 2) escapement levels designed to sustain salmon yields, and 3) fishery time, area, and gear regulations intended to meet biological and allocation goals.

The management framework for UCI salmon fisheries is most easily understood if the season is stratified into early (May and June) and late (July through September). The salmon stocks moving through Cook Inlet prior to July 1 have primarily been allocated to sport fisheries since the 1970s. Related management plans address early-run Kenai and Kasilof king salmon, northern kings, and early-run Russian River sockeye. The commercial salmon fisheries are primarily concentrated on stocks returning around or after July 1. Kenai and Kasilof sockeye dominate the commercial harvest during this time period followed in number by a mixed stock of coho salmon and late-run Kenai and Kasilof kings. Salmon numbers and harvest returning after July 1 dwarf those of the earlier period, even for the sport and personal use fisheries. A number of management plans address the July-September period (Figure 4).

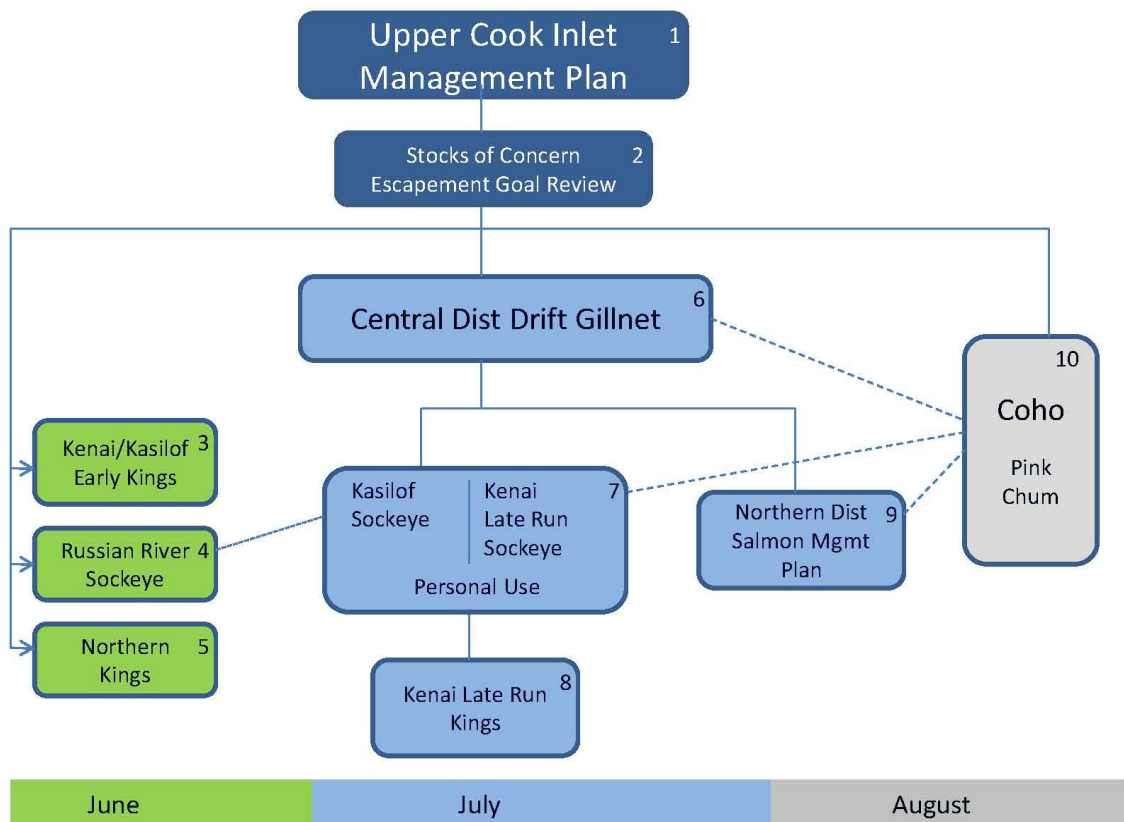


Figure 4. Organization of Upper Cook Inlet Fishery Management Plans.

Box 1. List of all Upper Cook Inlet proposals grouped under corresponding management plans.

1. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan (Umbrella Plan)

133, 157, 158, 159, 160

2. Stocks of Concern- Action Plans

3. Kenai/Kasilof Early-run Kings

210, 211, 212, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 262, 263

4. Early-run Russian River Sockeye

105, 106, 107, 109, 156, 167, 322

5. Northern District King Salmon

102, 104, 121, 142, 143, 144, 145, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 274, 279, 280, 281, 297

6. Central District Drift Gillnet

113, 114, 119, 120, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 140, 141

7a. Kenai Late-run Sockeye

128, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327

7b. Kasilof Sockeye

161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 168, 169, 170, 171, 329, 330, 331

7c. Personal Use

155, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 328

8. Kenai River Late-run King salmon

115, 116, 117, 118, 207, 208, 209, 235, 236, 237, 241, 242, 245, 246, 247

9. Northern District Salmon Management Plan

103, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 277, 278

10. Coho Pink Chum

21, 22, 23, 108, 110, 111, 112, 126, 129, 130, 140, 147, 159, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 213, 214, 260, 261, 269, 272, 273, 274, 276, 296, 321

11a. Kenai Peninsula Resident Species

215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 238, 239, 240, 243, 244

11b. Kenai River Vessel Restrictions (not on diagram)

245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253

12. Northern Cook Inlet Misc. and Pike (not on diagram)

270, 275, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 298

Competing demands on UCI fisheries have resulted in some of the most complex management plans in Alaska. Although structured to address specific fisheries or stocks, individual management plans are not stand-alone regulations. Elements are intricately interconnected such that even seemingly minor changes can have ripple effects with potentially significant biological and allocation implications. Current plans are the product of extensive policy deliberation, negotiation, and refinement, and compromise. They reflect the collective wisdom of a series of fishery boards and a generation of sport and commercial fishery managers.

Recent Management History

The UCI BOF reviews large numbers of proposals but meetings in any given cycle are typically dominated by a few key issues. This section briefly summarizes actions of recent past BOFs with significant allocation implications. Subsequent sections of this booklet on individual management plans go into more detail on specific subjects and fisheries.

1999 Board of Fisheries

- ❑ The current management plan framework for UCI was developed by this BOF which was the first to effectively represent a range of interests extending beyond commercial fishing.
- ❑ The long-standing Umbrella Plan was retooled in favor of one overarching plan and 16 drainage and/or stock specific management plans.
- ❑ Substantial changes were made to management plans that govern commercial fisheries. These changes generally reduced allocation to the commercial fishery, increased opportunity for in-river sport and personal use fisheries, and increased the size and diversity of the spawning escapements consistent with BOF intent to share allocation and move away from strong stock management.
- ❑ Significant regulatory changes included abundance-based escapement goal tiers for Kenai late-run sockeye, fishery closure windows in the East side set net fishery (ESSN), drift net fishery restrictions in July, limits on additional drift net fishing time outside the Kenai/Kasilof corridor and changes in regular commercial period dates.
- ❑ This BOF also marked an important advance in Alaska salmon management with the formal adoption in 2000 of a Statewide Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy [5 AAC 39.222]. This policy explicitly articulated the need to ensure conservation of salmon and their required marine and aquatic habitats, protection of customary and traditional uses and other uses, and the sustained health of Alaska's fishing communities.

2000 Board of Fisheries

- ❑ Special action was taken out-of-cycle to address coho conservation concerns resulting from a series of poor returns. The Kenai River coho management plan adopted in 1997 to reduce net harvest by 20% was amended with even more restrictions including August emergency order limits for the ESSN fishery, closure of the set net fishery on or before Aug 7, and reductions in sport bag and seasons.

2002 Board of Fisheries

- ❑ Refinements to the late-run Kenai sockeye plan were adopted included changes in abundance-based limitations on emergency order time, commercial window periods, sport bag regulations, and personal use fishing time.
- ❑ Increased flexibility was provided for scheduling two regular July closures of the Central District drift net fishery. Restrictions were retained to protect northern sockeye and coho.
- ❑ A new plan for Kasilof salmon was adopted reflecting its significance to the early-season commercial fishery. This plan directed early season management of the east side set net fishery including start dates, limits on emergency order time, and window closures.
- ❑ A pink salmon management plan was adopted to provide August additional drift net fishery opportunity that was eliminated by previous restrictions to protect coho.

- Regulations adopted in 2002 were subsequently challenged in Court by two commercial fishermen's associations (*Kenai Peninsula Fisherman's Assoc. & United Cook Inlet Drift Assoc. v. ADF&G, Frank Rue - Kenai Superior Court No. 3KN-02-524 - Judge Brown*). The suit sought to invalidate regulations restricting the emergency order authority over Cook Inlet sockeye salmon fishing and establishing the Kasilof River optimal escapement goal. A 2003 Court ruling upheld the BOF's regulation authority but also affirmed the commissioner's authority to issue emergency orders that contradict a BOF regulation if the commissioner has new information.

2005 Board of Fisheries

- Restrictions on the ESSN fishery, adopted at the previous BOF, were reduced, including season opening dates, fishery window lengths and EO time limitations. This increased flexibility to harvest large sockeye runs and limit escapements that might exceed goals. It effectively increased allocation to the commercial fishery and reduced opportunity of the in-river fisheries for late-run kings and sockeye.
- While window lengths in the ESSN fishery were reduced, benefits of windows were recognized by fixing one window around Friday to pass fish into the river for weekend sport and personal use opportunity.
- Drift net fishery opportunities were liberalized, rolling back coho protections adopted previously and increased interception of Susitna sockeye. It also reduced sockeye delivery to the ESSN net fishery.
- Central District commercial fisheries benefited from a rebound of coho numbers with increased fishing time. Sport opportunities for coho were not significantly expanded with the exception that the Kenai coho sport season was extended into October.

2008 Board of Fisheries

- Competing management priorities among plans were addressed by Umbrella Plan revisions to specifically recognize the commissioner's use of emergency order authority to meet established escapement objectives as the primary management objective. This action followed an analysis by a BOF subcommittee established in response to an emergency petition received by the BOF in February 2007. An issue paper prepared by the subcommittee identified a lack of guidance in how the application of the commissioner's emergency order authority should be interpreted (UCIC 2007).
- Susitna sockeye were designated as a stock of yield concern based on declining harvest in the Central and Northern District commercial fisheries and regular failures to meet Yentna escapement goals. An action plan identified current management plan elements that could be utilized to limit commercial interception of Susitna sockeye and current research projects on this stock, but did not mandate specific actions or reductions.
- Kasilof fishery windows were reduced to increase commercial harvest opportunity on continuing large sockeye runs in that system and to reduce the use of a disorderly and unpopular terminal harvest area at the river mouth.
- Harvest of coho in the drift gillnet fishery was further liberalized with the extension of the season through August 15. Coho sport regulations were slightly expanded after August. Coho fisheries in the Northern District were not expanded and were effectively reduced by the drift net fishery extension.

UCI SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (5 AAC 21.363)

Background

- ❑ This plan, commonly known as the “Umbrella Plan”, provides over-arching guidance for fishery and species specific step-down plans.
- ❑ General management considerations are identified for all UCI salmon plans, rather than specific management actions.
- ❑ Key provisions are related to: 1) maximization of beneficial uses, 2) comprehensive treatment of UCI fisheries, 3) consideration of sustainability, habitat, and user needs, 4) allocations among users, 5) historical methods and means, and 6) shared conservation burden.

History

- ❑ The Umbrella Plan was adopted in the early 1980s and provided the first significant attempt at allocation of fishery resources in Cook Inlet.
- ❑ Under growing pressure from sport and subsistence users during the 1970s, the BOF recognized the need to manage and allocate specific stocks to specific fisheries.
- ❑ In 1977, the BOF adopted a policy identifying Chinook and coho as the primary targets of sport fisheries, and sockeye, chum and pink as the primary targets of the commercial fisheries. Fishery managers were directed to “minimize” the impact of commercial species harvest on Chinook and coho runs.
- ❑ Species priorities established by the BOF in 1977 were formally adopted into the Umbrella Plan in 1986.
- ❑ With the continuing growth in complexity of fisheries and management requirements in UCI, the 1999 BOF made comprehensive revisions to the management plans. At that time, many of the specific elements of the original Umbrella Plan, including species priorities and minimization directions, were moved into the step-down plans.
- ❑ A significant revision to the Umbrella Plan was also made by the 2008 BOF to address confusion over competing management priorities among step-down plans. The question was which provisions take priority when not all can be met? The revision specifically recognized the commissioner’s use of emergency order authority to meet established escapement objectives as the primary management objective.
- ❑ The 2008 revision effectively prioritized escapement goals over other plan provisions such as windows, allocations, or time and area restrictions. This priority protects minimum escapements consistent with conservation but also elevates commercial management for sockeye MSY based on upper escapement or in-river goals over objectives for in-river opportunities consistent with optimum sustained yields of mixed species and stocks.

Issues

Current plans no longer provide clear guidance for relative priorities and management direction. Commercial priorities for sockeye, pink, and chum, and sport priorities for Chinook and coho have been established in UCI by policy and regulation since 1977. However, plan reorganization and revision over the years has gradually lost explicit direction previously contained in Umbrella Plan.

Step-down plans identify fishery priorities for some stocks but not others. For instance, the Kenai late-run sockeye plan directs that this stock shall be managed primarily for commercial uses and that commercial fisheries shall minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai kings, and Kenai River coho [5 AAC 21.360 (a)]. Similarly, the Northern District management plan identifies commercial priorities for chum, pink, and sockeye, and the sport priority for Northern District coho [5 AAC 21.358 (a)]. Significant step-down plans without clear species priorities govern the Central District drift gillnet fishery, Kasilof River salmon, and UCI personal use fishery. Significant stocks not prioritized by plans include Northern District Chinook, Kasilof late-run Chinook, and a number of coho stocks.

The lack of clear species priorities was compounded by changes to the Umbrella Plan by the 2008 BOF which prioritized established escapement goals as the primary management objective and affirmed the commissioner's use of emergency order authority to meet escapement goals at the expense of other management plan provisions. Recent fishery management practice has been to manage primarily for well-established lower and upper escapement goals for commercially valuable Kenai and Kasilof late-run sockeye. Equivalent considerations are not given to other species where escapement goals are not well established or monitored in-season (e.g. coho, Susitna sockeye, Kasilof kings).

1999-2004 Harvest Shares

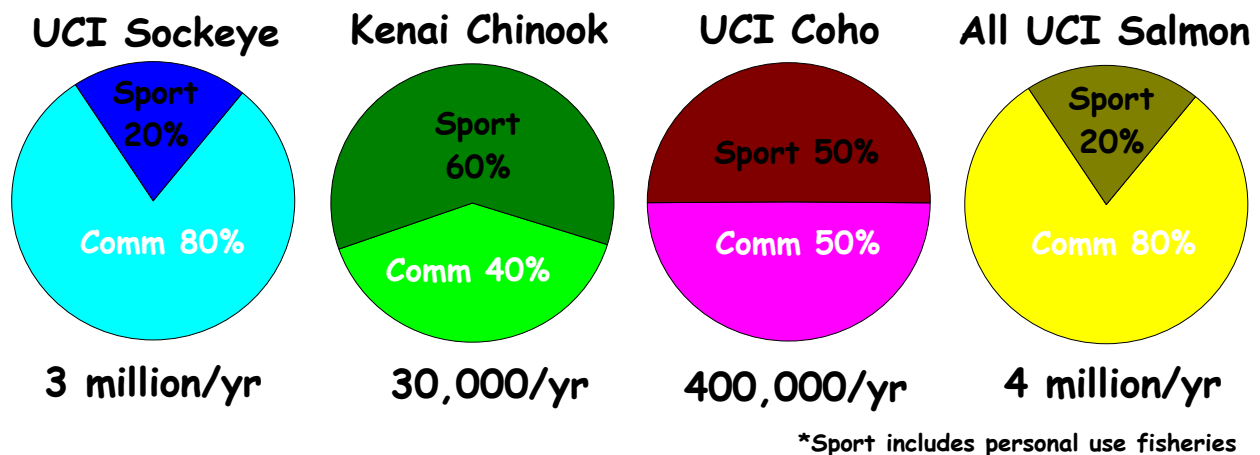


Figure 5. Recent 1999-2004 harvest shares of Upper Cook Inlet salmon among sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries as a result of current management plans.

KRSA Proposal [159]

Proposal 159, submitted by KRSA and the Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee (MSBSC), seeks to restore language in the UCI Salmon Management Plan (Umbrella Plan) that addresses primary use and provides direction to Department managers to minimize incidental harvest of non-targeted species. Regulatory language like that requested by this proposal was an important component of the UCI Salmon Management Plan when it was originally adopted in the late 1970's but was gradually repealed from the umbrella and step down plans from 1999 through 2008.

Specific revisions direct that (i) early and late-run king and coho salmon be managed primarily for sport and guided sport fishermen and (ii) all late-run Kenai, Kasilof and Northern District sockeye, chum, and pink salmon be managed 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.¹

ADFG Comments: The Department is neutral on what they deemed to be an allocative proposal but at the same time project that there would be no immediate effect on fisheries management or harvest because there is already guidance language in each of the management plans. It is exactly this kind of confusion and contradiction that this proposal seeks to address.

Other Proposals

#133 [*Susitna Valley Advisory Committee*] seeks to reestablish the language in 5 AAC 21.363 that allocates king and coho salmon primarily to sport fishery. Language of this type in the Umbrella Plan would help guide the management of fisheries and optimize economic, social and recreational benefits. **[KRSA Supports]**

#157 [*Central Peninsula Advisory Committee*] seeks to add language to 5 AAC 21.263(e) which would attempt to define the types of information required by ADFG when they consider over-riding provisions of a codified management plan. KRSA has specific issues with this provision, (e), of the Umbrella Plan as currently written and we do not see how the addition of the proposed language improves the utility of this regulation. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#158 [*James Garhart*] seeks to restrict all harvest of salmon in the fisheries of UCI until minimum escapement goals have been met. This proposal is over simplistic and not biologically or economically supportable. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#160 [*John McCombs*] seeks to repeal all reallocations since 1998 and manage UCI for a commercial fishery priority. This is an attempt to repeal such hard-fought and potentially effective conservation measures such as "windows" in the East Side Set Net (ESSN) fishery and the use of conservation zones in the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

¹ *The language in Proposal 159 establishes a framework in the Umbrella Plan comprised of time, area and species from which to build subsequent management plans.*

Annotated Plan Language

5 AAC 21.363 Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan

(a) The department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks and salmon species. Divisions within the department must receive long-term direction in order to accomplish their missions and plan management, research, administrative, and other programs. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries (board). Therefore, the board establishes the following provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks:

(1) consistent with the statutory priority for subsistence, the harvest of upper Cook Inlet salmon for customary and traditional subsistence uses will be provided for specific species in appropriate areas, seasons, and periods to satisfy subsistence needs; other beneficial uses, to the extent they are consistent with the public interest and overall benefit of the people of Alaska, will be allowed in order to maximize the benefits of these resources;

(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

This plan, commonly referred to as the "Umbrella Plan" provides overarching guidance to UCI salmon management.

Maximization of beneficial uses with consideration for subsistence. (Benefits are not defined solely in terms of maximum yield.)

Comprehensive treatment of UCI fisheries
KRSA proposals for revision are highlighted in ~~strikeout~~ language.

Sustainability habitat, and user need considerations

KRSA recommends additions to provide overarching clarification of species management priorities which may or may not have been captured in specific step-down plans.

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;

(5) in the absence of a specific management plan, it is the intent of the board that salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, according to the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries;

(6) consistent with 5 AAC 39.220(b) , it is the intent of the board that, in the absence of a specific management plan, where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall, to the extent practicable, be shared among all user groups in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern.

(b) Repealed 6/13/99.

(c) In this section "upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks" means those salmon that move through the Northern and Central Districts as defined in 5 AAC 21.200(a) and (b) and spawn in waters draining into those districts.

(d) Repealed 6/11/2005.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it is the intent of the board that, while in most circumstances the department will adhere to the management plans in this chapter, no provision within a specific management plan is intended to limit the commissioner's use of emergency order authority under AS 16.05.060 to achieve established escapement goals for the management plans as the primary management objective. For the purpose of this subsection, "escapement goals" includes inriver goal, biological escapement goal, sustainable escapement goal, and optimal escapement goal as defined in 5 AAC 39.222.

Allocation among and within user groups

Recognizes the importance of historical fisheries unless otherwise directed.

Equal sharing of conservation burden involves actions that will limit or reduce effect of all fisheries.

This section was revised by the 2008 BOF to explicitly elevate the escapement goal priorities over other step-down plan provisions (such as fishery windows). This would include both minimum and maximum goals. Step-down plans also provide some guidance for specific priorities where goals might conflict.

KENAI RIVER & KASILOF RIVER EARLY-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (5 AAC 57.160)

Background

- ❑ Early-run kings enter the Kenai and Kasilof rivers from late April through June. The Kenai early-run spawns primarily in lower basin tributaries including the Funny and Killey rivers. Early-run Kasilof kings include hatchery and wild fish destined for Crooked Creek.
- ❑ Most early-run kings pass prior to the beginning of Central District commercial fisheries although some are harvested in the Kasilof area set net fishery in late June.
- ❑ Escapement goals of Kenai early-run kings have been exceeded in five consecutive years since 2005. The 2010 data were not yet available when this booklet was completed.
- ❑ Annual angler effort for the Kenai early-run peaked in the late 1980s at 200,000 trips but has since declined to about 70,000 or fewer trips per year since 2000, primarily due to increased regulation. Of course effort was much low during poor run years in 2002 and 2010.
- ❑ From the late 1980s to present, average Kenai early-run king harvest has decreased from over 13,000 to about 3,000 fish per year and average exploitation rate has decreased from over 50% to around 20%, according to sonar-based estimates of run size.
- ❑ Over time numbers and proportions of large Kenai early-run kings have generally declined and small fish have increased. Variable ocean conditions account for much of this pattern but the potential long-term genetic effects of angler selection for large kings is also a concern.
- ❑ Significant questions regarding the accuracy of sonar estimates of the Kenai king early-run have been acknowledged by the Department in recent years. In response, the Department is proposing to...

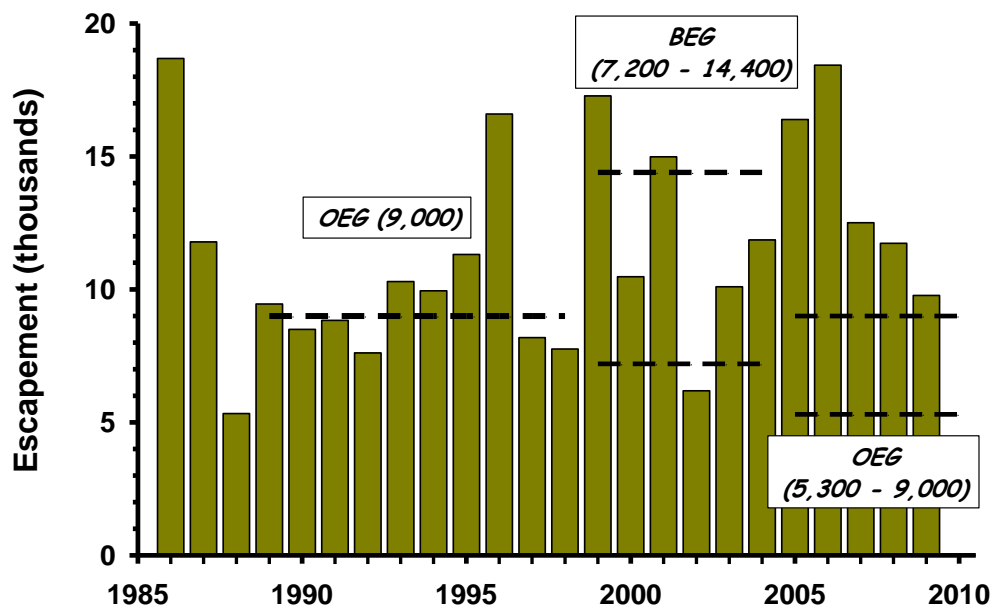


Figure 6. Escapement of Kenai River early-run king salmon compared to the current OEG, 1986-2007.

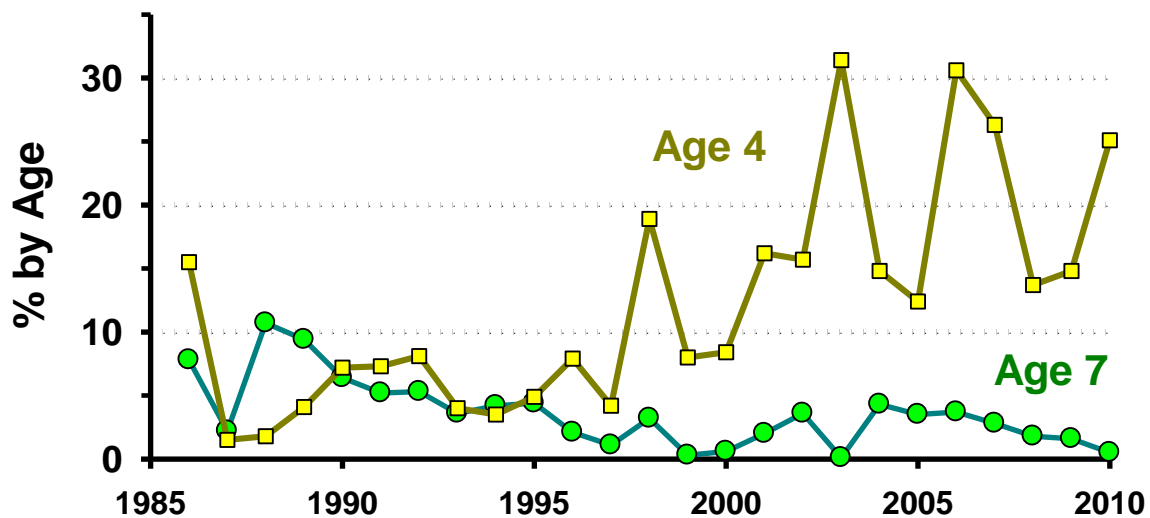


Figure 7. Percentages of age-7 and age-4 early-run king salmon in the Kenai River.

History

- This management plan was first adopted in 1988 in response to concern for increasing harvest trend of this run. The original plan and associated regulations defined the early-run as prior to July 1, established minimum and optimum escapement goals of 5,300 and 9,000, prohibited the use of bait until the optimum escapement goal could be projected, and included a series of guide and day restrictions (Gamblin et al. 2002; McKinley et al. 2002).
- Various revisions to the original plan have been made over time with significant recent changes listed below.
- In 1999 a BEG of 7,200 – 14,400 was established based on new data.
- In 2003, the BOF adopted a slot limit for the sport fishery in response to data indicating a decline in the number of large kings.² Only king salmon less than 44 inches or 55 inches or greater in length in times and places where early-run kings are prevalent. The lower size regulation was subsequently changed to 46 inches in 2008 to reduce selection for females in the 44-46 inch range. [5 AAC 57.120]
- In 2005, the BOF adopted an OEG of 5,300 to 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings. This was a precautionary response to the Department’s proposal to reduce the BEG from 7,200-14,400 to 4,000-9,000 based on recent stock-recruitment data.
- In 2005, three sanctuary areas near the confluences of spawning tributaries are closed to sport fishing during the early-run time frame to protect fish staging in the main stem. Sanctuary protections were expanded in 2008. [5 AAC 57.121]
- In 2008, the BOF allowed fish under 28 inches to be retained without counting toward the annual bag limit but required anglers to cease fishing for the day after retention.
- Sanctuary protections were expanded in 2008.

² A slot limit was originally adopted at the 2002 BOF but was rescinded before implementation due to public discontent and assertions that there was insufficient public input on the changes (McKinley et al. 2002).

Issues

The current approach management for early-run Kenai kings has resulted in chronic confusion and 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.

A BEG was established by the Department based on sonar counts and used by the BOF as the basis for the precautionary OEG. The Department has now proposed to change the BEG to an SEG due to uncertainty in the accuracy of the sonar. However, an updated 2010 stock assessment concluded that the current goals are consistent with maximum sustained yield (McKinley and Fleischman 2010).

It is inconsistent to define management standards based on a sonar-based escapement goal while at that same time qualifying use of sonar counts for in-season management. 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 incidence of precipitating in-season restrictions under the current escapement goals. In some years, counts are used as a basis to EO bait. However in 2009, bait was not EO'd despite counts that indicated that the minimum escapement goal would be met and then exceeded. In 2010, sonar counts were reported to be significant overestimates of actual numbers and low estimates contributed to an early and economically devastating closure of the fishery.

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. Increasing exploitation rates on small fish is another way to attack this problem. It is inconsistent to continue to support the slot limit due to reduce selectivity for large kings while also opposing substantive measures to reduce selectivity against small kings.

An unintended consequence of early-run bait and slot limit restrictions has been to discourage angler participation and effort in June, and to push effort into the late-run fishery as anglers continue to seek opportunities to catch and retain the large kings for which the Kenai is famous. This has substantially exacerbated crowding and use issues during July.

KRSA Proposal [230]

KRSA proposes to open all aspects of early-run management for review by the BOF. KRSA is disappointed with many aspects of the early-run plan and the way the plan has been implemented by the Department. The sport fishery for early-run king salmon in the Kenai River has long been one of Alaska's premier recreational fisheries. Its popularity with both resident and non-resident anglers has contributed substantial recreational, social, and economic value to the local communities of the Kenai Peninsula and the State.

We are committed to both the continued health of the salmon resource and to the re-establishment of the popularity of this important fishery. We are seeking a careful balance of the need for conservation with optimizing fishing opportunity that can be offered in a sustainable manner. Estimates of total return over the past decade indicate a generally healthy population of early-run king salmon. Last season's low abundance will influence the discussion of this management plan but a sound management plan will be implementable during years of both low and high abundance.

Proposal 230 was submitted, as a vehicle for discussion, asking for a thorough review of all aspects related to this fishery with the hope of arriving at a regulatory structure designed to achieve the above stated goals consistent with current information. The full range of issues includes:

1. Fisheries Science issues that describe sustained yield.
2. Technology issues including all tools and programs that provide estimates.
3. Interpretation and implementation issues related to the existing management plan.
4. Human dimension issues related to angler desires.

A comprehensive review will include consideration of the following alternatives:

- A. Continuation, modification or elimination of the slot limit based on an assessment of benefits and unintended effects.
- B. 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").
- C. 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).

Timely action is needed to address current management problems. Actions may be taken based on the best information currently available. Postponing revision of the plan until results of current research are completed in 3-5 years will unnecessarily extend current confusion. Future fisheries can be managed adaptively based on new information as it is available.

ADFG Comments: *The Department is neutral on this proposal and is supportive of reviewing management plans during regular cycle Board meetings.*

Other Proposals

#210 [*Kenai River Professional Guide Association*] seeks to remove day restrictions in May for guides on the Kenai River. The issue should be considered as part of the overall regulation package in proposal 230. KRSA would not support if entering the season with less than normal regulation package and if there is potential for the harvest added by this proposal to affect June management. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#211 [*Kenai River Professional Guide Association*] seeks to add Sunday as a guide day in May. Put into review with king process. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#212 [*Scott Eggemeyer*] Same as Proposal 211.

Proposals 224, 225, 226, 227 and 228 all seek to relax or repeal restriction on time, area, and methods and means in the middle Kenai River during the king salmon season. Although KRSA is supportive of a complete review of all aspects of management of the early-run of king salmon on the Kenai River, the organization does not support changes that will increase harvest of early-run king salmon in the middle river.

#224 [*Ted Wellman*] seeks to reduce the period of time during which fly-fishing-only is mandated at the mouth of the Killey River to allow fishing with other forms of gear from July 16 through July 31. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#225 [*Ted Wellman*] seeks to reduce closed waters at the mouth of the Killey River by allowing fishing for king salmon from July 16 through July 31. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#226 [*Kenai River Keys Property Owners Association*] seeks to reduce closed waters at the mouth of the Killey River by moving the lower boundary of the sanctuary upstream by approximately 400 yards. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#227 [*Steve Irvine, Dot's Kenai River Fish Camp*] seeks to repeal the seasonal restriction to fishing from a boat at the confluence of the Moose and Kenai rivers. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#228 [*James K. Johnson*] seeks to repeal the seasonal restriction to fishing from a boat at the confluence of the Moose and Kenai rivers. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#229 [*Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition*] seeks to increase closed waters at the mouth of Slikok Creek. KRSA recognizes that estimates of escapement of early-run king salmon in Slikok Creek have been historically low over the most recent cycle. KRSA takes the position that the present closed area in the Kenai River adjacent to the mouth of Slikok Creek is the result of many years' worth of BOF negotiations and represents an appropriate trade-off between conservation of fish bound for Slikok Creek and fishing opportunity for both early and late-run king salmon in the Kenai River. **[KRSA Opposes]**

Proposals 231, 232, 233 and 234 all seek to make specific changes that should be part of the discussion we encourage by submitting Proposal 230.

#231 [*Mark Glassmaker*] seeks to increase the escapement goal for early-run king salmon in the Kenai River by reestablishing the goal of 7,200-14,500 which was in place prior to 2005. KRSA supports an evaluation of the escapement objective for early-run king salmon on the Kenai River in light of additional years' data and uncertainty in the sonar estimates but we are not ready to support a specific number. **[KRSA supports concept, not specific number]**

#232 [Mel Erickson] seeks to allow the use of bait when fishing for early-run king salmon in the Kenai River during the time period May 1 through June 1. KRSA supports allowing the use of bait in this fishery at any time that the escapements are projected to be achieved. KRSA supports allowing or disallowing bait as an important management tool but KRSA is not ready to support allowing bait in May without assurance that more harvest efficiency in May will not result in additional restriction during June. **[KRSA supports discussion of tool]**

#233 [Andy Szczesny] seeks to repeal the slot limit for early-run king salmon on the Kenai River. KRSA supports an in depth discussion of the utility of the slot limit and the science that is being used to support continuation of this management practice. Specifically KRSA is interested in being assured by the science that the slot limit is highly likely to result in specific improvements in size composition of future returns and is not simply “feel good” management unsupported by the science. **[KRSA supports discussion of tool]**

#234 [Mel Erickson] seeks to repeal the slot limit for early-run king salmon on the Kenai River. See proposal 233. **[KRSA supports discussion of tool]**

#256 [Scott Eggemeyer] seeks to allow an individual who is fishing for king salmon from a boat near the “People’s Hole” on the Kasilof River to anchor their boat within one oar length of the shore across from the mouth of Crooked Creek only while landing a king salmon. KRSA is aware of the long-standing discussion around this issue. KRSA supports the concept of this proposal and suggest that the individual who is landing the fish be required to step out of the boat and land the fish from the bank. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#257 [Greg Brush] seeks to expand the area open to fishing from a motor boat on the Kasilof River. Although this proposal has merit as a partial remedy for safety concerns voiced by boaters in this area, if adopted the proposal would expand the area and KRSA is opposed for this reason. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#258 [ADFG] seeks to rename the boundary marker for seasonal motor use on the lower Kasilof River. KRSA supports this largely housekeeping proposal but as an organization we continue to support development of an adequate boat launching facility in this area. **[KRSA Supports]**

#259 [Kenai Soldotna Advisory Committee] seeks to reduce the bag limit for king salmon on the Kasilof River. The majority of fish harvested in the area addressed by this proposal are hatchery produced. KRSA support full utilization of hatchery fish. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#262 [Kenai River Professional Guide Association] seeks to allow sport fishing guides to take more than one group of client fishermen per day when fishing for king salmon on the Kasilof River in May and June. KRSA supports full utilization of hatchery fish and optimization of the economic value of a fishery supported by hatchery fish. If the harvestable surplus is adequate to support additional trips by guided anglers then the BOF should allow full utilization. **[KRSA Supports]**

#263 [Robert Achia, Tom Ferguson & Mike Zwack] seeks to reduce the time during which guided anglers can fish on the Kasilof River. See comments on proposal 262. **[KRSA Opposes]**

Annotated Plan Language

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| <p>5 AAC 57.160 Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan</p> <p>(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of early-run king salmon into the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, to conserve the unique large size early-run king salmon in the Kenai River, and to provide the department with management guidelines.</p> <p>(b) The department shall manage the Kenai River early-run king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the optimal escapement goal, to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run, and to ensure the age and size composition of the harvest closely approximates the age and size composition of the run.</p> <p>(c) The department shall manage the Kasilof River early-run king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal, to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run while ensuring adequate escapement of naturally-produced king salmon, and to minimize the effects of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the Kasilof River.</p> <p>(d) In the Kenai River,</p> <p>(1) the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in out in 5 AAC 57.120 - 5 AAC 57.123 and in (4) of this subsection;</p> <p>(2) if the spawning escapement is projected to be less than the lower the end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, restrict as necessary the taking of king salmon in the sport and guided sport fisheries in the Kenai River to achieve the optimal escapement goal using one of the following methods:</p> <p>(A) prohibit the retention of king salmon less than 55 inches in length, except king salmon less than 20 inches in length, downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake through June 30, and require that upstream from the Soldotna Bridge to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, from July 1 through July 14, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used and only king salmon less than</p> <p>(i) 46 inches in length and 55 inches or greater in length may be retained; or</p> <p>(ii) 20 inches in length and 55 inches or greater in length may be retained; or</p> | <p><i>This management plan primarily concerns Kenai kings. Regulations for Kasilof kings and many of the Kenai king regulations are found in other under special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits set [5 AAC 57.120 - 5 AAC 57.123].</i></p> <p><u>Escapement goal management</u> <i>Current OEG is 5,300 to 9,000 as measured in sonar equivalents.</i></p> <p><i>Highlights age & size selectivity concern</i></p> <p><i>SEG is 650-1,700 naturally produced fish to the spawning grounds above the Crooked Creek weir</i></p> <p><u>Kenai general provisions</u></p> <p><u>Restriction options</u></p> <p><i>One option is a trophy fishing provision</i></p> |
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| <p>(B) close the sport and guided sport fisheries to the taking of king salmon in the Kenai River</p> <p>(i) downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake through June 30; and</p> <p>(ii) from July 1 through July 14, upstream from the Soldotna Bridge to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge;</p> <p>(3) if the spawning escapement is projected to fall within the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, liberalize the sport fishery downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake, by allowing the use of bait if the department projects that the total harvest under a liberalized sport fishery will not reduce the spawning escapement below the optimal escapement goal; only king salmon less than 46 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length may be retained;</p> <p>(4) a person may not possess, transport, or export from this state, a king salmon 55 inches or greater in length taken from the Kenai River from January 1 through July 31, unless the fish has been sealed by an authorized representative of the department within three days after the taking; the person taking the fish must sign the sealing certificate at the time of sealing; the seal must remain on the fish until the preservation or taxidermy process has commenced; a person may not falsify any information required on the sealing certificate; in this paragraph,</p> <p>(A) "sealing" means the placement of an official marker or locking tag (seal) by an authorized representative of the department on a fish and may include</p> <p>(i) collecting and recording biological information concerning the conditions under which the fish was taken;</p> <p>(ii) measuring the specimen submitted for sealing; and</p> <p>(iii) retaining specific portions of the fish for biological information, including scales, fin rays, and vertebrae;</p> <p>(B) "sealing certificate" means a form used by the department for recording information when sealing a fish.</p> <p>(e) In the Kasilof River, the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 56.120(a) and 5 AAC 56.122(8) .</p> | <p><i>A second option is closure to all retention</i></p> <p><u>Provision for bait</u> <i>Allowed when in-season projections estimate OEG will be achieved</i></p> <p><u>Sealing requirement</u> <i>This regulation allows for the Department to inspect any very large fish that may be harvested.</i> <i>Few fish of this size are typically seen per year.</i></p> <p><u>Kasilof general provisions</u></p> |
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RUSSIAN RIVER SOCKEYE MANAGEMENT PLAN (5 AAC 57.150)

Proposals

KRSA has submitted no proposals for revision of this plan. Commercial fishery advocates have offered a variety of proposals requesting a directed commercial fishery on early-run sockeye bound back for the Russian River. Any commercial effort focused on early-run Russian River sockeye will also harvest early-run Kenai River king salmon. In addition, harvest of early-run Russian River sockeye in cost recovery fisheries like those conducted during June in 2010 is simply not a defensible use of what has long been a sport-priority stock. KRSA will oppose all efforts by commercial fishing interest to direct a commercial or cost-recovery fishery on early-run Russian River sockeye.

#105 [*Gary Hollier*] seeks to allow commercial set-net fishing to occur north of the Blanchard line beginning June 25. The author supports his proposal by focusing on the opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon bound back to the Kasilof River, but KRSA cannot support this proposal because fishing this area during the time proposed will result in the commercial harvest of early-run king salmon bound for the Kenai River and early-run sockeye salmon bound back for the Russian River. Additionally, the upper end of the Kasilof River BEG range has been expanded from 250,000 to 340,000 sockeye. When viewed in terms of the new BEG range of 160,000 to 340,000 for Kasilof River sockeye, the upper end of the escapement goal has been exceeded twice in the past ten years, since the 244-32 stat area was not open to commercial fishing through July 8 to conserve early-run Kenai River Chinook and early-run Russian River sockeye. The need of having to open up the Kasilof River Terminal Harvest Area is also reduced. For comparison statewide, the upper end of sockeye escapement goals are exceeded approximately 50 percent of the time on an annual basis. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#106 [*Sarah Pellegram*] seeks to allow commercial set-net fishing to occur north of the Blanchard line beginning June 25. See comments for Proposal 105. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#107 [*Sarah Pellegram*] seeks to allow commercial set-net fishing to occur north of the Blanchard line June 25 through July 8 only when justified by fishing for sockeye salmon bound back to the Kasilof River. See comments for proposal 105. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#109 [*Pat Zurfluh*] seeks to allow commercial set-net fishing to occur north of the Blanchard line beginning June 25. See comments for proposal 105. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#156 [*South K-Beach Independent Fishermen*] seeks to allow a directed commercial fishery on early-run Russian River sockeye. Interestingly the proposers justify this request in part by speculating that up to 10,000 sockeye bound back to the Russian River are already being harvested in the cost recovery fishery that made the news so prominently this past June. Early-run sockeye bound back to the Russian River support one of the most important sport fisheries in Alaska and should be managed so that as few as possible are harvested incidentally in the commercial fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#167 [*Concerned North Kalifornsky Beach Fishermen*] seeks to allow commercial set-net fishing to occur north of the Blanchard line beginning June 25 only when fishing during regular and extra periods justified by abundance of sockeye salmon bound for the Kasilof River. See comments for proposal 105. **[KRSA Opposes]**

N. DISTRICT KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (5 AAC 21.366)

Proposals

KRSA has submitted no proposals for revision of this plan but is supportive of a number of proposals and concepts submitted by others. Additional information on the background, history and issues associated with this plan may be found in BOF information package submitted by the Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee.

#102 [*Tyonek Advisory Committee*] seeks to put in place set net gear regulations. KRSA opposes use of 8 ½ inch mesh and instead would recommend 6 inch mesh (current sockeye gear), supports use of 10 fathoms, and supports 29 mesh depth. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#104 [*Tyonek Advisory Committee*] seeks to create a conservation corridor in the Central District of UCI designed to allow Northern District king salmon to pass through. Further review of this proposal is necessary. The proposal does not contain dates that would affect only early-run fish such as king salmon. This proposal may be best grouped with those addressing the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery. **[KRSA Supports Discussion]**

#121 [*Bruce Knowles*] seeks to increase closed waters around the mouths of the Theodore, Lewis and Chuitna rivers. Proposal 143 also addresses this issue. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#142 [*Andy Couch*] addresses many of the same issues as proposal 143 in much the same manner. KRSA is generally supportive of Mr. Couch's proposal but would recommend that the BOF choose proposal 143 as the most efficient vehicle to facilitate this discussion. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#143 [*Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee*] seeks to have the BOF adopt numerous regulations aimed at the conservation and allocation of Northern District King Salmon. Since the management of Northern District King Salmon is actually the aggregate of management of numerous discrete subpopulations - some large, some small in number, some road accessible, some not - KRSA endorses the effort set forth by this proposal. **[KRSA Supports]**

#144 [*Bruce Knowles*] seeks the creation of a management plan that would take into consideration the king salmon fisheries in many of the tributary streams of the Susitna drainage. KRSA believes that a discussion of this issue has value and that the Department's sport fish managers in Palmer have done a very good job of managing in the absence of a codified plan in recent years. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#145 [*Northern District Setnetters Association*] seeks to require the department to conduct stock assessment of early-run king salmon in the marine waters of southern Cook Inlet (Deep Creek). The BOF has no authority to mandate program elements to the department. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#264 [*Stephan Warta*] seeks to increase the area open to fishing for king salmon on the Kashwitna River. The boundary of the areas open to fishing for king salmon along the east side of the Susitna River is somewhat confusing and inconsistent. This is a result of some areas being delineated by the Parks Highway and others being delineated by a distance from the railroad.

Seeking consistency has merit but we question whether an expansion during times of low abundance is wise. See also comments for proposal 143. [\[KRSA Supports Discussion\]](#)

#265 [*Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee*] seeks to align the areas open to fishing for salmon other than king salmon and open to fishing for king salmon in Willow Creek. The boundary of the areas open to fishing for king salmon along the east side of the Susitna River is somewhat confusing and inconsistent. This is a result of some areas being delineated by the Parks Highway and others being delineated by a distance from the railroad. Seeking consistency has merit but we question whether an expansion during times of low abundance is wise. See comments for proposal 143. [\[KRSA Supports Discussion\]](#)

#266 [*Mark Chryson*] seeks to prohibit fishing from a boat at the confluence of Willow Creek and the Susitna River. This proposal seems to address allocation of the opportunity to participate not conservation of the resource. We are generally not in support of proposals that reduce the diversity of opportunity. See also comments for proposal 143. [\[KRSA Opposes in concept, supports discussion\]](#)

#267 [*Jason Rockvam*] seeks to create a suite of restrictions governing the use of boats at Lake Creek. Mr. Rockvam's proposal speaks broadly to the use of boats, not specifically to the use of boats when fishing. This proposal seems to address allocation of the opportunity to participate not conservation of the resource. We are generally not in support of proposals that reduce the diversity of opportunity. It is not likely that the BOF has the authority to take action on all of the remedies sought by this proposal. See also comments on proposal 143. [\[KRSA Opposes\]](#)

#268 [*group of individuals*] seeks to prohibit an individual from fishing for king salmon within a one-mile radius of the confluence of the Talachulitna and Skwentna rivers for the remainder of the day after an individual retains a king salmon within this area. This proposal has merit both as a tool to reduce harvest at a time of low abundance and spread the opportunity to harvest among more participants. This restriction is similar to one adopted for the Kenai River. See also comments on proposal 143. [\[KRSA Supports Discussion\]](#)

#270 [*Steve Runyan*] seeks to restrict harvest of king salmon bound back to Alexander Creek by sport, commercial and subsistence fisheries. Alexander Creek has been identified as a stock of concern. KRSA supports restricting harvest opportunity in cases like this. We urge the BOF to take into consideration restrictions as part of a comprehensive management plan that give the Department the flexibility to either become more restrictive if necessary or relax the restrictions by Emergency Order if stock status rebounds. Too often restrictions are adopted as regulations and then remain on the books even after the abundance returns to more normal levels thereby reducing opportunity or leading to cases of reallocation. See also comments on proposal 143. Note: this proposal also addresses Northern Pike, see Box 12. [\[KRSA Supports Concept\]](#)

#271 [*Duane Gluth*] seeks to prohibit all sport fishing, including catch and release for king salmon in the Lewis and Theodore rivers. The proposal also speaks to the control of invasive Northern Pike. Lewis and Theodore rivers have been identified as stocks of concern. KRSA supports restricting harvest opportunity in cases like this. We urge the BOF to take into consideration restrictions as part of a comprehensive management plan that give the Department the flexibility to either become more restrictive if necessary or relax the restrictions by Emergency Order if stock status rebounds. Too often restrictions are adopted as

regulations and then remain on the books even after the abundance returns to more normal levels thereby reducing opportunity or leading to cases of reallocation. See also comments on proposal 143. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#274 [*James Garhart*] seeks to allow the harvest of king salmon in the Little Susitna River upstream of the Parks Highway in an area that is currently closed to fishing for king salmon. While KRSA generally does support the responsible expansion of sport fishing opportunity, after a careful review of the data and discussion with sport fishing interests from the Mat-Su area, KRSA does not support the expansion of harvest capability in the Little Susitna River at this time when stock status is weak. See also comments on proposal 143. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#279 [*Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee*] seeks to increase the area open to fishing for hatchery produced king salmon near the Eklutna Tailrace. KRSA supports full utilization of expensive hatchery fish. KRSA is not aware of a wild stock that is harvested incidental to the hatchery fish taken at this location. **[KRSA Supports]**

#280 [*Anchorage Advisory Committee*] seeks to extend the area open to fishing for king salmon in the Knik River. The king salmon harvested in this area would be hatchery fish bound back to the Eklutna Tailrace release site. Support concept of fully utilizing hatchery produced fish, optimizing opportunity and participation. **[KRSA Supports]**

#281 [*Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee*] seeks to allow fishing for king salmon in the Matanuska River drainage. Fishing for king salmon is currently closed in the entire Matanuska River drainage because of the small numbers of king salmon native to this drainage and the ease of public access to Moose Creek, the major producing stream. KRSA has discussed this proposal with knowledgeable individuals from the area. KRSA does not support the expansion of sport fishing opportunity in this area at this time of low abundance for Northern king stocks in general. **[KRSA Opposes Concept]**

#297 [*ADFG*] seeks to close Bird Creek to all sport fishing from January 1 through July 14 to protect the small population of king salmon that are native to that system. The Department has good data to support this proposal. **[KRSA Supports]**

CENTRAL DISTRICT DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY (5 AAC 21.353)

Background

- The Central District drift net fishery harvests mixed salmon stocks bound for the Kenai, Kasilof, Susitna, and other areas of UCI from late June into early August.
- Harvest is primarily sockeye (Figure 8). Significant numbers of coho may also be harvested, particularly later in the season. Chinook harvest is relatively low. Chums and pinks were historically important but harvest has declined due to changes in the nature of the fishery and market demand.
- Drift nets typically account for about half of the sockeye and a majority of the coho harvest in the UCI commercial fishery.
- Harvest, harvest share, and value of this fishery have steadily declined over the last 30 years (Figure 8) with increasing restriction. The ESSN fishery has benefited significantly from these drift restrictions.
- The fishing power of the drift fleet is tremendous. For instance, in 2007 this fishery harvested over 1 million sockeye in just two regular openers on July 16 and 19.
- The fishery typically operates with regular 12-hour openers on Mondays and Thursdays. Emergency orders are also employed in the Kenai and Kasilof “corridor” along the east side of Cook Inlet to target Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. Area restrictions are used during some regular periods in July in order to reduce harvest of Susitna sockeye.
- An offshore test fishery has long been used in conjunction with drift net harvest to monitor the availability of sockeye moving through Cook Inlet during the season.
- Recent genetic stock identification studies have greatly improved the accuracy in estimates of stock-specific harvest composition, run timing, and exploitation by sockeye.

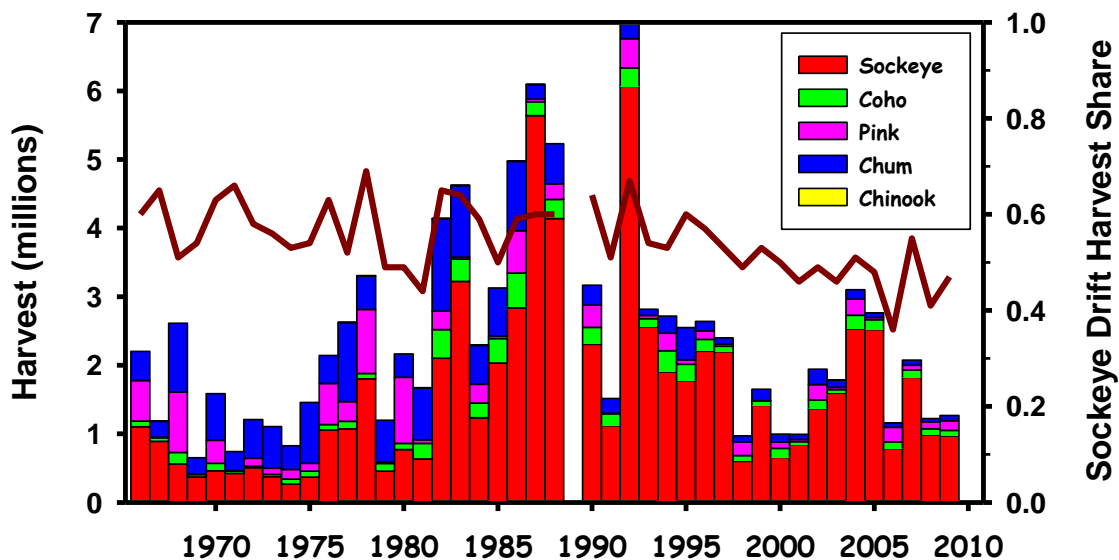


Figure 8. Harvest trends and harvest shares of sockeye in the Central District commercial drift net fishery. Harvest share is based on the drift net percentage of the combined drift and set net catch.

History

- ❑ The Central District drift net fishery currently operates with regular 12-hour openers on Mondays and Thursdays from late June through early August. Fisheries are sometimes limited to a three-mile wide Kenai and Kasilof “corridor” along the east side of Cook Inlet to target Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. Area restrictions are also sometimes used in July in an attempt to reduce harvest of Susitna sockeye.
- ❑ The use of the three-mile corridor occurred almost annually (by E.O.) from the mid 1980’s thru the 1990’s.
- ❑ In 1999, the BOF adopted a series of regulations intended to reduce drift net harvest of Northern District sockeye and coho. Use of the BOF placed the corridor into regulation for the period July 10-15. Additional mandatory corridor restrictions were also required by regulation in and around July 25. The Board also adopted an earlier August closure date.
- ❑ The 2002 Board maintained restrictions to protect northern sockeye and coho but provided increased flexibility for scheduling two regular drift net closures in July.
- ❑ A pink salmon management plan was adopted in 2002 to provide August additional drift net fishery opportunity that was eliminated by previous restrictions to protect coho.
- ❑ In 2005, the BOF replaced the three-mile corridor requirement with a regulation that allowed management to either place the drift fleet in the three-mile corridor or to allow drift fishing south of Kalgin Island during one period between July 10-15.
- ❑ An end-of-the-year trigger was also adopted in 2005 for drift net fishery closure based on declining harvest of sockeye (although management practices were subsequently altered to avoid this trigger).
- ❑ In 2008, the BOF extended the drift net fishery end date back to August 15, effectively eliminating restrictions to protect coho adopted in 1999.
- ❑ In 2008 immediately following the stock of concern designation, one regular drift opener was restricted to reduce exploitation of Susitna sockeye (Table 1). Three others were limited to more southerly areas under the presumption that many Susitna sockeye had already passed northward.
- ❑ In 2009 and 2010 after the Ventnor sockeye stock was eliminated, no regular drift

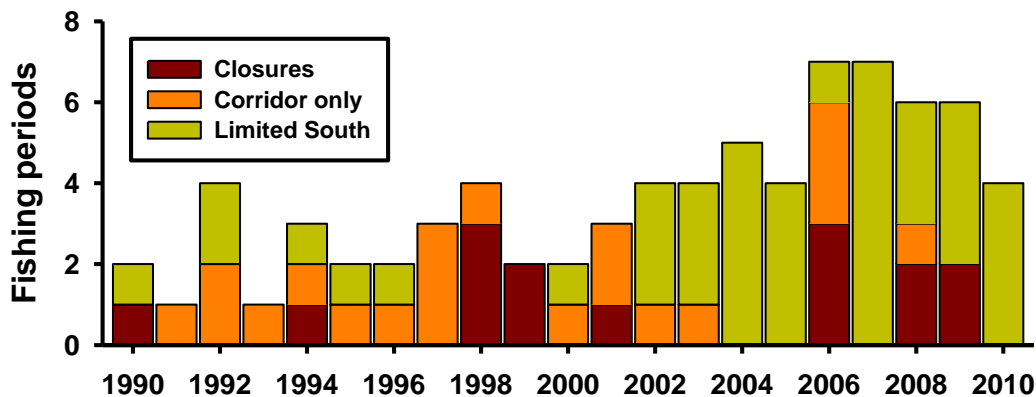


Figure 9. History of management actions in the Central District drift gill net fishery during July.

Table 1. Recent Central District drift net fishery restrictions in July to protect Susitna sockeye.

| Year | Kenai sockeye | Corridor only | Area 1 plus corridor | Areas 1 & 2 plus corridor |
|------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2008 | 2.1 million | Jul 10 | Jul 14 | Jul 17, Jul 21 |
| 2009 | 2.5 million | -- | Jul 9, Jul 13 | Jul 16, Jul 20 |
| 2010 | 3.4 million | -- | Jul 12, Jul 15, Jul 19 | Jul 29 |

* Does not include closures during last week of July when Susitna sockeye have already passed north.

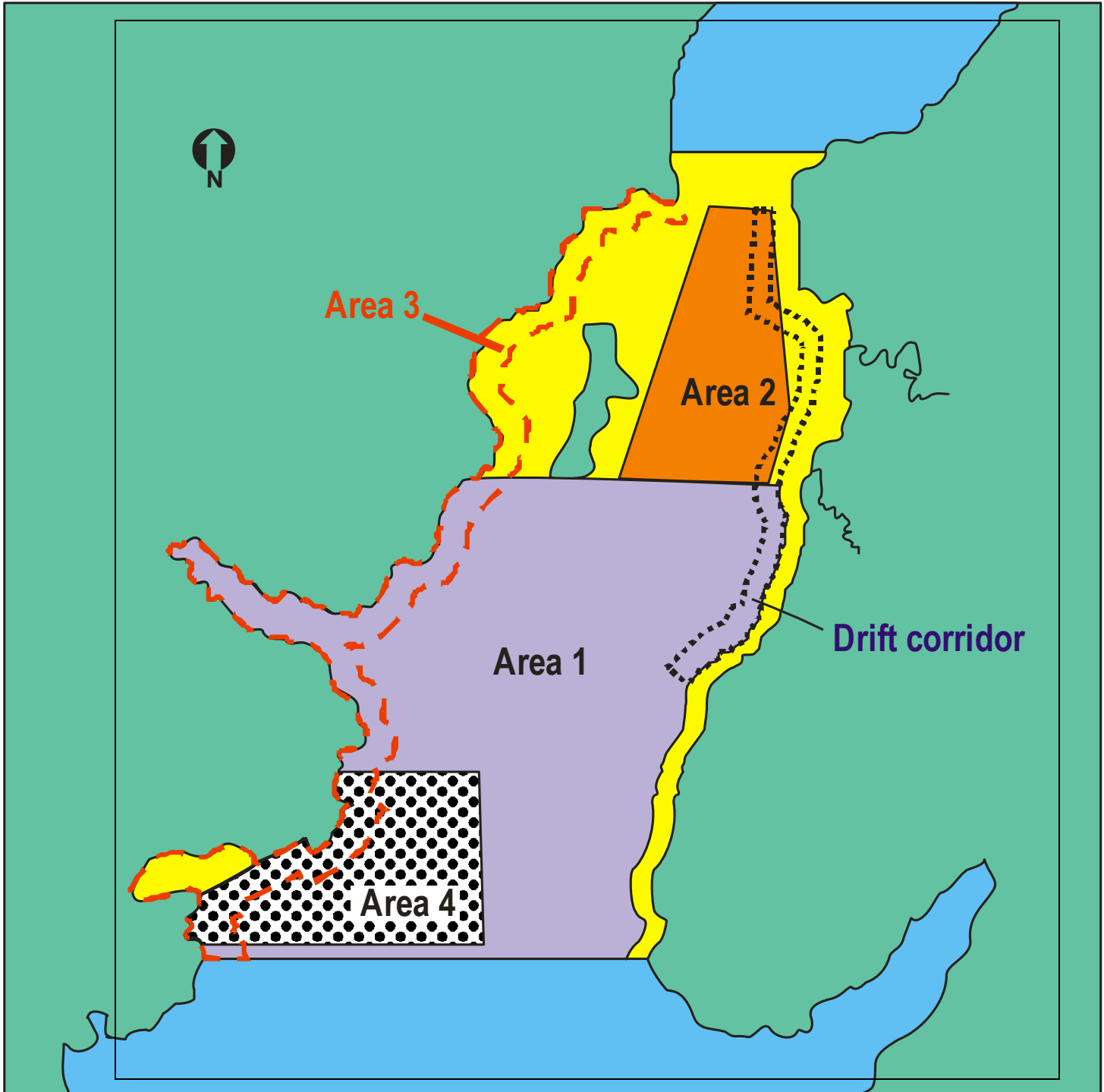
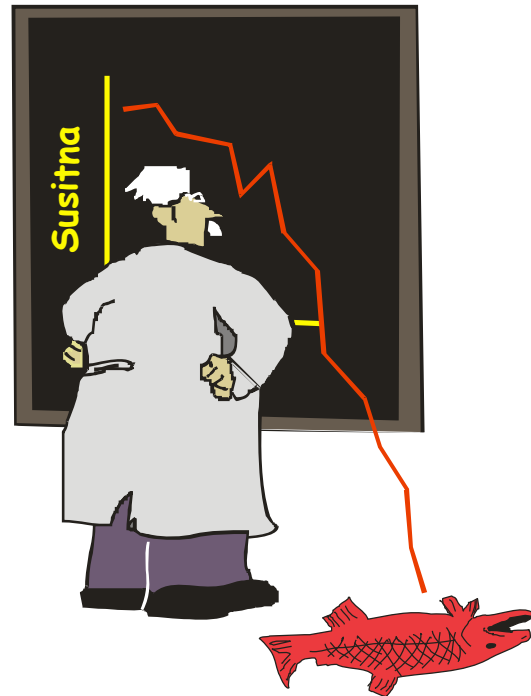


Figure 10. Approximate locations of Central District drift gill net fishery areas.

Issues

The Central District drift gillnet fishery is the most effective harvester of the mixed stocks of UCI salmon. 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. This fishery intercepts large numbers sockeye and coho destined for Cook Inlet streams. Susitna sockeye is a stock of concern due to chronic low numbers and escapement levels can be directly and inversely related to the intensity of harvest in the Central District drift fishery. Coho have long been designated for priority use by the sport fishery but the drift net fishery heavily exploits the front end of the coho run upon which the northern district sport fisheries rely. Further, the stock status of Northern District sockeye and chum salmon is not at all certain.³



The Umbrella Management Plan adopted in 1978 required managers to minimize the commercial harvest of Susitna coho in the Central District of UCI. However, "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. There will always be some degree of conflict among user groups over the allocation of salmon resources in UCI, 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 BOF 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 UCI. 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 UCI 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 UCI around those times and places where migrating Northern District salmon are most abundant is the key to optimization of salmon management in UCI. Failing to define minimize will lead to ever increasing levels of conflict, misunderstanding and continue to jeopardize the sustainability of Northern District salmon.

³ Additional detail on drift net effects on Northern District runs and fisheries may be found in the Mat-Su Borough information package.

KRSA Proposal [126]

Proposal 126 submitted by KRSA and Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee seeks to ensure escapement of salmon into the Northern District and minimize incidental catch of coho salmon in the drift gillnet fishery. This proposal:

- ❑ Clarifies the purposes of this plan to ensure Northern District escapement and minimize coho harvest in this fishery.
- ❑ Regulates Central District fisheries in order to limit interception of Northern District salmon and Kenai coho.
- ❑ Decouples the drift net fishery from the ESSN 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.

Language is proposed to clarify the purpose of this plan and the species priorities for this fishery. Some step-down plans include specific language but the drift net plan does not. Many of the current and proposed plan elements are designed to ensure Northern District sockeye escapement and to minimize coho harvest but this purpose is not explicitly identified, making it particularly difficult to determine whether plan provisions are appropriate or adequate.

This proposal seeks to limit one of the two regular periods during the second week of July to the Kenai/Kasilof corridor. This week is generally the peak passage period for northern-bound Susitna sockeye which are a stock of concern. The proposal also seeks to eliminate the use of Area 2 after July 16. This area in the central inlet off of the Kenai can harvest significant numbers on Susitna sockeye on the back end of the run. Restriction the drift fishery southward late in the season protects Susitna sockeye that have already passed northward. These restrictions will reduce harvest of Susitna sockeye. Without precautionary time and area restrictions, there is no way to assure that minimum escapement goals will be consistently met. Harvest of Susitna sockeye cannot be effectively managed based on feedback from in-season sonar counts because these fish are not counted until days after the fishery.

This proposal also seeks to decouple drift net opening in the corridor from openings of the ESSN fishery. Current practice is to open the corridor only when the beaches are also open. This has been a discretionary practice based on perceptions of fairness. However, corridor restrictions of regular periods identified above will pass more Kenai and Kasilof sockeye toward the beaches. Allowing additional fishing time in the corridor even when the ESSN fishery is closed will: 1) offset reductions in drift net harvest shares, 2) control risks of exceeding Kenai and Kasilof escapement goals, and 3) avoid excessive king harvest in additional set net openers that might be allowed to mop up the additional Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.

Finally, this proposal seeks to provide an earlier season ending date in order to provide for coho escapement. Fishery openings after the first week of August have previously been supported with arguments for a need to fish on late-timed sockeye returns or to harvest pinks. However, these openers are essentially a mixed species fishery with disproportionate coho impacts relative to the value of late season sockeye.

ADFG Comments: *The Department is officially neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal and notes that effects will include an increase in the number of salmon migrating to all streams and rivers, and increased fishing time and king harvest in the ESSN fishery.*

Other Proposals

#113 [A. E. Stephan] seeks to remove all commercial fishing gear on weekends. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#114 [Alberta Stephan] seeks to close commercial fishing on Saturdays and Sundays. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#119 [United Cook Inlet Drift Association] seeks to allow two drift gillnet permits to be owned and operated on one vessel in the name of a single individual. The legality of the proposal is in questions and it aims at an expansion of the fishing power of the drift fleet. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#120 [United Cook Inlet Drift Association] seeks to allow four shackles of gear to be fished outside of regular opener hours. KRSA wants to hear a thorough discussion so that we understand all elements of this proposal. KRSA does not want to see an expansion of drift effort on the coho stocks of UCI. KRSA will need to review proposed regulatory language before taking a position. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#122 [Alaska Board of Fisheries] seeks to correct an error in codified language. It will not result in a significant increase in fish passing northward because fishing effort and harvest in the affected area is very small. **[KRSA Supports]**

#123 [Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee] seeks to reduce fishing time for the drift gillnet fleet in an effort to pass additional salmon into the Northern District. Proposal 126 is our preferred choice for addressing this issue. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#124 [Anchorage Advisory Committee] would create a conservation corridor consisting of time and area in an effort to pass northern bound salmon through the drift gillnet fishery. Proposal 126 seeks much the same approach. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#125 [United Cook Inlet Drift Association] seeks to increase fishing time for the drift gillnet fleet in the Central District by deleting reference to Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4. KRSA does not think that these “conservation” areas go far enough in limiting the effectiveness of the drift gillnet fleet with respect to passage of northern bound salmon. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#127 [Dave Coray] seeks to restrict the drift gillnet fishery after August 9 in the Western Subdistrict of UCI. This proposal, if adopted, would reduce the commercial harvest of coho salmon. Mr. Coray has submitted two additional proposals which address the conduct of the sport fishery in West Cook Inlet (20, 21). KRSA appreciates the comprehensive nature of Mr. Coray’s approach. **[KRSA Supports]**

#140 [Steve Runyan] would define minimize as relates to commercial harvest of coho salmon of Northern District origin in the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery as no more than a projected 25% of the total harvest of sockeye and coho salmon in a commercial opening. KRSA supports this proposal in concept because the proposal seeks to define the term minimizes. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#141 [Steve Runyan] seeks to reestablish restrictions that were in place for the drift gillnet fishery prior to the 2005 meeting of the BOF. The restrictions that the author is referring to were specific time and area closures within the Central District designed specifically to reduce interception of sockeye and coho salmon bound for the streams of the Northern District. See proposal 126. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

Annotated Plan Language

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| <p>5 AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</p> <p>(a) <u>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 GILL NET 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.</u></p> <p>(b) The department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:</p> <p>(1) weekly fishing periods are as described in 5 AAC 21.320(b) ;</p> <p>(2) the fishing season will open the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, and</p> <p>(A) from July 9 through July 15,</p> <p>(i) fishing during <u>ONE OF</u> the two regular fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections <u>and Drift Gillnet Area 1</u>;</p> <p>(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<u>S</u> in the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1 <u>ADDITIONAL PERIODS MAY BE AUTHORIZED INDEPENDENT OF THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY</u>;</p> <p>(B) from July 16 through July 31,</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(ii) at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during two <u>ONE</u> regular 12-hour fishing periods <u>PER WEEK</u> will be restricted to <u>EITHER OR BOTH OF</u> the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and <u>OR</u> Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2;</p> <p>(iii) <u>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</u></p> | <p><i>KRSA proposals for revision are highlighted in strikeout language.</i></p> <p><i>(Proposed language to clarify objective to protect Northern District and minimize coho.)</i></p> <p><i>Mon. & Thu. @ 12 hrs. each Timed for 1st influx of late-run sockeye (Kasilof) 2nd week of July is peak passage period for Susitna sockeye Kenai & Kasilof = "corridor" Area 1 is South of Kalgin Island Additional fishing time is provided at average or larger Kenai runs to share harvest and control escapement.</i></p> <p><i>(Proposed area reduction) (Decoupling language for early July)</i></p> <p><i>Kenai sockeye run strength can be effectively gauged around this time Area restrictions to protect northern fish (Proposed area reduction) Additional fishing time is allowed at average Kenai runs (Proposed time & area reduction)</i></p> <p><i>Area 2 = East of Kalgin Island</i></p> <p><i>(Decoupling language for late July)</i></p> |
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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 THROUGH 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.

(bc) 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.

(ed) 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 IN-RIVER 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.]**

Time & area restrictions for northern fish are removed at large Kenai sockeye runs (effectively prioritizes Kenai max. goal over Susitna min. goals)

Extended fishing in limited western inlet areas

(Proposed earlier ending date)

Corridor restrictions no longer needed because Susitna sockeye have passed (although coho are increasing abundant at this time)

Drift areas 1, 2, 3 & 4 defined

(KRSA proposal limits conditions under which plan provisions may be set aside in the event of large Kenai escapements.)

KENAI RIVER LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (5 AAC 21.360)

Background

- ❑ The Kenai late-run dominates the UCI sockeye return and their management directly or indirectly drives virtually every salmon fishery in Cook Inlet.
- ❑ Kenai late-run sockeye run sizes have averaged 3.2 million for the last 20 years and ranged between 1.4 to 7.7 million over that period (Figure 11). Spawner numbers account for just 25% of the run variation – the balance is due to environmental and random effects.
- ❑ Over 80% of the run typically returns to the Kenai in July. Median passage date is typically around July 22.
- ❑ Commercial harvest has averaged about two million Kenai sockeye per year over the last 20 years.
- ❑ Kenai sockeye typically comprise 60% of the UCI commercial sockeye harvest. They are among the most heavily fished sockeye stocks in Alaska with annual exploitation averaging 75% and as high as 84% over the last ten years (Clark et al. 2007b).
- ❑ In-river returns have long been estimated from Bendix sonar counts. Sonar counts have ranged from 614,000 to 1.5 million over the last ten years (Figure 12). Sonar goals based on run size have been met in just three of the last ten years (six over, one under).
- ❑ Spawning escapement is estimated by subtracting upstream sport harvest from the sonar counts. Counts typically exceed goal ranges in large run years and fall at or below the low end in low run years.
- ❑ Recent research has discovered that actual numbers are 42% greater than estimated by the

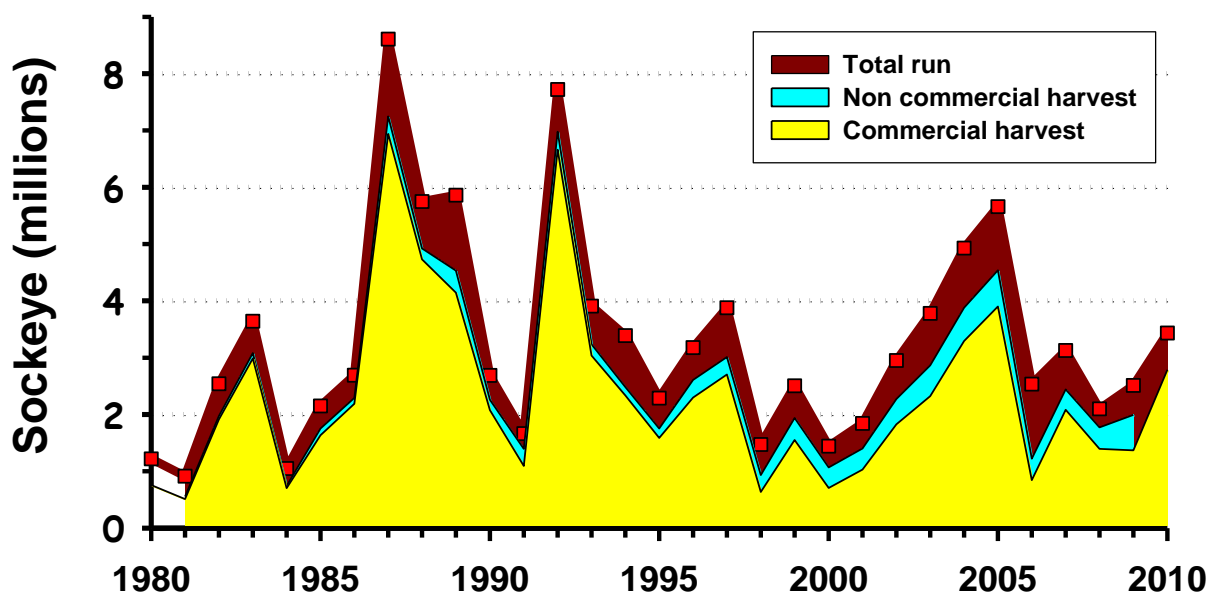


Figure 11. Kenai late-run sockeye run size and harvest, 1980-2007.

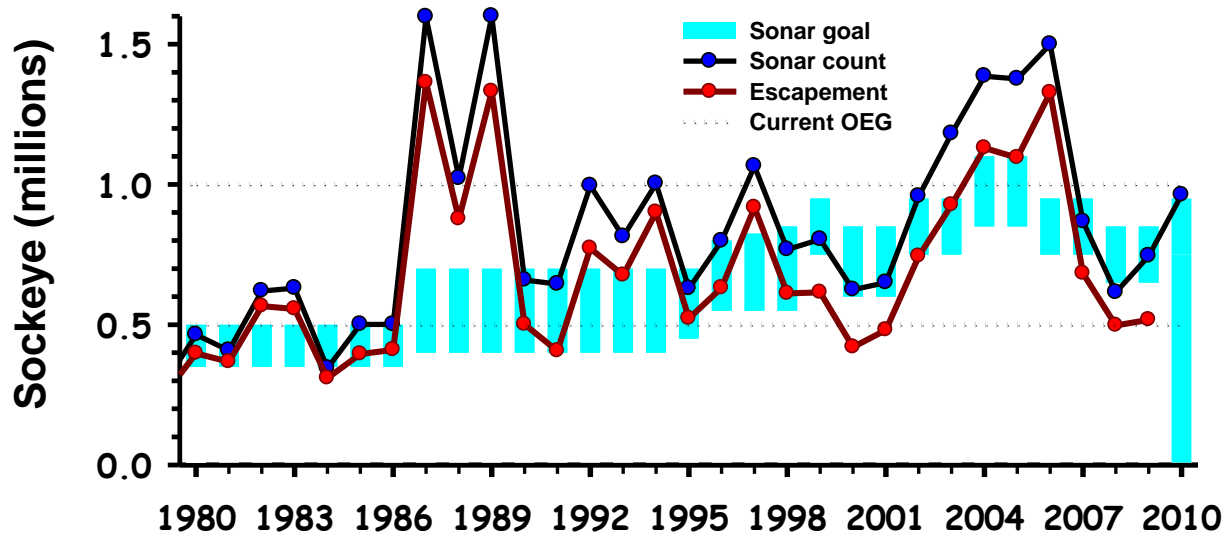
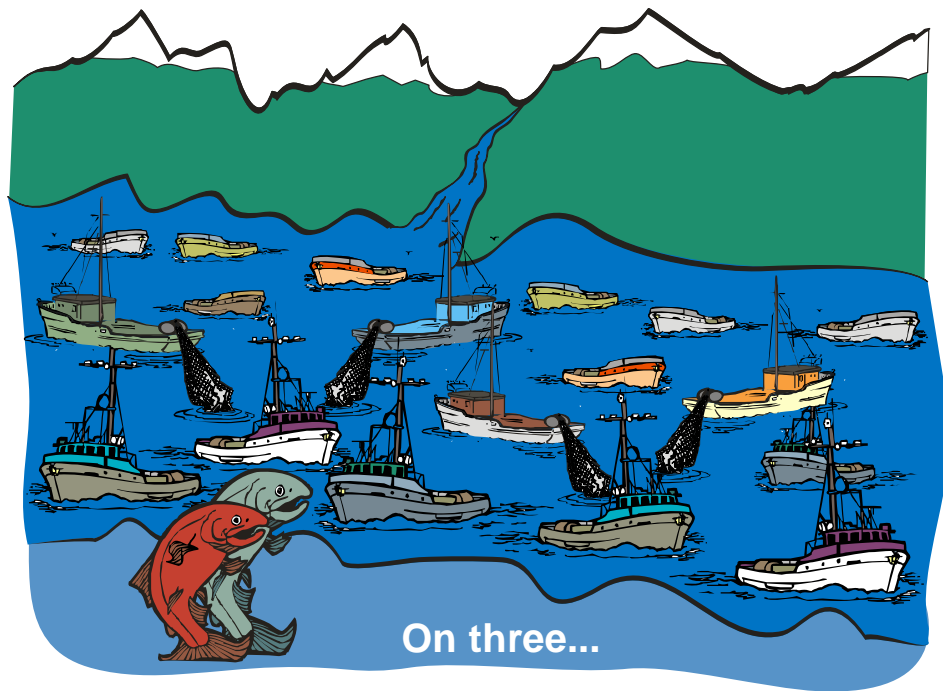


Figure 12. Recent sonar counts and spawning escapements of late-run Kenai sockeye relative to Bendix sonar and escapement goals (sonar goals vary depending on run size).

History

- Significant changes were adopted in 1999 BOF for Kenai late-run sockeye. Abundance-based escapement goal tiers were intended to distribute escapement throughout the escapement goal range. Fishery closure windows in the ESSN fishery were intended to spread escapement throughout the duration of the run and to provide opportunity to in-river fisheries.
- In 2002, modest adjustments were made to abundance-based limitations on emergency order time and commercial window periods.
- The 2005 BOF reduced restrictions on the set net fishery adopted from 1999-2002, primarily driven by concern for “over escapement.” Season dates were extended and EO time was added.
- The 2005 BOF “fixed” one of the windows to begin before the weekend to provide on influx of fish for the weekend sport and personal use fisheries.
- Specific EO time and windows provisions in this plan were further weakened by the 2008 BOF with Umbrella Plan revisions prioritizing established escapement objectives as the primary management objective.
- Kenai late-run sockeye escapement goals have a long and controversial history. Goals were increased in 1987 and 1996 as larger escapements provided better scientific information on the productivity of the system. Larger escapements produced larger runs and yields.
- A BEG of 500,000-800,000 was established in 1999. The 1999 BOF adopted an OEG of 500,000 – 1,000,000.
- Prior to the 2005 BOF meeting, a Department scientific review found that the existing data were inadequate to determine whether the escapement goal range includes maximum sustained yield (Clark et al. 2007a). This led to a reclassification of the Kenai escapement goal by the Department from a BEG to an SEG. The OEG was unaffected.



Issues

The commercial set net fishery is not being managed consistent with plan direction 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.” Because the plan provides no operational definition of “minimize,” the commercial fishery is managed in effect to maximize the harvest of Kenai sockeye based on run size.

This 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 not entirely for commercial uses. Yet, an effective allocation of sockeye to sport and personal use fisheries remains undefined.

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 sport and personal use fishery priorities when sockeye are available. Maximizing commercial harvest of Kenai sockeye greatly limits the number and timing of fish available for sport and personal use fisheries operating in the shadow of the intensive set net fishery. Commercial fisheries continue to harvest a disproportionately large share of the Kenai and Northern District coho and kings available from late June through early August. Management of the commercial fishery by Emergency Order on short notice is particularly disruptive to the in-river fisheries.

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 spot and personal use fishery opportunities by the Southcentral Alaska populace will remain unfulfilled. High economic values of the in-river fisheries are foregone.

KRSA Proposals [147, 148]

Proposal 147

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 sport and personal use fisheries. *KRSA proposes adding explicit language to the purpose of the plan to this effect. (See annotated plan language at the end of this chapter.*
2. Utilize fishery windows to ensure that allocation priorities for kings and coho are met, and reasonable opportunities for sockeye harvest are provided in sport and personal use 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. *The plan currently provides one scheduled 36-hour window and one floating 24-hour window. Windows shorter than 36 hours provide limited benefits, serving primarily to reload beaches for the next set net fishery opener. The effectiveness of floating rather than fixed windows is limited because of their unpredictable schedule and a practice of scheduling to limit effectiveness.*
 - Clarify conditions under which windows may be set aside in season based on projected escapements relative to escapement goals. *Conditions are limited to when counts exceeding the top end of the maximum in-river goal are imminent. Windows ensure that Kenai sockeye are managed for optimum sustained yield in all fisheries rather than just maximum sustained yield of the commercial fishery. Commercial sockeye harvest may be reduced in some years but net economic and social benefits in combined fisheries will be increased. Recent data has proven that “over escapement” fears have been vastly overblown.*
3. Utilize August limitations on regular commercial EO authority to ensure that coho sport priorities are met. *Extensive emergency order openers during August, heavily impact the front end of the Kenai coho run during a period of rapidly declining sockeye abundance. This proposal seeks to close the set net fishery on August 7 rather than August 15 as per [5 AAC 21.310 (b)(1)(C)(iii)]. It also proposes to limit EO use in August 1 unless counts are imminently projected to exceed the top end of the maximum in-river goal.*

ADFG Comments: *The Department is officially neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal and opposed to the “impractical and unworkable” regulations on the basis that they cannot project in-river abundance within 48 hours because of variable passage rates. This is a rather perplexing conclusion since fishery management decisions frequently involve emergency orders based on the rate of passage relative to goals long before goals are even approached. In fact, the Department states that their intention will be to deviate from other allocative management plan provisions based on these types of projections. The intent of this proposal is to reduce the current incidence of allocative out-of-plan actions.*

Management Brief – Commercial Fishery Windows

Windows are periodic, regular closures in commercial fisheries designed to pass fish for escapement and harvest by in-river fisheries. Windows are specified in both the Kenai and Kasilof sockeye salmon management plans, and may be floating at the discretion of the commercial fishery manager or fixed at the end of the week to feed weekend fisheries. Windows of 36 hours (three tides) are generally needed to pass significant numbers of fish into the rivers. Shorter windows generally just reload the beaches for the next commercial opener.

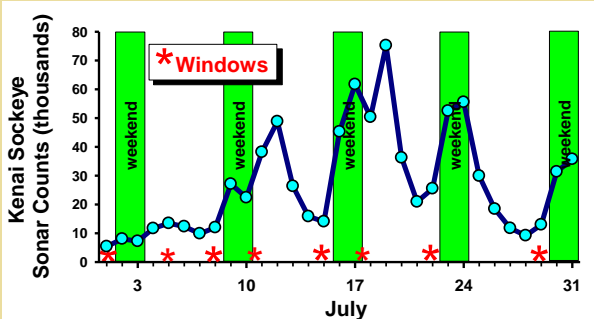


Figure 13. Example of window effects on Kenai sockeye sonar counts in 2005.

Biological benefits: Windows protect escapement of stocks that are monitored in-season (i.e. Kenai sockeye) and those that are not (i.e. Kasilof late-run kings). Inherent genetic and life history diversity of stocks and normal ecosystem function are conserved by distributing escapement throughout the run.

Allocative benefits: Windows provide periodic pulses of salmon to sustain opportunity in sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries. Windows effectively reallocate a greater harvest share of sockeye and kings to the in-river user groups.

Optimizing the balance among sport, personal use, subsistence and commercial fisheries is complicated by conflicting requirements for success of each fishery. Windows are an effective tool for optimizing sustainable yield in the mixed stock and multiple user fisheries of UCI.

Commercial success is measured by maximum yields in pounds of fish. Maximum yields are provided by extended fishery openers to harvest all fish surplus to escapement needs. Sport, personal use and subsistence success is measured in numbers of angler trips and catch per unit effort rather than simply the total number of fish harvested. Optimum in-river fisheries are achieved by providing a periodic supply of fish sufficient to support meaningful levels of opportunity over the course of the run.

Windows are working as intended in UCI. They interrupt sustained periods of set net fishing along the east-side beaches to reduce unpredictable boom or bust patterns that severely impact in-river fisheries. In-river fisheries are benefitting from a regular influx of fish, which provides reasonable opportunity to catch fish.

Since 2005, the fixed “Friday” window has provided an influx of fish for weekend sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries. Particularly popular with people from Anchorage and the Mat-Su, windows have resulted in increased harvest rates and participation, and better success in managing for escapement goals.

Initial concern that windows would either unnecessarily constrain management flexibility to attain escapement goals or increase the chances of missing unpredictable large pulses of fish onto the beach, into the river, and over the escapement goal, have not been realized. However, UCI sockeye management has a long history of consistently failing to meet Kenai sockeye goals that predates the advent of windows.

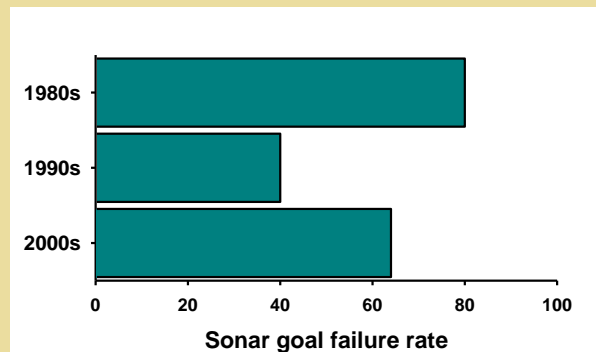


Figure 14. Frequency with which Kenai late-run sockeye in-river goals were either not reached or exceeded.

In UCI, windows as a time/area limitation for commercial fisheries have proven to be an effective tool for achieving the biological and allocation objectives of OSY management. They have worked to strike a fair and sustainable balance in allocation among the diverse fisheries rather than to maximize the harvest in any single fishery. OSY management recognizes that total fishery value is greatest where harvest and opportunity is shared among all fisheries. It accepts the inevitable tradeoffs among biological and allocation objectives. Overall, windows have proven effective in UCI fisheries management to optimize the region’s recreational, social and economic values from salmon.

Proposal 148

The OEG and in-river goals identified in the Kenai late-run sockeye management need to be revised for consistency with new sonar counting methods and a revised SEG identified by the Department. Current numbers are based on historical Bendix sonar counts. New numbers need to be translated into Didson equivalents. KRSA’s proposal 148 sought clarification of the basis for current optimum and in-river goals. Since this proposal was originally submitted, the Department has changed sonar counting method from Bendix to Didson and identified a new SEG. This section presents a revision of the original KRSA proposal consistent with the sonar conversion and revised SEG. This revised proposal will be submitted to the Board by RC.

Any change in the in-river goals from a strict translation from Bendix to Didson equivalents will be allocative. These numbers drive management of sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries outside and downstream from the sonar, and control fish delivery, opportunity, and harvest in sport fisheries upstream from the sonar. Because fishery allocations are not explicitly defined by the management plans, the balance of numerical goals and related priorities result in an implicit allocation. In order to avoid unintended allocation effects, it will be critical in revisions of these plan numbers to clearly understand and articulate the specific basis for each element in the proposed change.

KRSA’s proposal and a detailed explanation are as follows:

1. Establishing a new OEG of 900,000 – 1,500,000. *The OEG would be defined as the sonar number necessary to meet the SEG while also providing a reasonable opportunity for harvest upstream from the sonar consistent with current levels and accounting for hatchery fish from the Hidden Lake program. This is a change in the intent of the previous OEG which referred strictly to escapement. However, it eliminates confusion related to the multitude of goals (SEG, OEG, In-river) by matching the OEG to the in-river goal range.*
2. Retaining the current three-tier structure with lower bounds translated to Didson equivalents of those currently established (900,000; 1,050,000; 1,200,000). *These tiers will continue to ensure that fisheries outside the sonar are not managed to produce minimum escapements. They ensure that sport fisheries will share in the opportunity to access large Kenai sockeye runs. They also ensure that numbers will not fall below minimum spawning escapement goals due to chance events or management errors.*
3. Standardizing the top ends of in-river goals in all three tiers at the upper end of the OEG (1,500,000). *There is no biological reason why the in-river goal should be artificially limited to lower levels than the SEG or OEG range. This change will reduce the incidence of highly-allocative out-of-plan actions due to in-season management decisions in the commercial fishery.*

Table 2. Kenai late-run sockeye management plan goal revisions.

| Goal | Run (millions) | Bendix-based | | Didson correction | | KRSA Proposal | |
|----------|----------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | Lower | Upper | Lower | Upper | Lower | Upper |
| SEG | -- | 500,000 | 800,000 | 700,000 ^a | 1,200,000 ^a | -- | -- |
| OEG | -- | 500,000 | 1,000,000 | 750,000 | 1,500,000 | 900,000 | 1,500,000 |
| In-river | < 2 | 650,000 | 850,000 | 920,000 | 1,210,000 | 900,000 | 1,500,000 |
| | 2-4 | 750,000 | 950,000 | 1,060,000 | 1,350,000 | 1,050,000 | 1,500,000 |
| | > 4 | 850,000 | 1,100,000 | 1,210,000 | 1,560,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,500,000 |

^aADFG revision of SEG based on updated stock-recruitment analysis using Didson-corrected brood tables.

ADFG Comments: *The Department recommends no action based on the original proposal. The revised proposal in this booklet resolves confusion regarding the basis for the current OEG and in-river goals reflected in the original proposal.*

Three different sets of numerical goals are pertinent to this management plan.

1. Spawner escapement goals consistent with sustainable (SEG) or maximum sustained yield (BEG) of a specific stock or run component.
2. An OEG that provides for spawning escapement of all run components including mainstem spawners and tributary spawners including the Russian River late-run and Hidden Lake enhanced fish (currently 500,000 to 1 million).
3. In-river goals as measured at the sonar. These vary in three tiers based on abundance in order to distribute escapements throughout the spawning escapement goal range. In-river goals include increments above escapement goals consistent that provide a *de facto* allocation for sport harvest of sockeye above the sonar.

Revision of this suite of numbers will involve five distinct considerations:

Sonar conversion: The Department has translated historical Bendix counts to Didson equivalents based on side-by-side comparisons of both gears in 2004-2007 [Didson = 1.42 (Bendix)]. Unpublished data provided by the Department shows an approximate equivalence in the escapement of Didson = 1.5 (Bendix). The difference from the sonar conversion is because the sonar is biased but the harvest subtracted to estimate escapement is actual fish. Didson equivalents of the Bendix-based numerical goals in the current Kenai late-run sockeye management plan are shown in Table 2.

Spawner escapement goals: The Kenai River sockeye SEG has been revised from 500,000-800,000 to 700,000-1,200,000 based on the Bendix to DIDSON conversion and incorporation of recent genetic information into brood tables (9/28/2010 ADFG memo). This goal includes all wild tributary and mainstem spawners including those in the Russian River and Hidden Lake. Escapement of hatchery-origin sockeye returning to Hidden Lake is highly variable but average about 34,000 fish per year and 2% of the Didson-equivalent return since 2000.

Optimum escapement goal: The lower end of the current OEG matches the SEG lower bound of 500,000 Bendix fish. The upper end of the current OEG was set by the 1999 BOF at 1 million which is 200,000 fish greater than the top of the SEG. This number was based on a 10% probability of harvest of less than 1 million at higher escapements according to stock-recruitment analysis using the brood-year interaction model (M. Willette, personal communication). A Didson equivalent of the Bendix OEG would be 750,000 – 1,500,000. This is greater than the revised SEG of 700,000 – 1,200,000 identified by the Department.

Sockeye harvest above the sonar: Tiered in-river goals were originally established to account for the sport harvest above the sonar to ensure that spawning escapement goals will be consistently met. Sport harvest of sockeye has grown significantly since goals were originally established (Figure 15). This harvest has averaged about 230,000 sockeye per year from 2000-2005 (15% of the Didson-equivalent sonar counts). Harvests vary with opportunity and have ranged from 170,000 to 280,000 over this period (13-15% of the Didson equivalents).

Escapement management strategy: The management strategy concerns how in-river goal ranges are distributed among the run size tiers. The current lower limit of the lower tier was set at 650,000 which provided for 150,000 Bendix fish above the low end of the current OEG. Tiers

minimums stepped up to 750,000 and 850,000. The upper limit of the upper tier of the in-river goal was set at 1.1 million so that the OEG would be met when escapements exceeded 1 million under the minimum in-river harvest that had been observed up to that time (~100,000, which

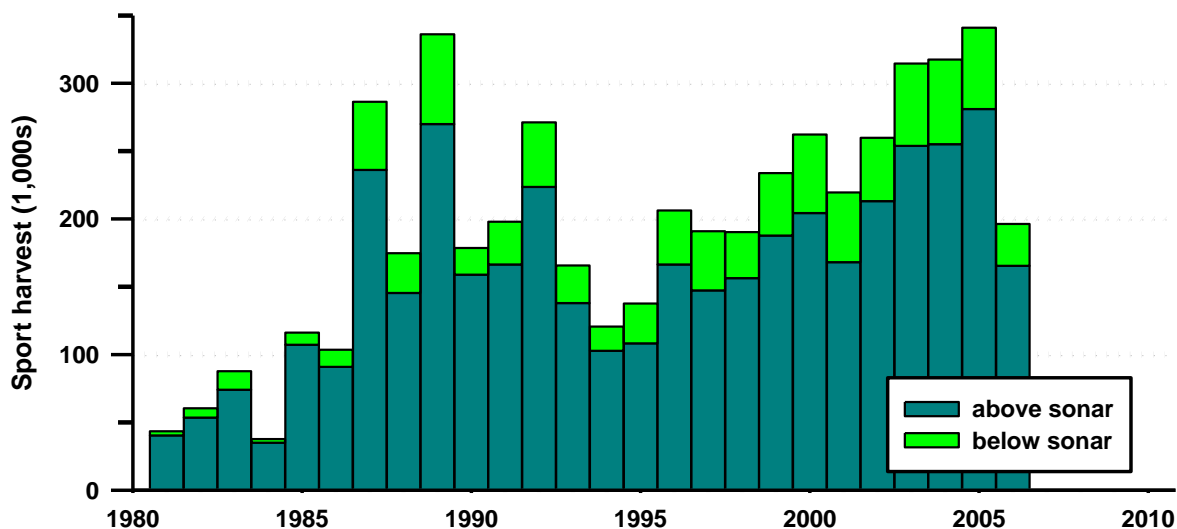


Figure 15. Mainstem sport harvest of Kenai sockeye.

Other Proposals

#128 [Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association] would create a single OEG of 400-700k Bendix equivalents for late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon. This would translate into an in-river goal of 550-850k. The in-river goal for the 2-4 million returns (average) is now set at 750-950. See comments on proposals 147 and 148. KRSA supports the concept of abundance tiers in regulation because establishment of the tiers acknowledges the difficulty of sustaining others stocks and fisheries throughout the UCI when management places such single minded focus on the in-river goal for Kenai sockeye. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#146 [Central Peninsula Advisory Committee] would allow the Department to reduce closed waters at the mouth of the Kenai River even when the projected in-river return of late-run king salmon is less than 40,000. This long debated regulation provides for some sharing of the burden of conservation of king salmon. Repeal would result in fewer king salmon reaching the river. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#149 [South K-Beach Independent Fishermen] would create an OEG of 400-700k for late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon. See comments on proposals 147 and 148. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#150 [John McCombs] would establish an escapement goal for late-run sockeye in the Kenai River of 450,000-650,000. See comments on proposals 147 and 148. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#151 [Gary Hollier] asks the BOF to create a single in-river goal of 600,000-900,000 Bendix equivalents (DIDSON 840,000-1,260,000). KRSA supports the concept of abundance tiers in regulation. Establishment of the tiers acknowledges the difficulty of sustaining other stocks and fisheries throughout the UCI when management places such single minded focus on the in-river goal for Kenai sockeye. See also comments on proposals 147 and 148. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#152 [Central Peninsula Advisory Committee] would remove minimize language relating to Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king salmon and Kenai River coho salmon from the Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan. This type of policy language has been in regulation since 1978 in either the “Umbrella Plan” or one or more of the “step-down” plans. If there is a problem with this language it is that minimize has never been defined or effectively implemented. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#153 [Central Peninsula Advisory Committee] seeks to eliminate language that currently obligates the Department to minimize harvest of late-run king salmon in the commercial fishery. This policy language has been in regulation since 1978 in either the “Umbrella Plan” or the Late-run Kenai River Sockeye Plan. If there is a problem with this language, then it is that minimize has never been defined or effectively implemented. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#154 [Central Peninsula Advisory Committee] seeks to eliminate language that currently obligates the Department to minimize harvest of Northern District Coho and Kenai River Coho in the commercial fishery. This type of policy language has been in regulation since 1978 in either the “Umbrella Plan” or one or more of the “step-down” plans. If there is a problem with this language, then it is that minimize has never been defined or effectively implemented. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#155 [Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association] seeks to close all fisheries when the department “projects” that escapement goals will not be met. This proposal is aimed at the Personal Use fishery in the Kenai River. UCIDA wants the BOF to mandate that the Department close the Personal Use fishery together with the Drift fishery when projections are for escapements below goal. This proposal ignores the facts that the Drift fishery has a massive harvest potential when compared to the Personal Use fishery and that during the season projections change daily. The Drift fishery is accustomed to emergency order openings and closures while Alaskans who participate in the Personal Use fishery need some assurance that opportunity will be predictable. The Personal Use fishery has conservation measures built into the time and area requirements of the fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#322 [Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association] seeks to open the Kenai and East Forelands sections of the ESSN fishery by regulation on July 1 instead of July 8. The author justifies this request as an effort to harvest additional sockeye salmon bound for the Kasilof River. While it is generally true that Kasilof sockeye are present, adoption of this proposal would allow at least two additional fishing periods near the mouth of the Kenai River and would result in increased harvest of both early and late-run king salmon bound for the Kenai River and early-run Russian River sockeye. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#323 [Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association] seeks to repeal the “one percent” provision for closure of the ESSN fishery. KRSA would argue that the provision is not currently being implemented as intended, in that the one percent provision was based upon reported daily harvests, and not multiple days of harvests bundled together as is now the current practice. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#324 [Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association] seeks to allow for the use of dual permits in Cook Inlet set gillnet fishery and provides language describing how the regulation should be implemented if the proposal is adopted. KRSA is very interested in hearing a thorough discussion of this issue, specifically KRSA is interested in seeing how adoption of this concept

may affect the harvest of late-run king salmon bound back to the Kenai River. If adoption of this proposal will result in an increase in the commercial harvest of late-run kings then KRSA will oppose. **[No position at this time]**

#325 [*Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association*] seeks to have the BOF establish a single spawning escapement goal for late-run sockeye salmon in the Kenai River. KRSA supports the concept of abundance tiers in regulation because establishment of the tiers acknowledges the difficulty of sustaining others stocks and fisheries throughout the UCI when management places such single minded focus on the in-river goal for Kenai sockeye. The author seems not to understand that the Department has identified only one escapement goal for late-run sockeye. That escapement goal is a SEG now stated by the Department as a DIDSON sonar based count (measured at river-mile 19) of 700,000-1,200,000. That goal is one of the building blocks used to create the in-river goal which then appears in the management plan. The other building blocks historically considered are the sport harvest upstream of the sonar, hatchery fish bound for Hidden Lake and additional sockeye entering the river resulting from fishery restrictions aimed at protecting other stocks and species. KRSA encourages a thorough discussion of the topic addressed in this proposal. In fact, this proposal illustrates clearly where much of the confusion around management of salmon in UCI comes from. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#326 [*Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association*] is a very confusing proposal as written. Essentially the author seeks to establish a specific escapement goal for late-run sockeye salmon in the Kenai River. They seek to establish an OEG of 400,000-700,000. The authors then request that the BOF utilize their suggested goal to create a single in-river goal without stating what that single in-river goal would be. The proposal is confusing first because the codified reference used to submit the proposal is that for the Late-run Kenai River King Salmon Management Plan, a typo perhaps. The authors do no reference whether the suggested number is derived from Bendix or DIDSON sonar. Since the Department has now established an SEG range for late-run Kenai River sockeye of 700,000 - 1,200,000, either a call for no action or opposition should be voiced for this proposal. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#327 [*Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association*] seeks to repeal all regulatory language mandating proscribed "windows" of closure and all weekly maximum hour limitations for the ESSN fishery. Do windows work? We think that windows designed to allow fish to enter the river prior to weekends when sport anglers can participate in the fishery work well and we continue to support expanded use of this tool. Commercial fishery biologists tell the public that "fish don't move just because we are in a closed window". We ask, "Do fish move just because it is a regular period?" Commercial fishermen defend regular weekly fishing periods as a social measure designed to add predictability to their fishery. How can the same people that argue that windows don't work argue that regular periods effectively target fish? Windows act in a similar manner for the non-commercial fisheries in UCI. **[KRSA Opposes]**

Annotated Plan Language

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| <p>5 AAC 21.360 Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) meet an optimum escapement goal (OEG) range of 500,000 - 1,000,000 [900,000 - 1,500,000] late-run sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19; (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. <p>(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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000 - 850,000 [900,000 - 1,500,000] 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, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000 - 950,000 [1,050,000 - 1,500,000] 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 | <p><i>Provisions for Kenai late-run sockeye under this plan effectively dominates management of all UCI fisheries.</i></p> <p><i>Original proposals for revision are highlighted in strikeout language. Updated KRSA proposals for Didson equivalent revisions are shaded green.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed clarification of the definition and Didson conversion of the OEG.</i></p> <p><i>Basis for tier structure of plan</i></p> <p><i>Runs <2 million: 20% of the time</i></p> <p><i>Updated KRSA proposals for Didson equivalent revisions are shaded green.</i></p> <p><i>Windows are automatic with limited EOs at low run size</i></p> <p><i>Runs 2- 4 million: 65% of the time</i></p> <p><i>Updated KRSA proposals for Didson equivalent revisions are shaded green.</i></p> <p><i>Early season limits protect escapement in the event forecasts</i></p> |
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| <p>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</p> <p>(C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one [two] continuous 36-hour period[s] per week beginning between [7:0 0pm Monday and 7:0 0am 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;</p> <p>(3) at run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon,</p> <p>(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000 - 1,100,000 [1,200,000 – 1,500,000] sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(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</p> <p>[4) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT, WITHIN 48 HOURS, THE IN-RIVER ABUNDANCE OF LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON AS ENUMERATED PAST THE SONAR COUNTER LOCATED AT RIVER-MILE 19, WILL EXCEED 1,500,000, THEN THE COMMISSIONER MAY DEPART FROM PROVISIONS IN (c) (1), (c) (2), OR (c) (3)].</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(e) Repealed 6/11/2005.</p> <p>(f) Repealed 6/11/2005.</p> | <p><i>are overestimates.</i></p> <p><i>Windows provision</i></p> <p><i>Runs > 4 million: 15% of the time</i></p> <p>Revised KRSA proposal.</p> <p><i>Windows provision</i></p> <p>Revised KRSA proposal.</p> |
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(g) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net 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~~ [900,000] 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 1,500,000; AND

(2) BY CLOSURE OF THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 7]

Sockeye sport fishery

Authority to increase sport limits at average to large runs sizes as appropriate based on in-river returns.

KRSA proposes revision to 900,000.

Authority to step down sport limits low sonar counts.

KRSA proposes a revised upper goal of 1,500,000 Didson equivalents.

KASILOF RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (5 AAC 21.365)

Background

- ❑ The Kasilof is the 2nd largest sockeye run in Cook Inlet, with run sizes averaging 900,000 and ranging between 500,000 and 1.7 million over the last 20 years (Figure 16).
- ❑ The stock structure is extremely diverse, consisting of a mixture of tributary, lake and outlet-spawning components.
- ❑ Run timing is protracted, beginning in late June before the bulk of the Kenai run, and extending into August. The average median sonar passage date is July 14 (eight days earlier than the Kenai).
- ❑ This stock comprises about 20% of the commercial sockeye harvest on average (about 600,000 Kasilof sockeye per year over the last ten years). The record was 1.2 million in 2006.
- ❑ The Kasilof run size has increased substantially since the 1990s. The reasons are unclear but the increase is concurrent with larger escapements, more temperate climate conditions, and cessation of the hatchery program.
- ❑ Since 1996, escapements have consistently exceeded goals but these large escapements have continued to produce large returns. At the same time, average smolt size of sockeye emigrating from Tustumena has been steadily increasing since the 1980s, despite larger numbers. Over escapement has clearly not led to collapse of Kasilof sockeye.
- ❑ A Kasilof sockeye enhancement program was ended in 2004 by a court ruling that a commercial enterprise was an inappropriate Federal wilderness activity. Releases into Tustumena Lake were generally six million per year from 1988-2004, down from 15 million per year from 1982-1987. Hatchery smolts generally comprised less than 25% of the outmigration but reached 50% in 2004 and 32% in 2005. (2008 was the last year of return.)
- ❑ The old Bendix sonar on the Kasilof has proven to be relatively accurate. Didson numbers

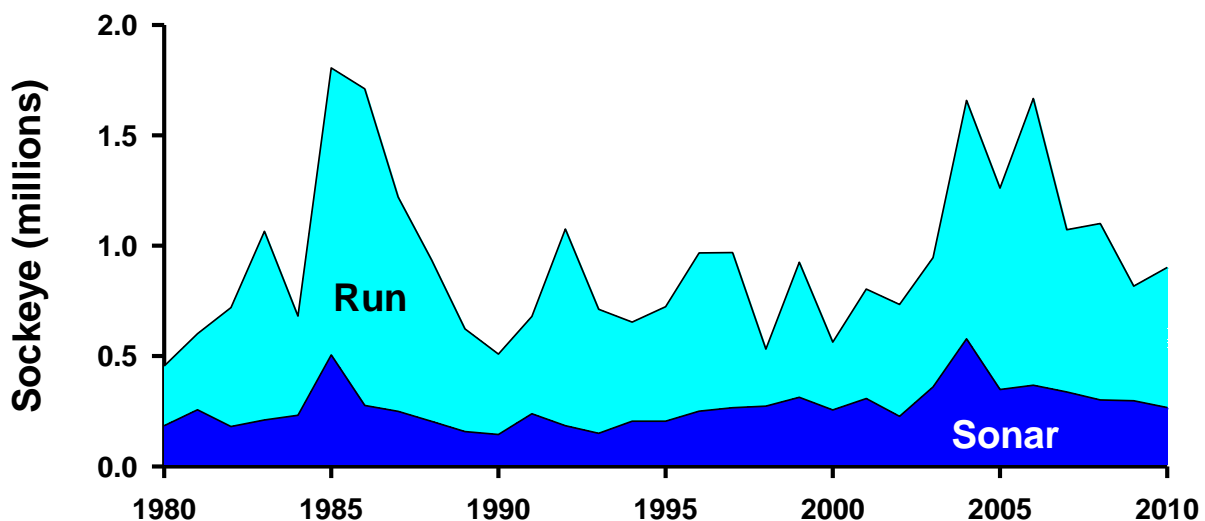


Figure 16. Trends in Kasilof late-run sockeye run size and sonar counts.

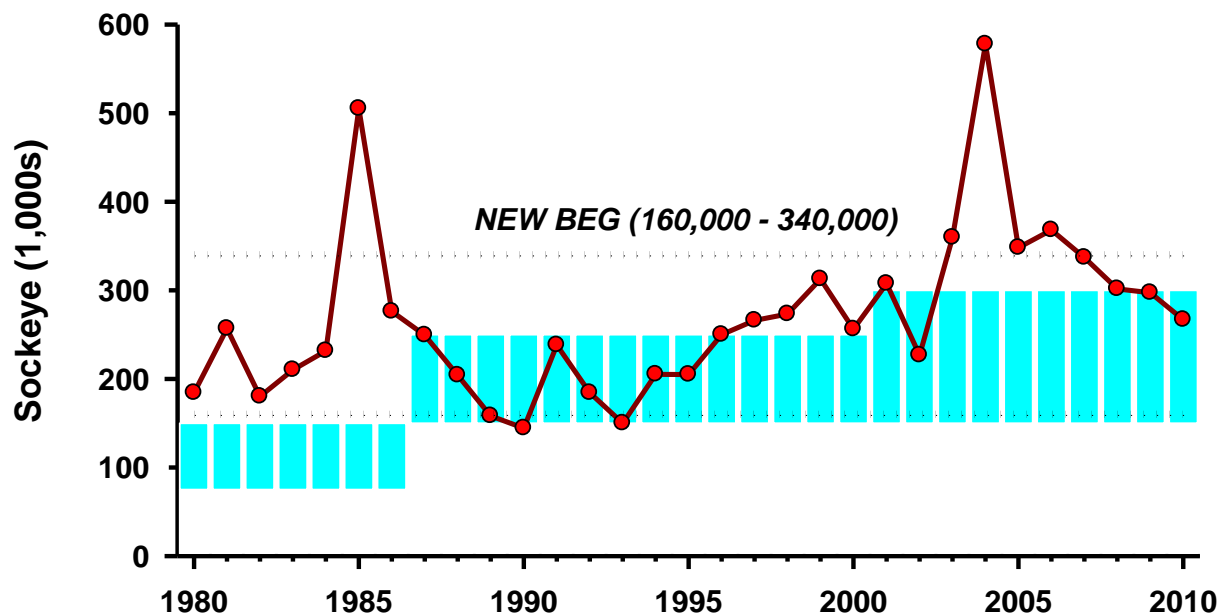


Figure 17. Recent sonar counts of Kasilof sockeye relative to sonar escapement goals.

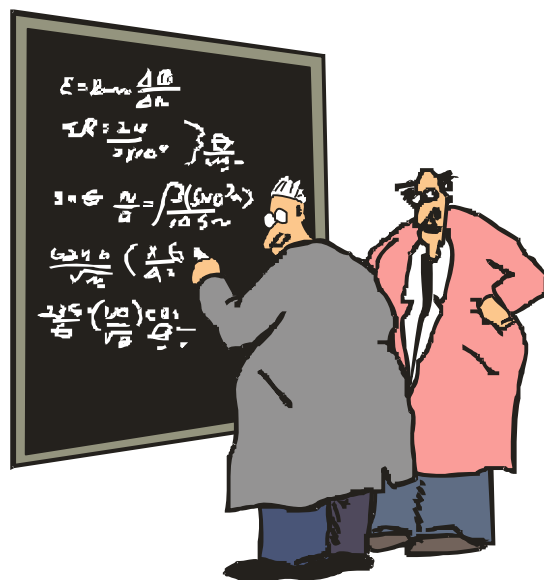
History

- ❑ The current framework for the Kasilof salmon management plan was adopted in 2002. This plan directed early season management of the ESSN fishery including start dates, limits on emergency order time, and window closures.
- ❑ The 2008 BOF reduced the length of an early season fishery window from 48 hours to 36 hours in order to avoid large escapements which might threaten the top end of the goal.
- ❑ The 2008 BOF added guidance language directing that additional fishing time and reduced windows be utilized before resorting to opening of the terminal fishery at the mouth of the Kasilof in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA). This area was not used from 1986 through 2004 but was used extensively from 2005-2007 due to large Kasilof sockeye returns. Concentrated use by the commercial fishery has led to user conflicts. Nearly continuous openers have severely constrained opportunities in the sport and personal use fisheries.
- ❑ The current BEG range of 150,000 – 250,000 was established by the Department in 1987. This was an increase from the previous goal as larger escapements provided better scientific information on the productivity of the system.
- ❑ The 2002 BOF established an OEG of 150,000 – 300,000 in order to provide flexibility at the top end to meet minimum Kenai goals in years of disparate returns.
- ❑ In December 2010, the Department identified a new BEG for Kasilof sockeye of 160,000-340,000. This change reflects updating historical Bendix sonar escapement data to DIDSON equivalents, incorporating recent genetic information into brood tables, and new information on stock productivity from recent large escapements.

Issues

Escapement Goal Updates. The OEG and other escapement references in the plan need to be revised for consistency with a new BEG identified by the Department. The BEG has increased from 150,000-250,000 to 160,000-340,000. The new, higher BEG is consistent with the recent trend of high escapements producing large returns.

The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 was 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. The OEG reflected no adjustments for sport harvest above the sonar which is not significant.



The disparity between actual production and artificially-low historic goals led to very high harvest rates on Kasilof sockeye and chronic management problems in the Kasilof area set net fishery. These included frequent out-of-plan actions, use of the unpopular special harvest area, high interception of Kenai sockeye, and reduced harvest opportunity in the Kenai set net areas. Excessive harvest of Kasilof sockeye also significantly reduced the availability of sockeye to the Kasilof personal use fishery as well as escapement and fisheries for Kasilof kings.

Kenai Goal Linkage Clarification. Clear linkages between Kasilof and Kenai management plans are essential because the ESSN fishery in both areas harvest a mixed sockeye stock. However, references to the “Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal” in the Kasilof plan fails to identify whether this determination is based on the Kenai SEG, OEG or the in-river goals. Recent in-season management decisions by ADFG in the Kasilof fishery have been based on the Kenai OEG. This is inconsistent with direction in the Kenai Late-Run Sockeye Plan (5 AAC 21.360) for management to achieve Kenai sockeye in-river goal ranges based on run strength. Managing commercial and personal use fisheries for the minimum OEG rather than the larger in-river 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 sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries.

Commercial King Harvest. Recent intensive Kasilof sockeye commercial fisheries severely impacted escapement and the in-river sport fishery for late-run Kasilof Chinook. Significant numbers of early and late-run Kenai kings may be taken in the Kasilof area set net fishery. Continuing high harvest rates result in a disproportionate commercial harvest share of Chinook relative to their sport fishery priority. Recent research has described a significant population of late-run Chinook in the Kasilof. However, escapement is not monitored in-season and escapement goals have not been established to ensure that this stock is being harvested at a sustainable level. Proposed revisions of Kasilof sockeye escapement goals should help reduce commercial harvest pressure on kings. In the absence of in-season management tools for evaluating run strength of late-run Kasilof kings, limitations on commercial fishing time and fishery closure windows will also continue to be critical for protecting escapement and in-river sport fishing opportunity.

KRSA Proposals [163, 164]

Proposal 163

KRSA submitted proposal 163 seeking to update the OEG for Kasilof sockeye to take into account the best available current data. The original KRSA proposal needs to be amended based on the new BEG established by the Department. The revised KRSA proposal is as follows:

- Retain the OEG designation in the plan in order to ensure BOF review of any allocative implications of changes in future changes in escapement goals.
- Revise the old OEG from 150,000 to 300,000 to 160,000-390,000. This change matches the OEG to the new BEG while continuing to provide an additional buffer of 50,000 above the top end of the OEG in order to ensure that minimum Kenai sockeye in-river goals are met.

Numbers in plan section referencing to specific escapement numbers governing additional EO time after July 15 and triggering use of the special harvest area also need to be updated.

- KRSA proposes to simply strike the old 300,000 number from 21.365(c)(4) since the OEG is already referenced specifically.
- KRSA proposes to increase the special harvest area trigger from 275,000 to the top of the OEG consistent with 2008 BOF intent to utilize the KRSHA as an option of last resort.

The net effect of these changes is that escapement levels of Kasilof sockeye will be increased, particularly at large run sizes and when the drift net and Kenai set net fishery is constrained by other factors. Commercial fisheries would forego some immediate harvest in exchange for future yield. Because higher escapements continue to replace themselves with high yields, there should be little or no net harvest reduction in the long term.

| | BEG | OEG | KRSHA trigger |
|-----|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Old | <u>150,000-250,000</u> | <u>150,000-300,000</u> | 275,000 |
| New | <u>160,000-340,000</u> | <u>160,000-390,000</u> | 390,000 |

ADFG Comments: *The Department is neutral on the original proposal which was deemed to be allocative. They estimate that an increase in the OEG of 50,000 fish will reduce harvest by all user groups and produce lower yields in the future. However, that conclusion fails to take into account the clear yield benefits of increasing Kasilof goals to levels consistent with current productivity of that system, and the much greater cost in future yield of failing to meet minimum Kenai sockeye goals in order to harvest a few more Kasilof fish.*

Proposal 164

Clarify the reference in the Kasilof plan to Kenai escapement goals as referring to the Kenai in-river goal. This is essentially a housekeeping proposal to clarify the reference to the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal in the Kasilof salmon management plan. The change is consistent with the intent that achieving the lower end of the in-river goal for Kenai is of higher priority than exceeding the upper end of the OEG for Kasilof.

ADFG Comments: *The Department is neutral on the original proposal which was deemed to be allocative. For this to be allocative, the Department would have to be managing fisheries outside the sonar for the spawning escapement goal rather than the in-river goal. It is exactly this sort of contradiction that this proposal is seeking to address.*

Other Proposals

#161 [*South K-Beach Independent Fishermen*] seeks to delete much of the existing management plan and allow an increase in fishing time and area. Additional fish bound for the Kenai and Northern Cook Inlet would be harvested. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#162 [*Central Peninsula Advisory Committee*] seeks to increase fishing time on Kasilof sockeye. This would result in additional harvest of Kenai and Northern Cook Inlet fish. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#165 [*James Garhart*] would prohibit commercial fishing on Saturdays. KRSA supports a window strategy for the set gillnet fishery to allow fish an opportunity to enter the river but this proposal is not comprehensive enough as written. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#166 [*Lance Alldrin*] seeks to allow additional fishing time and area for Kasilof bound sockeye in years when Kenai abundance is low. KRSA supports harvest of Kasilof bound sockeye by commercial fishery and achievement of Kasilof escapement goal but not at the expense of Kenai bound fish or escapements of Kenai kings and sockeye. It is not clear if this proposal as written would accomplish these goals. **[KRSA Supports Further Discussion]**

#168 [*Nathan Corr*] seeks to limit the time and circumstance under which the Department can allow commercial fishing in the special harvest area (KRSHA). **[KRSA Supports Further Discussion]**

#169 [*Joel Doner*] seeks to allow commercial fishing within ½ mile of shore in the Kasilof district whenever commercial fishing is allowed in the KRSHA. This could reduce conflict with personal use and allow more king salmon to reach the river but would result in additional harvest of fish bound for the Kenai. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#170 [*Anchorage Advisory Committee*] seeks to allow the department to open K-Beach within a half mile of shore when they open the KRSHA. This would likely increase the harvest of Kenai bound fish. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#171 [*South K-Beach Independent Fishermen*] seeks to allow the department to open the south K-Beach when they open the KRSHA. This would increase harvest of Kenai bound fish specifically late-run king salmon. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#329 [*Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association*] seeks to clarify the escapement goal for sockeye salmon in the Kasilof River. The new SEG for the Kasilof River sockeye is 160,000 – 340,000. Further discussion is required on establishing an OEG for the Kasilof sockeye – which was 50,000 more than the upper end of escapement range. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#330 [*Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association*] seeks to allow the department to open the Kasilof section of the beach within one-half mile of shore whenever the department utilizes the KRSHA. This would result in the harvest of additional late-run king salmon bound back to the Kenai River. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#331 [*Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association*] seeks to expand the area within the KRSHA that can be fished using a set gill net from 600 feet of the mean high tide mark to 1,200 feet, at the expense of drift gillnet fishing. **[KRSA is Neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal]**

Annotated Plan Language

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| <p>5 AAC 21.365 Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan</p> <p>(a) 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. Openings in the areas historically fished must be consistent with escapement objectives for upper Cook Inlet salmon and with the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.363).</p> <p>(b) Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon [INRIVER] escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 [160,000 to 390,000] sockeye salmon.</p> <p>(c) The commercial set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section shall be managed as follows:</p> <p>(1) fishing will be opened as described in 5 AAC 21.310(b) (2) for regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320;</p> <p>(2) from the beginning of the fishing season through July 7,</p> <p>(A) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open additional fishing periods or extend regular weekly fishing periods to a maximum of 48 hours of additional fishing time per week;</p> <p>(B) the fishery shall remain closed for at least one continuous 36-hour period per week to begin between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday;</p> <p>(3) beginning July 8, 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) , the commissioner may, by emergency order, limit fishing during the regular weekly periods and any extra fishing periods to those waters within one-half mile of shore, if the set gillnet fishery in the Kenai and East Forelands Sections are not open for the fishing period;</p> <p>(4) after July 15, if the department determines that the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run strength is projected to be less than two million fish and the 300,000 optimal escapement goal for the Kasilof River sockeye salmon may be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open fishing for an additional 24-hours per week in the Kasilof Section within one-half mile of shore and as specified in 5 AAC 21.360(c).</p> <p>(d) The personal use fishery will be managed as specified in 5 AAC 77.540(b) and (c).</p> | <p><i>This plan primarily concerns sockeye in the east side set net commercial fishery but has significant implications for other species and fisheries in the Kasilof and Kenai rivers.</i></p> <p><i>Prioritizes minimum Kenai goal over maximum Kasilof goal</i></p> <p>Updated KRSA proposals for Didson equivalent revisions are shaded green.</p> <p><i>Kasilof section is S of Blanchard line</i></p> <p><i>Jun 25 – Aug 15 (Jun 20 by EO) Mondays & Thursdays</i></p> <p><i>With regular periods, allows for about 5 fishing days per week prior to run assessment</i></p> <p><i>Fixed window before weekend to feed in-river fisheries & escapement</i></p> <p><i>Linkage to Kenai management when Kenai sections open in July</i></p> <p><i>Openings closer to shore are intended to catch Kasilof sockeye and avoid Kenai sockeye</i></p> <p><i>Extra fishing time in the Kasilof area when Kenai is weak and Kasilof is strong</i></p> |
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(e) Repealed 6/4/2008.

(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 [the OEG]. 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. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is defined as those waters within one and one-half miles of the navigational light located on the south bank of the Kasilof River, excluding waters of the Kasilof River upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located near the terminus of the river and waters open to set gillnetting under 5 AAC 21.330(b) (3)(C)(ii) and (iii). The following apply within the special harvest area when it is open:

- (1) set gillnets may be operated only within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;
- (2) a set gillnet may not exceed 35 fathoms in length;
- (3) drift gillnets may not be operated in waters within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;
- (4) no more than 50 fathoms of drift gillnet may be used to take salmon;
- (5) a permit holder may not use more than one gillnet to take salmon at any time;
- (6) a person may not operate a gillnet outside the special harvest area when operating a gillnet in the special harvest area;
- (7) there is no minimum distance between gear, except that a gillnet may not be set or operated within 600 feet of a set gillnet located outside of the special harvest area; and
- (8) a vessel may not have more than 150 fathoms of drift gillnet or 105 fathoms of set gillnet on board.

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

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

Terminal area at the mouth of the river may be opened when goals are being exceeded.

Provision was rarely used before 2005.

Subsequent use proved unpopular with both commercial and in-river users and led the BOF to direct to that other measures be used in priority to the special harvest area.

Gear and area limitations in the special harvest area for both set and drift net fisheries

Affirms authority to set aside portions of plan based on escapement goal priorities

A week starts on Sunday (for purposes of EO limitations)

UCI PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (5 AAC 77.540)

Background

- Personal use fisheries have grown steadily since 1996 with 468,000 sockeye harvested in 37,500 angler days in over 20,000 permits during 2009. A total of 334,000 Kenai sockeye were harvested in 2009.
- The Kenai dip net fishery accounts for the majority of the average sockeye harvest (70%) followed by Kasilof Dipnet (16%), Kasilof Gillnet (8%), and Fish Creek (2%).
- The Fish Creek Personal Use fishery reopened in 2009 for the first time since 2001 following a rebound in local sockeye run. The 2010 fishery was excellent.
- As many as 1,500 kings have been taken in Kenai dip net fisheries. On average, one king is harvested for about every 270 sockeye.
- This fishery has accounted for 10-17% of the total harvest and 5-14% of the total run of Kenai sockeye from 2006-2009. Commercial harvest shares of Kenai sockeye have declined proportionately.
- Harvest opportunity in the Kenai and Kasilof personal use fisheries depends on high and somewhat predictable fish counts. Kenai sockeye counts of at least 15,000 to 25,000 are needed before catch rates are adequate to make fishing worthwhile.
- Because most of the Kenai and Kasilof participants are not local, participants typically require some lead time and planning to make the trip. Limited and unpredictable escapement patterns associated with emergency openings of the ESSN fishery can throw the personal use participation off balance and reduce effort, harvest, and allocation.

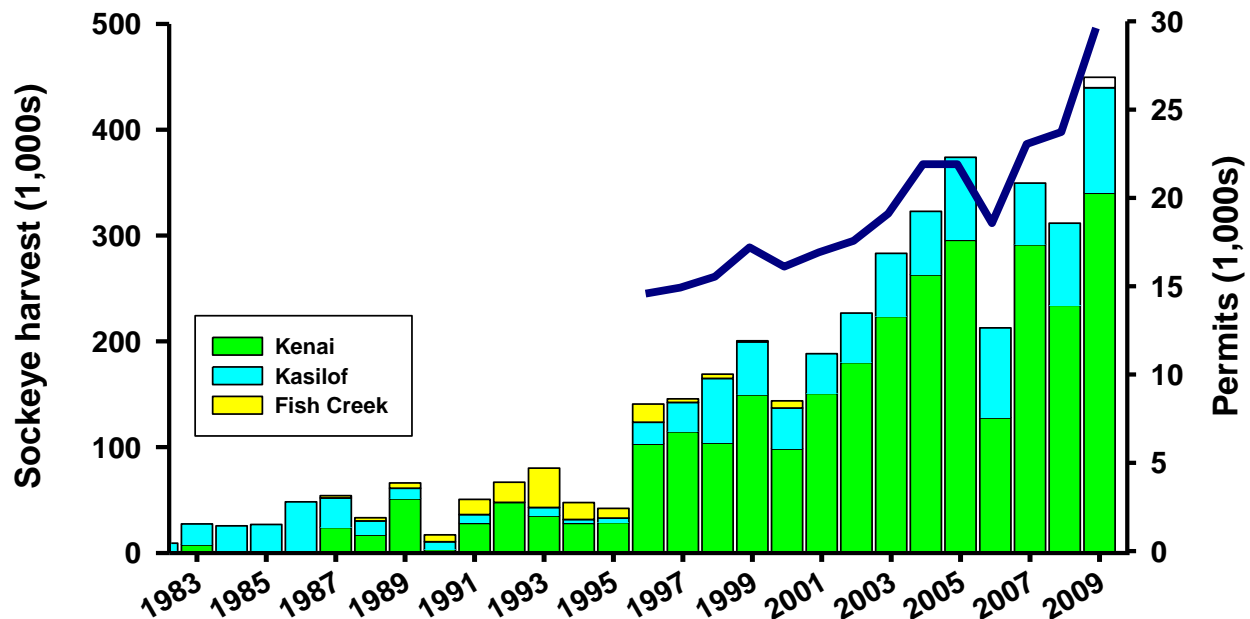


Figure 18. Personal use fishery harvest of sockeye, 1983-2009.

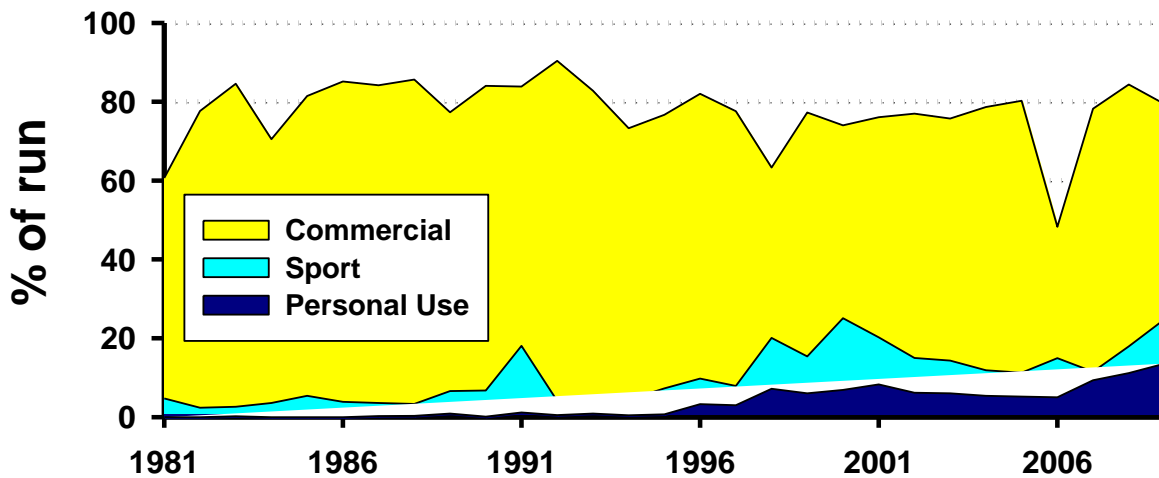


Figure 19. Harvest rates of Kenai sockeye in sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries.

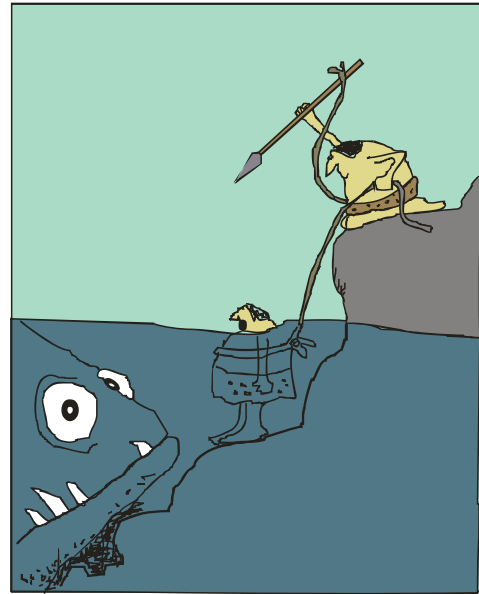
History

- The history of the UCI personal use fishery has been long and contentious (Gamblin et al. 2002, Pappas & Marsh 2004).
- The BOF adopted a regulatory definition of personal use fishing in 1982. Personal use regulations were also created in 1982 at the request of the BOF. The statutory definition of personal use was enacted in 1986.
- Prior to 1996, gillnet and dip net fisheries at both the Kenai and Kasilof rivers were opened only when a specified sonar estimate was achieved. Opportunities were extremely limited due to very high harvests by commercial fisheries.
- Until the mid-nineties, subsistence/PU gillnet fishing occurred on most beaches along the east, west and north shores of Cook Inlet. In 1996 a decision by BOF reduced the available beaches along Cook Inlet for the personal use (PU) gillnet fishery to a two mile area encompassing north and south of the mouth of the Kasilof River.
- Beginning in 1996, the BOF established a dip net season of July 10 to Aug. 5 (later amended to July 31), eliminating the sonar trigger for opening to compensate for the gill net subsistence closure. This effectively shifted a majority of the PU fishery to the lower Kasilof and Kenai Rivers.
- From 1996 through 2001, the Kasilof personal use gillnet fishery opened on June 16 and closed by emergency order when approximately 10 to 20 thousand fish had been harvested. Beginning in 2002, the personal use gillnet season changed to June 15-24, and the 27-day dip net fishing season (July 10 through Aug. 5) was changed to a 44-day season (June 25 through Aug. 7).
- In 2002, the management plan was modified to manage the Kenai dip net fishery more conservatively until in-season abundance information became available. Season dates were unchanged but hours were reduced.
- In 2008, the Board adopted requirements for use of four-stroke or DFI two-stroke motors for boats in the personal use fishery in the lower four miles of the Kenai River downstream from the Warren Ames Bridge in order to control hydrocarbon pollution and provide consistency with newly-adopted DNR regulations upstream.

Issues

The Kenai and Kasilof personal use fishery has proven to be a tremendous success and should be protected. It provides Alaskan residents with the best opportunity to harvest fish for their dinner table. The fishery currently provides 300,000 to 400,000 sockeye per year salmon to Alaskan families.

It is unfortunate that the dip net fisheries have gone from being the opportunity of choice to harvest high quality salmon for personal consumption to being the fisheries of necessity for so many Alaskans. A quick look around the most populated areas of the state finds king runs down and fisheries restricted or closed. Bag limits for coho salmon are restricted to two fish even though commercial fisheries for this species are not restricted for coho abundance. Chum salmon are harvested commercially without limit but are only available to sport anglers as part of an aggregate bag limit for salmon other than kings. The once reliable Russian River fisheries for sockeye salmon failed in 2010 to provide meaningful opportunity.



Now Grog, Now!

The Kenai sport fishery for sockeye is also limited by current management practices. In 2010 the Department waited until late in the season to officially recognize that the return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River would exceed two million fish and increase the bag and possession limit for sockeye in the Kenai from three to six fish in accordance with the codified management plan. Once the Department made this call, they deployed the commercial fishery for the maximum amount of time allow by regulation and effectively reduced the daily in-river return to numbers low enough to make sport fishing ineffective.

Healthy sport fisheries will involve more people spreading out across UCI and harvesting reasonable numbers of high-quality salmon with hook and line through readily available sport fisheries. We support the development of well-designed and maintained access to sport fisheries. The popularity of the dip net fisheries and the lack of opportunity to harvest salmon through sport fishing regulations clearly demonstrate the need to allocate more salmon to sport fisheries throughout all of UCI, increase the bag limits on coho salmon and consider establishing additional sport fishing opportunity for chum and pink salmon when stock status warrants.

Sport and personal use fisheries for Kenai and Kasilof sockeye provided by current plans are consistent with the public demand for these opportunities. Significant allocation of sockeye harvest to the sport and personal use fisheries is supported by the BOF's allocation criteria (Box 2). It is recognized that sockeye are designated by other management plans for a commercial fishery priority. However, the non-commercial harvest share of the commercial-priority sockeye is substantially less than the commercial share of the sport-priority Kenai late-run kings. The commercial fishery will continue to harvest the large majority of sockeye even if non-commercial sockeye harvests were significantly liberalized.

Box 2. Application of the BOF's allocation criteria [AS 16.05.251(e)] to the Cook Inlet personal use fisheries for sockeye.

1) The history of each sport, personal use and commercial fishery;

Sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries each have a long history in UCI. All fisheries have evolved over time in response to changing values, demands, and opportunities. For instance, commercial fisheries have evolved with reduced dependence on chum and pink salmon and increased focus on the ESSN. The growth of the sockeye sport and personal use fishery results from increasing demand from the growing population in South Central Alaska. At the same time, the value of the commercial fishery is highly variable in part due to increased competition from aquaculture and globalization of the seafood market.

2) The characteristics and number of participants in the fisheries;

Personal use fishery permits have been issued to an average of 20,000 households per year since 2002. The Kenai and Russian rivers are the most heavily sport fished waters in the state, averaging over 300,000 angler days per year for all species (Begich & Pawluk 2007). At least 100,000 anglers fish each year in the Kenai River system (Haley et al. 1999). Cook Inlet commercial fisheries included 571 drift and 738 set gill net permits registered in 2003 (Shields 2007). Commercial fishers number about three operators and crew numbers per permit with an estimated 3,000 total commercial fishers in 1994 (ISER 1996).

3) The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption;

The Kenai and Kasilof personal use fisheries represent one of the few opportunities for a majority of Alaska residents to obtain fish for personal and family consumption.

4) The availability of alternative fisheries resources;

The Kenai sport and personal use fisheries for sockeye are particularly important with the frequent closure of the Fish Creek personal use fishery. The only other alternative is the Chitina personal use fishery on the Copper River.

5) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the state;

Recent economic analyses have highlighted the economic significance of sport, personal use and commercial fisheries to the state's economy. The Kenai fisheries are readily accessible to the nearly two-thirds of the state's population that lives in the Cook Inlet area. UCI commercial salmon fisheries account for a small fraction of the total Alaska salmon catch.

6) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;

Sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries for sockeye are all vital parts of the local Kenai economy. The Kenai Peninsula Borough estimated the economic effect of sportfishing in the borough in 2003 at \$664 million. The ex-vessel value of the UCI commercial catch has averaged approximately \$16 million over the last ten years.

7) The importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.

In-river sport and personal use fisheries provide significant recreational opportunities for Alaska residents. This fishery has grown into a tremendously popular family activity. These sockeye sport fisheries provide significant recreational opportunity for both residents and nonresidents.

Proposals

KRSA has submitted no proposals for revision of this plan but strongly supports the personal use fisheries of both the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. KRSA will be active participants of serious effort to address these issues.

Commercial fishery advocates have offered a variety of proposals intended to reduce opportunity and harvest of the Kenai, Kasilof and Fish Creek personal use fisheries. KRSA will actively oppose any effort to reduce their harvest potential. We recognize that people management issues need to be addressed any time large numbers of individuals and families gather anywhere.

When evaluating the establishment of any new personal use fisheries in UCI, KRSA recommends the following steps: 1) the sustained yield / harvestable surplus is sufficient to meet the needs of an additional fishery, 2) any new personal use fishery is consistent with the intent language in 5 AAC 77.001, 3) consumptive demands of residents cannot be met in the established sport fisheries, and 4) an orderly fishery can be established.

#172 [*Steve Rasmussen*] seeks to require participants in the UCI Personal Use Salmon Fishery to obtain a “Dip Net Education Card” by attending class modeled after the Hunter Safety program. The author goes to great length to describe the class and proposes a method to obtain funding. Implementation of a program like that described in this proposal would require legislative action, would place an onerous burden on Alaskan’s who desire fish for their families and would create an unnecessary and expensive bureaucracy. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#173 [*John McCombs*] seeks to repeal the requirement that participants in the Personal Use fishery have in their possession a valid resident sport fish license. At the present time, in addition to the resident sport fish license, a participant in the UCI Personal Use Dipnet Fishery must have a permit that can be obtained at no cost from the Department. The Department uses harvest information from the permits, when returned, to estimate total harvest. The author inarticulately suggests that a new Dipnet permit would be developed that would be sold for a fee of \$15 and further speculates that somehow the new permit would provide the Department and Enforcement with a better management tool. The Department uses the data from the current permit to estimate total harvest. Does the estimate of total harvest vary so greatly from the actual total harvest that the management of the return is in question? Does the estimate of commercial home pack vary from the actual? Does the estimate of harvest of king salmon by the ESSN fishery vary from the actual? Don’t we estimate the harvest of sockeye salmon in the Kenai River by sport fishermen both above and below the sonar? What do we think the drop-out rate is for sockeye in the gill net fisheries? When is the last time an enforcement officer visited each individual commercial permit holder during an open period? No system is going to be perfect, costs are a concern everywhere, and the current system provides for appropriate data collection for fisheries management. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#174 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seeks to allow non-residents to participate in the UCI Personal Use Fishery. At the present time a participant in the personal use fishery is required to possess a valid resident sport fishing license. Associated intent language, found in 5 AAC 77.001, reads, in part, “*before the enactment of the state’s subsistence priority law, an individual could fulfill that individual’s personal use needs for fish under subsistence fishing regulations; the state’s subsistence priority law changed the definition of subsistence in a*

manner that now precludes some individuals from participating....and efficiently harvesting fish for their personal use.” The state’s subsistence law authorizes only residents of subsistence areas of the state to fish under subsistence regulations. The individuals that were precluded were residents that lived or fished in what became nonsubsistence areas like UCI. If UCIDA would like non-resident skippers and crew to have access to salmon we suggest they simply home pack from their commercial catch and, of course, record that home pack on their fish ticket. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#175 [Laney Anderson] seeks to delay the opening of the Kenai personal use fishery until July 17 when the Kenai return of late-run sockeye is less than two million fish. The Kenai personal use fishery currently opens on July 10. Fishing hours are 6:00am to 11:00pm but can be extended by emergency order. Commercial fishing for these same fish begins on or about June 25 for the set net fishery south of the Blanchard line and for the Drift Fleet. Those set nets north of the Blanchard line (close to the mouth of the Kenai) begin their season July 8. Early in the season, through July 20, fisheries are managed based on a projection of total return. The projections are uncertain and numbers are often underestimated only to be adjusted upward as the season progresses. Initially higher sockeye sonar counts resulting from a later personal use opening would likely be offset by the additional time allowed in the commercial fisheries in response to the higher counts. Leave the season opening as a date certain and keep that date July 10. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#176 [John McCombs] seeks to delay the opening of the personal use fishery in the Kenai River until 350,000 sockeye salmon have been enumerated by the sonar counter located at mile-19 of the Kenai River. The personal use fishery on the Kenai River opens by regulation on July 10. Fishing is limited to the hours 6:00am to 11:00pm but can be extended or reduced by emergency order. Commercial fishing for these same fish begins on or about June 25 for the set net fishery south of the Blanchard line and for the drift fleet. Those set nets north of the Blanchard line (close to the mouth of the Kenai) begin their season July 8. We will ask the Department to provide an estimate of the average harvest of sockeye salmon of Kenai River origin taken in the combined commercial fishery prior to the time when a sonar count of 350,000 has been realized. We will ask that that estimate be compared to a similar estimate generated for the personal use Fishery. We expect to see a nearly order of magnitude difference in favor of the commercial fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#177 [Brian Tibbs] seeks to close to fishing in the Personal Use fishery, from the shore or a boat, what he describes as the “south bank of the Kenai” until the lower end of the escapement goal range is realized as a sonar count at river-mile 19. The author justifies the need for this action as an attempt to improve sport fishing for sockeye salmon on the Kenai River. This lower end of the sonar goal range could now be anywhere from 650,000 to 950,000 Bendix equivalent counts depending upon the projected total return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. The Personal Use fishery on the Kenai River currently opens by regulation on July 10. Fishing is limited to the hours 6:00am to 11:00pm but can be extended or reduced by emergency order. Commercial fishing for these same fish begins on or about June 25 for the set net fishery south of the Blanchard Line and for the Drift Fleet. Those set nets north of the Blanchard Line (close to the mouth of the Kenai) begin their season July 8. Before even considering taking positive action on this proposal the BOF should ask the Department to estimate the average harvest of sockeye salmon of Kenai River origin taken in the combined commercial fishery prior to the time when the lower end of the sonar goal range has been realized. We will ask that that

estimate be compared to a similar estimate generated for the Personal Use Fishery. We expect to see a nearly order of magnitude difference in favor of the commercial fishery. This proposal is not focused on improving sport fishing for sockeye salmon in the Kenai River; it is designed to dramatically reduce opportunity to harvest sockeye in the Personal Use fishery. A positive action on this proposal would require a very creative application of the allocation criteria.

[KRSA Opposes]

#178 [John McCombs] addresses the Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan in the administrative code but in the narrative the author speaks to “all creeks, streams and rivers in Area H.” Mr. McCombs proposes that all fishing under Personal Use regulations be closed until what he calls optimal escapement goals is met. See comments for Proposals 175, 176 and 177. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#179 [Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association] seeks to open fishing in the personal use fisheries on both the Kenai and Kasilof rivers only after the lower end of the escapement goal (not in-river sonar goal) will be achieved. UCIDA has taken an amazingly varied approach toward personal use for this meeting of the BOF. See comments for proposals 175-178. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#180 [John McCombs] seeks to close fishing in the Personal Use fishery on the Kenai River on Tuesdays and Fridays until a sonar count (Bendix or DIDSON???) of 450,000 is realized at river-mile 19. See comments on proposals 175-178. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#181 [Laney Anderson] seeks to establish a “harvest cap” of 150,000 sockeye salmon for the Personal Use fishery on the Kenai River. Alaskan residents who participate in this fishery are currently limited by time, area, methods and means and an individual and family annual limit. A harvest cap would result in many Alaskans being shut out of this opportunity to put fish on their dinner table. At the current time there is no reliable estimate of in-season harvest of the personal use fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#182 [Pat Hodgson] seeks to establish a set allocation of 100,000-150,000 sockeye salmon for the personal use fishery on the Kenai River. This proposal suggests that this range is sufficient because it would “mirror” the number of sockeye salmon taken in the personal use fishery at Chitina on the Copper River, where fewer fish are harvested in the personal use fisheries of UCI. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#183 [South K-Beach Independent Fishermen] seeks to establish guideline harvest limitations for the personal use fishery on the Kenai River across the three abundance strata found in the Late-run Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan: 100,000 for runs of less than two million; 225,000 for runs in the range of two to four million; and no limit when the run size is in excess of four million. Alaskan residents who participate in this fishery are currently limited by time, area, methods and means and an individual and family annual limit. A harvest cap would result in many Alaskans being shut out of this opportunity to put fish on their dinner table. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#185 [Pat Hodgson] seeks to implement a Chitina Personal Use fishery style allocation strategy for the personal use fishery on the Kasilof River in an effort to protect habitat. KRSA needs to see the science that supports the correlation theorized in this proposal. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources – Division of Lands, Mining and Water has proposed a Kasilof River Special

Use Area designation to address many of the habitat and human management issues identified at this location. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#186 [Chris Every] seeks to reduce the seasonal limit for an Alaskan family participating in the personal use fishery on the Kenai River to 15 fish. At the present time the total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is 25 salmon for the head of a household and ten salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. Mr. Every supports his proposal by stating that operating without his proposed significantly lower limit is “biological suicide and a management nightmare.” Facts describing the Department’s record of achieving the minimum end of the escapement goal range does not support his justification. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#187 [Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association] seeks to reduce the seasonal limit for an Alaskan family participating in the UCI personal use salmon fishery to ten fish. At the present time the total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is 25 salmon for the head of a household and ten salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. UCIDA justifies their proposal by stating that most participants in the personal use fishery do not harvest anywhere near the maximum number of fish allowed. KRSA is aware that the average harvest per permit is significantly less than the maximum allowed and that some families either don’t fish or don’t harvest any so we ask the authors to describe the problem supposedly solved by this proposal. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#188 [Steve Vanek] seeks to either delay the opening of the personal use fishery on the Kenai River or reduce the number of salmon that an Alaskan family is allowed to harvest annually in the UCI personal use salmon fishery to ten fish. At the present time the total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is 25 salmon for the head of a household and ten salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. Alaskan residents who participate in this fishery are also currently limited by time, area, and methods and means. Adoption of this either option offered in this proposal would result in many Alaskans being shut out of this opportunity to put fish on their dinner table. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#189 [Kenai Soldotna Advisory Committee] seeks to prohibit retention of king salmon in the UCI personal use salmon fishery. At the present time participants are allowed to retain king salmon on the Kenai River, which has a sonar counter to track in-river escapement. The annual total harvest of king salmon in the personal use fishery on the Kenai River has not jeopardized the sustained yield of the species or the successful prosecution of any other fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#190 [Richard Hansen] seeks to limit participants in the UCI personal use salmon fishery to an annual harvest of only one king salmon per household permit. This proposal mirrors what is already in regulation: retention of king salmon in the personal use fishery is not allowed at Fish Creek or the Kasilof River, and one king salmon is allowed on the Kenai River. Historical retention of king salmon in the personal use fishery on the Kenai River has not jeopardized the sustained yield of the species or the successful prosecution of any other fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#191 [Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association] seeks to reduce the mesh size allowed as legal gear in the UCI Personal Use Salmon Fishery or prohibit the release of salmon taken by participants in the fishery. The authors of this proposal justify their request as a measure necessary to reduce the dropout rates and the dead-loss associated with dropout. Dip net specifications are

currently described in 5 AAC 39.001. Types of legal gear. (d)(24). 5 AAC 39 is the General Provisions section. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#192 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seeks to prohibit an Alaskan resident from having in their possession fish caught under both personal use and sportfishing regulations on the same day. Currently an Alaskan resident can possess fish legally taken under each set of regulations on the same day. In fact, a resident could also have in their possession fish taken as commercial home pack and fish purchased from either the store or directly from a commercial permit holder. This proposal is justified by the authors as an effort to improve enforcement and eliminate wanton waste. KRSA can find fault with many aspects of this proposal. Neither Fish and Wildlife Protection or ADFG brings this issue to the BOF in the form of a proposal to address the alleged enforcement difficulty or wanton waste. The proposal makes no effort to distinguish processed or frozen fish with fresh fish. The proposal fails to recognize that many residents who travel to the Kenai Peninsula from other regions of the state often fish under both sets of regulations during one trip. This diversification of fishing opportunity is good for the economy of the Kenai Peninsula and has not jeopardized the sustained yield of any species.

[KRSA Opposes]

#193 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seeks to prohibit Alaskan residents from dipnetting from a boat when participating in the personal use fishery on the Kenai River. The authors justify their proposal as a restriction necessary to reduce the disturbance caused to Beluga whales by boat traffic. Can this proposal actually be coming from the Drift fleet? The National Marine Fisheries Service report on the endangered status of Beluga in Cook Inlet states that one of the high risk threats associated with the long term viability of Beluga in Cook Inlet is the low abundance of prey species, specifically salmon, in the Northern District during the summer feeding season. KRSA view this proposal as a veiled attempt to reduce the harvest capability of participants in the personal use fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#194 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seek to prohibit Alaskan residents from dipnetting from a boat when participating in the personal use fishery on the Kenai River. See comments on Proposal 193. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#195 [*South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association*] seeks changes in management of Fish Creek personal use. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#196 [*Duane Gluth*] seeks changes in the management of Beluga River personal use. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#197 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seeks to establish a personal use fishery for salmon on the Eklutna River from August 1 through September 15. The proposal leaves open the issues of methods and means, permit requirements, species allowed and bag limits. KRSA opposes establishment of a personal use fishery in this location. If stock status of salmon present in the suggested area warrant, KRSA would support increased bag and possession limits for sport fishing. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#198 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seeks to establish a personal use for pink salmon on the Deshka River from August 1 through September 15. The proposal leaves open the issues of methods and means, permit requirements and bag limits. KRSA opposes establishment of a personal use fishery in this location. If stock status of pink salmon present in the Deshka River is

strong enough to warrant additional harvest then KRSA would support modification of sport fishing regulations to add appropriate harvest opportunity. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#199 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seeks to establish a personal use fishery for chum salmon on the Talkeetna River from August 1 through September 15. The proposal leaves open the issues of methods, means, permit requirement and bag limits. KRSA opposes this proposal but would agree with the concept that more harvest opportunity for public is needed in areas of northern Cook Inlet. If the harvestable surplus of chum salmon is available KRSA would support a discrete bag and possession limit for chum salmon established under sport fishing regulations in Northern Cook Inlet. KRSA suggests a daily bag and possession limit of three chum salmon. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#328 [*Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association*] seeks to mandate that the Department close, by emergency order, the personal use fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River at a time certain 24 hours after the Department releases a projection stating that the lower end of the escapement goal range will not be met. The author cites the wrong codified reference for this regulatory action. Similar to proposal 155 (UCIDA), this proposal is aimed at the personal use fishery in the Kenai River. KPFA wants the BOF to mandate that the Department close the personal use fishery together with the commercial fishery when projections are for escapements below goal. This proposal ignores the facts that the drift and set gillnet fisheries have a massive harvest potential when compared to the personal use fishery and that during the season projections change daily. The commercial fishery is accustomed to emergency order openings and closures while Alaskans who participate in the personal use fishery need some assurance that opportunity will be predictable. The personal use fishery has conservation measures built into the time and area requirements of the fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#155 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seeks to add language to the Late-run Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan that would mandate the department to “close” all sport, personal use and commercial fishing if the department projects that a minimum escapement goal will not be achieved. This proposal should be considered as part of the personal use discussion since that is likely the specific fishery targeted by UCIDA but the proposal seeks to affect all fisheries in a very specific and negative manner. What does “closed” mean in the context of each fishery, each time strata of the season, each district and sub district? The Personal Use fishery already has conservation measures built into the time and area requirements of the fishery. Do the Central District commercial fisheries in UCI want to adopt the time constraints of the personal use fishery for their season: July 10 – 31? **[KRSA Opposes]**

Annotated Plan Language

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| <p>5 AAC 77.540 Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan</p> <p>(a) Salmon may be taken for personal use under this section only under a personal use permit issued under 5 AAC 77.015 and 5 AAC 77.525; in addition to the requirements under 5 AAC 77.015, a person</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(2) shall record all fish harvested on the permit, in ink, immediately upon harvesting the fish; for the purpose of this paragraph, "immediately" means before concealing the salmon from plain view or transporting the salmon from the fishing site;</p> <p>(3) shall return the permit to the department by the date specified on the permit.</p> <p>(b) Salmon may be taken with a set gillnet in the Central District as follows:</p> <p>(1) from June 15 through June 24;</p> <p>(2) fishing periods will be daily from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.;</p> <p>(3) repealed 6/22/2002;</p> <p>(4) salmon may be taken only from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the mouth of the Kasilof River to ADF&G commercial fishing regulatory markers located approximately one mile from the mouth on either side of the Kasilof River; fishing is prohibited beyond one mile from the mean high tide mark and is also prohibited within the flowing waters or over the stream bed or channel of the Kasilof River at any stage of the tide;</p> <p>(5) salmon may be taken only by set gillnets as follows:</p> <p>(A) a set gillnet may not exceed 10 fathoms in length, six inches in mesh size, and 45 meshes in depth;</p> <p>(B) no part of a set gillnet may be operated within 100 feet of another set gillnet;</p> <p>(C) a person may not operate more than one set gillnet; the permit holder shall attend the set gillnet at all times when it is being used to take fish;</p> <p>(D) only one set gillnet may be operated per household;</p> <p>(6) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525.</p> <p>(c) Salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers as follows:</p> <p>(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:</p> <p>(A) from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; the commissioner may extend, by emergency order, the personal use fishery to 24-hours per day if the department determines that the abundance of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon is greater than two million fish;</p> <p>(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that only one king salmon may be retained per household;</p> <p>(C) from a boat, in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Kenai city dock upstream to the downstream side of the Warren Ames Bridge, except that salmon may not be taken from a boat powered by a two stroke motor other than a</p> | <p><i>Alaska residents only</i></p> <p><i>Harvest recording</i></p> <p><i>Harvest reporting</i></p> <p><u><i>Kasilof gillnet personal use fishery</i></u></p> <p><i>June Kasilof opener consistent with the earlier run timing of this stock</i></p> <p><i>Limited to beaches adjacent to river mouth</i></p> <p><i>Annual limits are 25 for the head of the household and 10 for each dependent.</i></p> <p><u><i>Kenai dip net fishery</i></u> <i>Ending date was originally established in 1996 to limit the harvest of coho.</i></p> <p><i>Motor type restrictions to reduce hydrocarbon pollution (adopted</i></p> |
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| <p>motor manufactured as a direct fuel injection motor;</p> <p>(D) from shore, in the area from ADF&G regulatory markers located on the Cook Inlet beaches outside the terminus of the river upstream to the downstream side of the Warren Ames Bridge, except dipnetting is closed on the north shore from an ADF&G regulatory marker located below the end of Main Street, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Kenai City Dock;</p> <p>(2) in the Kasilof River, as follows:</p> <p>(A) from June 25 through August 7, 24-hours per day;</p> <p>(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that king salmon may not be retained and any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;</p> <p>(C) from ADF&G regulatory markers located on the Cook Inlet beaches outside the terminus of the river upstream for a distance of one mile.</p> <p>(d) Salmon may be taken by dip net in Fish Creek only as follows:</p> <p>(1) the commissioner will open, by emergency order, the personal use dip net fishery in Fish Creek from July 10 through July 31, if the department projects that the escapement of sockeye salmon into Fish Creek will be above the upper end of the escapement goal of 70,000 fish;</p> <p>(2) the annual limit is a specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that no king salmon may be retained and any king salmon caught must be returned to the water unharmed;</p> <p>(3) from a boat or shore, in those waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located on both sides of the terminus of Fish Creek, to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one-quarter mile upstream from Knik-Goose Bay Road.</p> <p>(e) Repealed 6/22/2002.</p> <p>(f) A person may retain flounder incidentally caught when fishing for salmon in the Cook Inlet Area under this section. A person may retain up to 10 flounder under this subsection per year and must record those flounder retained by the person on that person's permit specified in (a) of this section.</p> <p>(g) In the Beluga River, salmon may be taken by dip net only as follows:</p> <p>(1) salmon, other than king salmon, may be taken only by a person 60 years of age or older; a person authorized to take salmon under this subsection may not authorize a proxy to take or attempt to take salmon on behalf of that person under 5 AAC 77.016 and AS 16.05.405 ;</p> <p>(2) from July 20 through August 31, the fishery is open 24 hours per day from the Beluga River Bridge downstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile below the bridge;</p> <p>(3) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525; king salmon may not be retained; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;</p> <p>(4) the commissioner will close, by emergency order, the fishery when 500 salmon, other than king salmon, have been harvested;</p> <p>(5) a permit holder for this fishery shall report weekly to the department as specified in the permit.</p> | <p>2008)</p> <p><i>Kasilof dipnet fishery</i> <i>Fishery switches from gillnet to dip net as gear effectiveness improves with fish numbers approaching peak</i></p> <p><i>Fish Creek dipnet fishery</i> <i>Opens only when upper goal <u>projected</u> to be exceeded.</i></p> <p><i>No king retention in Kasilof personal use</i></p> <p><i>Flounder are common bycatch</i></p> <p><i>Beluga dipnet fishery (adopted 2008)</i> <i>Age restrictions, no proxies</i></p> <p><i>This is a small-scale, localized, low impact fishery established for opportunity</i></p> <p><i>No king retention</i></p> <p><i>Harvest in 2008 and 2009 was 66 and 225, respectively. (60% sockeye, 39% coho, 1% pink)</i></p> |
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KENAI LATE-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (5 AAC 21.359)

Background

- Late-run Kenai kings enter the river from late June through August and spawn primarily in the mainstem.
- Annual run size averages approximately 55,000 since 2000 (Figure 20). Escapement goals have been met or exceeded in every year since 1990, except for 2009. Preliminary estimates of the 2010 escapement are reported to be in the 17,000 to 19,000 range.
- These fish support one of the premier salmon sport fisheries in the world. Sport anglers currently average about 230,000 trips per year in the lower river downstream from the Soldotna Bridge. Annual sport harvest average about 15,000 kings or about 30% of the run.
- This fishery is extremely valuable to the local community. Sport anglers typically spend \$30-\$300 per day to fish on the Kenai Peninsula depending on fishing method and residency (ISER 1996, Hamel et al. 2000, Herrmann et al. 2001). Anglers typically fish four or more days per Chinook harvested (Gamblin et al. 2002).
- While kings comprise a small percentage of the commercial salmon harvest (0.4% on average), commercial fisheries have harvested 4,000 to 23,000 kings per year since 2000 or about 20% (8-22%) of the run and of the total harvest (Figure 21).

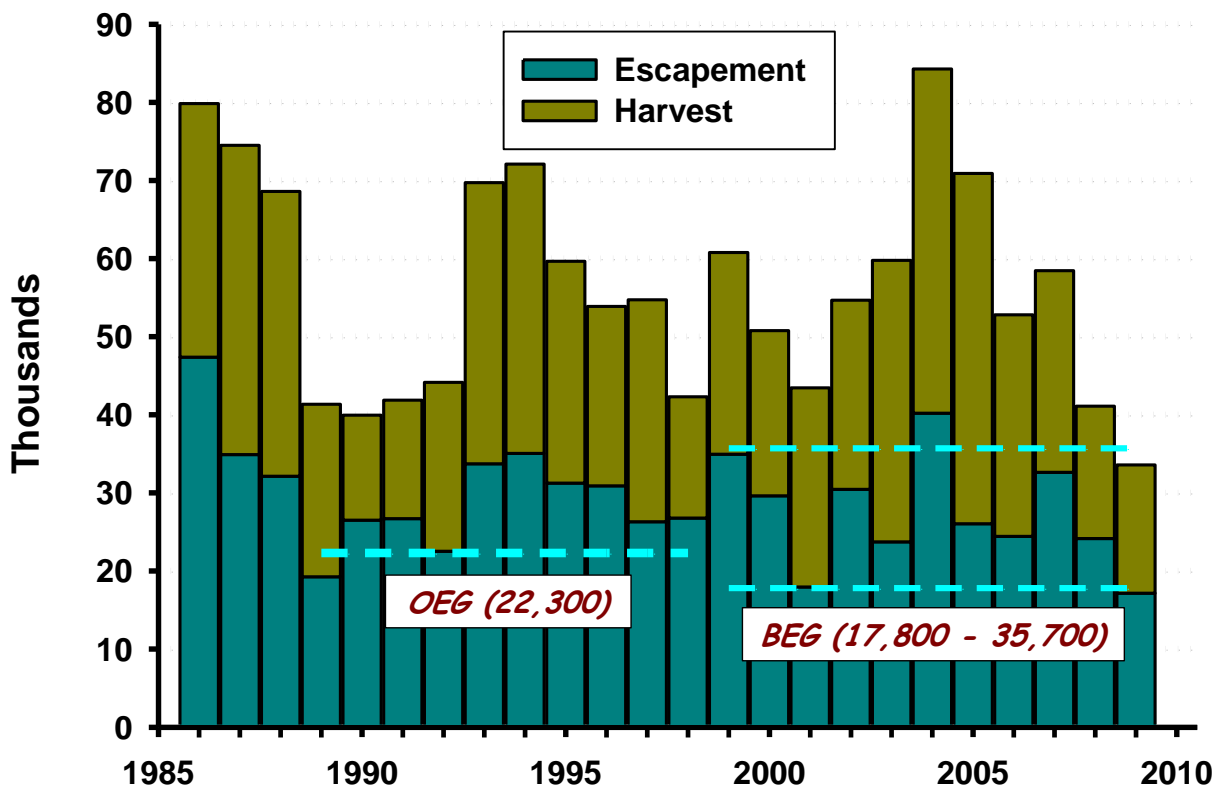


Figure 20. The escapement of Kenai River late-run king salmon relative to escapement goals.

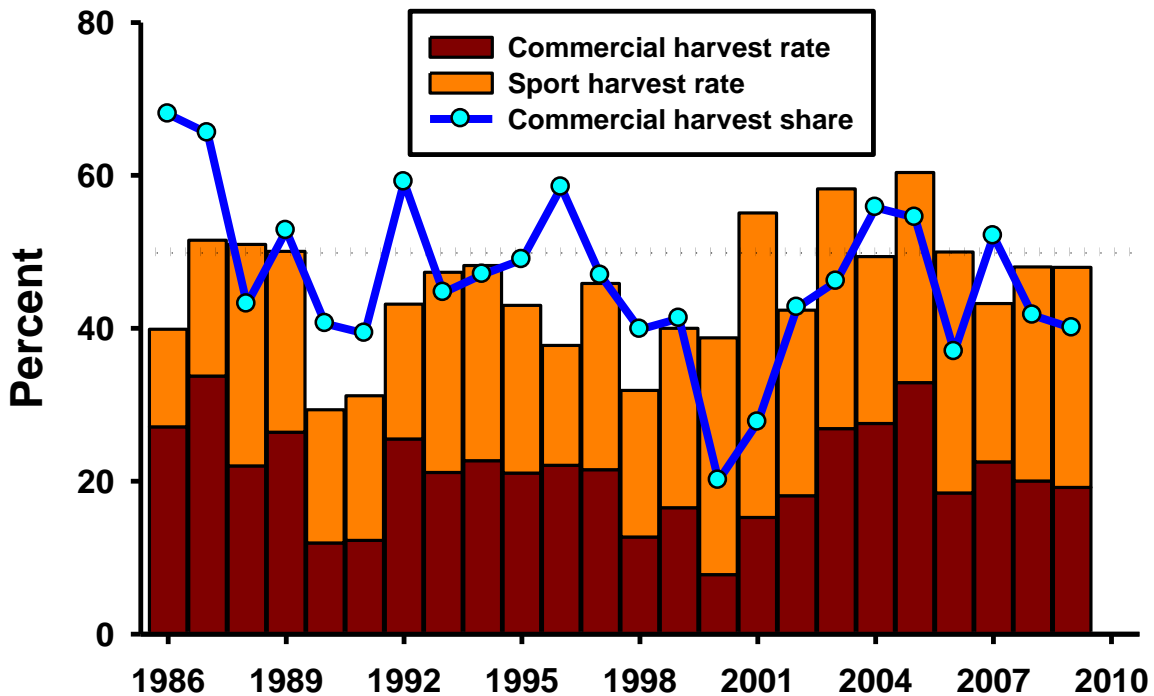


Figure 21. Annual harvest rates (bars) and commercial harvest share (line) of late-run Kenai River Chinook. Harvest share was based on all UCI commercial harvest plus marine and freshwater sport harvest including hook and release mortality.

History

- ❑ The Kenai Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan was adopted by the BOF in 1988 and was amended in 1990, 1999, to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and to provide management guidelines to the Department.
- ❑ A policy to minimize incidental take of late-run Kenai River king salmon in Cook Inlet commercial salmon fisheries was first adopted in 1977 and incorporated into regulation in 1981. However, commercial fisheries continue to be prosecuted to maximize harvest of sockeye with little attempt to limit bycatch of king salmon.
- ❑ The current BEG of 17,800 to 35,700 Kenai late-run king salmon was adopted into plan language by the BOF in 1999.
- ❑ The Department is proposing to redesignate the BEG as an SEG due to significant questions regarding the accuracy of king sonar counts.

Issues

Commercial King Harvest. The primary sport fishery concern for late-run Kenai kings continues to be the excessive commercial harvest. Current interception levels are contrary to management plan direction that these fish shall be managed primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of in-river restrictions. This issue is discussed in detail in chapters on Late-run Kenai sockeye management (Proposal 147) and gillnet specifications and operations (Proposal 116).

Harvest Selectivity. A secondary issue concerns the continuing size selectivity of the sport harvest against small kings. 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. Selectivity against small kings far exceeds selectivity for large kings. The problem is not that too many large kings are being harvested, but rather that too many small kings are not. The commercial fishery harvests a wide range of king sizes and does not effectively balance the size selectivity of the sport fishery from the late run.

Size selectivity problems are being addressed in the early Kenai run but not in the late Kenai run. Anglers are unnecessarily foregoing the opportunity to harvest more of these smaller kings. Harvest of small kings can increase significantly without risk to escapement goals. These fish are almost entirely males which do not significantly contribute to the reproduction potential of the population but can have a significant effect on population genetics. If not addressed, fishery selection against small fish can shift age composition over the long term and potentially reduce production, yield, and numbers of large kings.

KRSA Proposal [237]

Proposal 237 seeks to increase the size limit and bag limit for small kings in the late run on the Kenai River. The proposal seeks to amend the regulation found in 5 AAC 57.124 such that:

- The allowable limits for late-run king salmon in the Kenai River are 10 fish <20 inches in length, 1 fish per day between 20 and 28 inches in length, one per day >28 inches in length.
- Fishing ceases for the remainder of the day if a fish over 28 inches is retained.
- Only fish over 28 inches in length are included in the annual limit.

ADF&G Comments: The Department opposes this proposal. They recognize that the number of younger, smaller king salmon in the runs during some years is larger than in the past but are concerned that increased harvest will increase the likelihood of in-season restriction when runs are below average. KRSA finds it difficult to reconcile the lack of concern for increasing small fish with the high concern for decreasing large fish.

Other Proposals

#115 [*South K-Beach Independent Fishermen*] seeks to ban monofilament salmon web in UCI. KRSA supports shallower nets and needs to learn more about drop-out rates and strategies to reduce drop out. *[KRSA is Neutral, more discussion is necessary.]*

#117 [*Gary Deiman*] seeks to modify the amount of gear used by the ESSN. *[KRSA Opposes]*

#118 [*South K-Beach Independent Fishermen*] seeks to modify the amount of gear used by ESSN. The proposal would add gear to ESSN. *[KRSA Opposes]*

#207 [*Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition*] seeks to repeal charitable or educational events to fish from guided vessels on the first Sunday in June on the Lower Kenai River. One such event is the Wounded Warrior celebration weekend hosted by the Kenai River Professional Guide Association, which is a two day event on the weekend in order to accommodate military work schedules. KRSA supports guided anglers participating in appropriate charity events on non-guided days early in the season; it is good for the community and has no noticeable effect on the overall conduct of the fishery. *[KRSA Opposes]*

#208 [*Ronald Isaacs*] seeks to prohibit fishing on the Kenai River with a guide from June 1 through July 31 from a point ¼ mile upstream of the king sonar downstream to Cunningham Park. The author justifies this proposal as an attempt to reduce anger and tension on the river. At the present time, resident and non-resident guided anglers can only fish on Tuesday through Saturday, from 6:00am through 6:00pm. The recreational businesses that are supported by guided fishing have developed around this and other long-standing regulations. To move the boundaries in an attempt to make guided anglers less successful would be an unwise business decision. Equally important, there is no biological justification for the proposal, which is highly allocative in nature. Adoption of this proposal might help a few local fishermen to catch more fish but adoption would have a negative impact for local economy. *[KRSA Opposes]*

#209 [*Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition*] seeks to change guide hours from 6am-6pm to 7am-7pm. The existing hours during which guided anglers are allowed to fish have been in place for over 20 years. The recreational businesses that are supported by guided fishing have developed around this regulation. To move the hours in an attempt to make guided anglers less successful would be an unwise business decision. Equally important, there is no biological justification for the proposal, which is highly allocative in nature. Adoption of this proposal might help a few local fishermen to catch more fish but adoption would have a negative impact for local economy. *[KRSA Opposes]*

#235 [*Greg Brush*] seeks to extend the May / June slot limit for Kenai River kings through July. The proposal is not supportable with the best available data and is a feel good measure instead of being biologically based. *[KRSA Opposes]*

#236 [*Nate Anderson*] seeks to extend a partial slot limit into July, impose a limit of one fish above 30" in both the early-run (May – June) and late-run (July), extend the retention of jacks (20" – 30") into July, and put an annual limit for retention of such jacks at two per season. The proposal has many components and seeks to shift harvest from larger fish to smaller fish. While KRSA supports the concept of harvesting more small fish, we do not support the overall

proposal itself. The assumption that a decrease in ASL for Chinook salmon is an isolated phenomenon to the Kenai River is not supported by statewide biological data. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#241 [*John McCombs*] seeks close the Kenai River to all sport fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays. The recreational businesses that are supported by guided, unguided, resident and non-resident sport fishing have developed around the existing regulations. To move the days in an attempt to make sport fishermen less successful would be an unwise business decision. Equally important, there is no biological justification for the proposal, which is highly allocative in nature. Adoption of this proposal would be a foolish attempt to manage an economically important sport fishery like a commercial fishery. There is no biological justification for this proposal, which would have negative impacts on the local, regional and state economy. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#242 [*Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association*] seeks to close large sections of the Kenai River for the entire year to sport fishing for king, sockeye, coho and pink salmon on an annual rotational cycle and establishes a slot limit for late-run king salmon in Kenai. The biological justification for this suggested approach is non-existent for any species. The proposal is highly allocation in nature and adoption of this proposal would have a negative impact on the local, regional and state economy. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#245 [*John McCombs*] seeks to add Wednesdays as a drift-boat-only day on the Kenai River. The author justifies this proposal as necessary to address crowding on the Kenai River and prevent siltation from suffocating spawned eggs. There is no biological justification for the proposal. Adoption of this proposal would be bad for local, regional and state economy as most guided anglers now fish from power boats. Also, even if the negative economic consequences could be mitigated, there is simply not adequate infrastructure in place to support additional drift boat activity. Specifically, too few public launches and very inadequate parking capacity at existing launches. In terms of the perception of crowding, closing the lower river to power boats would only concentrate such use into fewer days and exacerbate the issue. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#246 [*Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition*] seeks to eliminate one additional day during which sport fishing for king salmon on the Kenai River can occur from a powered boat. See comments on proposal 245. Furthermore, Mondays were originally closed during the king salmon season to all fishing from boats, whether powerboat or drift, as a conservation measure. Since then, drift-boat-only fishing was allowed to occur on Mondays; subsequently there has been an increase in the number of anglers fishing on Mondays, negating one of the original reasons for imposing the restriction in the first place. The boat motor restriction while fishing to four-stroke only in July has been a successful approach to mitigating the issue of excessive hydrocarbon concentration. KRSMA regulations to restrict boat size to less than 21' and to 50 horsepower has been an effective measure in ensuring that powerboats on the river get on step, thus reducing the size and impacts of boat wakes. Ironically, a current source of large boat wakes on the river is from drift boats themselves, equipped with small motors, moving upstream in order to fish an area again, throwing off large wakes as they are unable to get on-step in such boat / motor configuration. In regards to safety issues, the attempt to further restrict the use of powerboats in the lower river while fishing in July, during a time of seasonal high water levels, particularly in the tidally influenced waters below Eagle Rock, does not make sense, especially since the only exit below there for drift boats requires transit through an already crowded personal use fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#247 [Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition] seeks to allow the use of motors on drift boats, on drift-boat only Mondays, downstream of Cunningham Park. Use of a drift boat is a choice, and the entire river is open to drift boats by regulation. The use of drift boats below Eagle Rock, in the tidally influenced area, is difficult and potentially dangerous, whether or not motors are used to exit the fishery. Allowing the use of motors below Cunningham Park on drift boat only Mondays to exit the fishery at the Kenai City Dock will increase crowding in the personal use fishery area downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge. The same group is also seeking to reduce opportunity to fishing from a power boat at other times during the week. **[KRSA Opposes]**

Annotated Plan Language

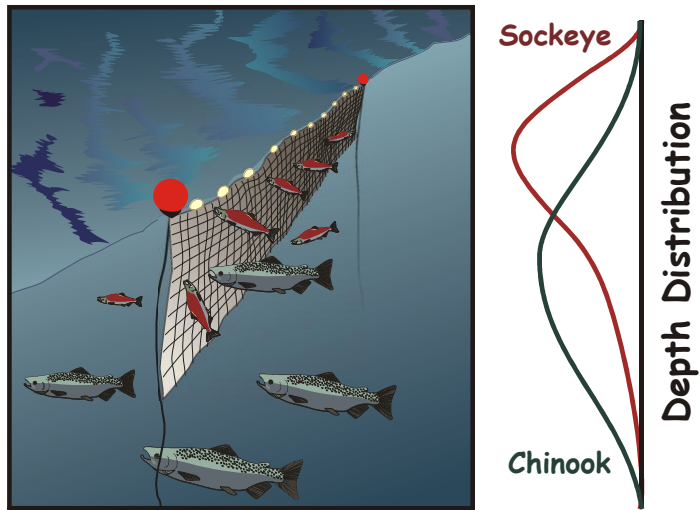
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| <p>5 AAC 21.359 Kenai River late-Run King Salmon Management Plan</p> <p>(a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency or inriver restrictions.</p> <p>(b) The department shall manage the late run of Kenai River king salmon to achieve a biological escapement goal of 17,800 - 35,700 king salmon, as follows:</p> <p>(1) in the sport fishery,</p> <p>(A) if the biological escapement goal is projected to be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, extend the sport fishing season up to seven days during the first week of August;</p> <p>(B) from July 1 through July 31, a person may not use more than one single hook in the Kenai River downstream from Skilak Lake;</p> <p>(2) in the sport fishery, that portion of the Kenai River downstream from Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a non-motorized vessel on Mondays in July; for purposes of this section a non-motorized vessel is one that does not have a motor on board;</p> <p>(3) if the projected inriver return is less than 17,800 king salmon, the department shall</p> <p>(A) close the sport fisheries in the Kenai River and in the salt waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point to the taking of king salmon;</p> <p>(B) close the commercial drift gillnet fishery in the Central District within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River; and</p> | <p><i>This plan primarily concerns management priorities, goals, and a schedule of actions in the event that goals are not met or exceeded.</i></p> <p><i>Sport bag and possession limits for Kenai Kings are found in 5 AAC 57.124</i></p> <p><i>BEG</i></p> <p><i>August extension authority</i></p> <p><i>Single hook restriction</i></p> <p><i>Drift boat Monday</i></p> <p><i>Response to low projections</i></p> |
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| <p>(C) close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District.</p> <p>(c) From July 20 through July 31,</p> <p>(1) repealed 6/22/2002;</p> <p>(2) if the projected inriver return of late-run king salmon is less than 40,000 fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below 17,800 king salmon, the department may restrict the inriver sport fishery;</p> <p>(3) repealed 6/22/2002;</p> <p>(4) if the inriver sport fishery is closed under (2) of this subsection, the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict shall be closed;</p> <p>(5) repealed 6/11/2005.</p> <p>(d) Repealed 6/22/2002.</p> <p>(e) Consistent with the purposes of this management plan and 5 AAC 21.360, if the projected inriver 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) .</p> <p>(f) The provisions of the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.365) are exempt from the provisions of this section.</p> <p>(g) 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 this plan.</p> <p>(h) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e).</p> | <p><i>Late season closure triggers</i></p> |
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GILLNET SPECIFICATIONS AND OPERATIONS [5 AAC 21.331]

Background

- ❑ Set net restrictions in the UCI currently allow nets up to 45 meshes deep.
- ❑ The ESSN fishery continues to harvest Kenai and Kaslof Chinook salmon out-of-proportion to the sport fishery value and priority for this species.
- ❑ Chinook salmon are widely reported to run deeper than other species such as sockeye in commercial fisheries from Alaska to the Columbia River.



- ❑ Shallower nets are in use in other Alaska commercial fisheries including Bristol Bay where a 29 inch mesh regulation has been in place in since at least the 1970's [5 AAC 06.331].

History

- ❑ Research was conducted in UCI during 1996 on the effects of mesh depth (Bethe and Hansen 1998). This work found that Chinook catch can be substantially reduced by the use of 29-mesh nets instead of 45-mesh nets.
- ❑ This study examined catches including 71,697 sockeye and 588 Chinook from 95 unique nets during 1,981 net sets. The vertical distribution of Chinook salmon catch in set nets was found to be essentially uniform in most areas, during all weeks and distances from shore. Catches of sockeye tended to occur disproportionately in the upper 2/3 of set nets in near and mid distances from shore. Differences were statistically significant.
- ❑ These results suggest that Chinook catches could be reduced by approximately 1/3 with a lesser effect on sockeye catches if nets were limited to 2/3 of their current depth.
- ❑ Subsequent to the study, research protocols have been challenged, particularly by the commercial fishing industry. One concern was the extrapolation of shallow net effects from depth distribution in 45 mesh nets. The ideal experimental design would have fished paired 29 and 45 mesh nets to capture differences in how each net fishes. A second concern was the uncertainty introduced in interpreting depth of capture for each fish, particularly with the confounding effects of water depth changes on the tide.
- ❑ Given the nature of these questions, the exact magnitude of the mesh depth effect remains unclear. However, the Bethe study provides corroborating evidence for observations from other areas that shallower nets catch relatively fewer Chinook. Ratios estimated by Bethe may not be exactly correct but the trend is clear.
- ❑ No follow-up studies research or test fisheries have been implemented to resolve the outstanding question of exactly how much benefit might be provided by shallower set nets.

Issues

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 set net 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.

High incidental catches of Chinook can result in commercial fishery restrictions in years where Kenai Chinook escapement is in danger of falling below minimum goals. Fishery closures to protect Chinook could result in large economic losses to the sockeye commercial fishery, especially in large sockeye return years. This risk is of particular concern with the recent downturn in king salmon numbers.

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.

ADFG 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.

KRSA Proposal [116]

Proposal 116 seeks to require the use of shallower set gillnets in the ESSN fishery to reduce Chinook harvest in order to put more king salmon into the Kenai for conservation and in-river fisheries.

Changes from 45-mesh to 29-mesh nets can potentially provide significant Chinook savings with little or no net loss of sockeye harvest. Changes in nets will reduce catch per effort of both sockeye and Chinook. The reduction in sockeye catch rates will be much less than the reduction in Chinook catch rates because most sockeye that would have been caught in a 45-mesh net will also be caught in a 29-mesh net. The reduction in Chinook catch rates will be greater because more Chinook are more likely to be caught in the bottom of the 45-mesh net.

Lower catch rates of sockeye in the shallower nets can be offset by increased sockeye availability on successive fishing openers and by opportunities for more openers because of reduced Chinook impacts. The current sockeye fishery power is so great that the greatest catches occur on the first day of an opener. Catch rates decline on successive days as the immediate supply of fish is depleted. With the shallower nets, lower catch rates on day one will be at least partially offset by increased catch rates on subsequent days as more fish remain available to the fishery. Additional fishing openers can also be allowed to harvest surplus sockeye and compensate for reduced catch per effort.

Spreading out the commercial fishery among days will provide a more even supply of fish to processors and avoid temporary fish gluts that can reduce fish market quality because of handling delays. Fish quality is the key to sustaining fishery value in the face of increased market competition from farmed salmon. The net result is the commercial fishery can still access the harvestable sockeye but at lower Chinook cost and potentially greater sockeye value.

Chinook savings accrue despite the need for additional commercial effort to catch the sockeye that would have been caught in the bottom third of the deeper nets.

ADF&G Comments: *The Department is officially neutral but argues against this proposal on the grounds that it will increase passage rates of sockeye salmon reduce the ability to manage large pulses lead to escapements exceeding goals and reduce future fishing opportunity due to reduced production. This assessment is entirely speculative – no quantitative assessment of the benefits or risks of shallower nets has been undertaken by the Department despite strong evidence that significant reductions in king bycatch may be achieved with little or no sockeye impacts. The assertion that this proposal would result in additional direct cost to participate in the fishery does not allow for the fact nets must already be replaced periodically and a change can be phased in to avoid additional cost.*

Annotated Plan Language

5 AAC 21.331 Gillnet Specifications and Operations

- (a) No person may operate a set gillnet that has not been intentionally set, staked, anchored or otherwise fixed, and no person may operate a drift gillnet that has been intentionally set, staked, anchored or otherwise fixed.
- (b) The maximum mesh size for gillnets is six inches.
- (c) A drift gillnet may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. No person may operate more than one drift gillnet.
- (d) A set gillnet may not be more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. South of the latitude of Anchor Point, 30 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shore between high and low water levels. A person may not operate more than four set gillnets with more than 105 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate, except that
 - (1) on Fire Island a person may operate more than four set gillnets, but the aggregate length of the nets may not exceed 105 fathoms;
 - (2) repealed 6/11/2005.
 - [(3) IN WATERS ALONG THE EAST COAST IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT, A SET GILLNET MAY NOT BE MORE THAN 29 MESHES IN DEPTH.]**
- (e) Set gillnets shall be operated in substantially a straight line. No more than 20 yards of each set gillnet may be used as a single hook.
- (f) Repealed 3/8/74.
- (g) Repealed 4/2/88.
- (h) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.250(c) , in the Cook Inlet Area, a person may use single filament mesh web in a drift gillnet or in a set gillnet.

NORTHERN DISTRICT SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN [5 AAC 21.358]

Proposals

KRSA has submitted no proposals for revision of this plan but is supportive of a number of proposals and concepts submitted by others. Additional information on the background, history and issues associated with this plan may be found in BOF information package submitted by the Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee.

#134 [ADFG] & **#135** [Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association] seek to amend subsection (b) by addressing changes in counting methods for sockeye salmon migrating into the Susitna River drainage. The new escapement goals for Yentna and Susitna sockeye utilize weir counts on three lakes, and cannot be used for in-season management decisions. The newly established goals need to be placed in the management plan. However, KRSA supports continuing research by the Department on sockeye enumeration in the Susitna River drainage, with the aim of finding an in-season method to count returning sockeye to the Northern District, to be utilized for in-season management purposes. KRSA supports a discussion by the Department that outlines the timeline to attain feasibility for an in-season sockeye enumeration method of Northern District sockeye. **[KRSA support using this proposal to open discussion]**

#131 [Central Peninsula Advisory Committee] seeks to amend the Northern District Salmon Management Plan to strike language that requires managers to minimize the incidental harvest of salmon utilized in sport fisheries. This helpful language has been in regulation since the mid 1970's. This proposal seeks to increase commercial fishing time in the Central and Northern Districts and reduce in-river return of salmon targeted by the sport fisheries. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#132 [United Cook Inlet Drift Association] seek to amend the N Northern District Salmon Management Plan to strike language that requires managers to minimize the incidental harvest of salmon utilized in sport fisheries. This helpful language has been in regulation since the mid 1970's. This proposal seeks to increase commercial fishing time in the Central and Northern Districts and reduce in-river return of salmon targeted by the sport fisheries. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#136 [Bruce Knowles] would establish an OEG of 40,000-50,000 sockeye salmon for the Susitna River. This will be added to the top end of the three SEGs at the three weirs in order to provide additional protection for the Susitna River drainage sockeye salmon. Enumeration of salmon in the main stem of either the Yentna or Susitna rivers has proven problematic over many years. KRSA encourages the Department to continue to seek new methodologies for enumerating salmon in the main stem of the Susitna River. The information needed to implement this proposal would be very helpful to fishery managers. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#137 [Andy Couch] would establish an OEG for sockeye salmon bound for the Yentna/Susitna River of 90,000 - 160,000 fish during returns of less than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River as measured by Bendix-equivalent Didson numbers using the Yentna River sonar. This proposal also seeks revision of the current OEG during returns of 4 million or greater Kenai River sockeye (75,000-180,000) as measured by Bendix-equivalent Didson numbers using the Yentna River sonar. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#138 [Northern District Setnetters Association] seeks to increase commercial fishing harvest in the Northern District by allowing additional gear to be fished after the bulk of the sockeye

salmon bound back for the Susitna River have passed through the fishery. Passage of this proposal would result in a substantial increase in the targeted harvest of coho salmon bound back for all streams in the Anchorage and Mat/Su areas. KRSA believes that coho should be allocated to sport fisheries. See also comments for coho, pink and chum. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#139 [*Northern District Setnetters Association*] seeks to increase commercial fishing time in the Northern District by establishing a terminal fishery in the Fish Creek area. This commercial fishery would target sockeye salmon bound back to Big Lake. Establishment of this fishery would reduce opportunity in the personal use fishery in Fish Creek and would result in the incidental harvest of coho salmon bound back to many small streams in the Knik Arm area. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#140 [*Steve Runyan*] seeks to close the commercial fishing season at such time when sockeye abundance is declining and coho harvest is increasing, at such point when coho harvest exceeds 25 percent of the overall harvest in a fishing period. Further discussion is needed, with respect to the Department's manner of implementation of the one percent closure regulation of the ESSN fishery. **[KRSA Support Intent & Further Discussion]**

#277 [*Steve Runyan*] seeks to allow sport fishing for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek and provided guidelines for implementation. KRSA looks to the sport anglers of Northern Cook Inlet to provide substantial comment on this proposal. KRSA is supportive of full utilization of the resource. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#278 [*Steve Runyan*] seeks to allow sport fishing for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek and provides guidelines for implementation. See comments on Proposal 277. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

COHO SALMON

Background

- ❑ Following an extended period of very strong coho returns during the 1980s, run indicators and harvest began to flag during the 1990s to the point where significant fishery conservation measures were implemented around 1997.
- ❑ Coho numbers in UCI have rebounded since 1999.
- ❑ Coho escapements are difficult to monitor because of their protracted and late season return. The problem is compounded by the very large number of streams around Cook Inlet to which coho return. SEGs are currently established for just two populations (Jim Creek, Little Susitna River). Coho status is assessed through a variety of indicators including foot surveys, weir counts, fish wheels, smolt trapping, mark-recapture and fishery catch per unit effort (e.g. Massengill and Carlon 2007).
- ❑ Commercial drift and set gillnet fisheries historically accounted for 70-90% of the total coho harvest in UCI but harvest share has steadily declined due growth of the sport fishery and increasing restriction of the commercial fisheries, particularly in August when coho comprise an increasingly significant proportion of the catch (Figure 22).
- ❑ Long term harvest trends reflects changes in fisheries management and coho returns but are only broadly indicative of coho run status.
- ❑ Despite this declining trend in commercial harvest, the commercial fisheries continue to take about 50% of the combined sport, personal use, and commercial harvest in UCI (Figure 22). While exploitation rates in the commercial fishery on the aggregate coho run are estimated to be sustainable, the harvest occurs on the front end of the run which substantially reduces sport fish opportunities, particularly in northern streams, during the very-popular late July to August time frame.

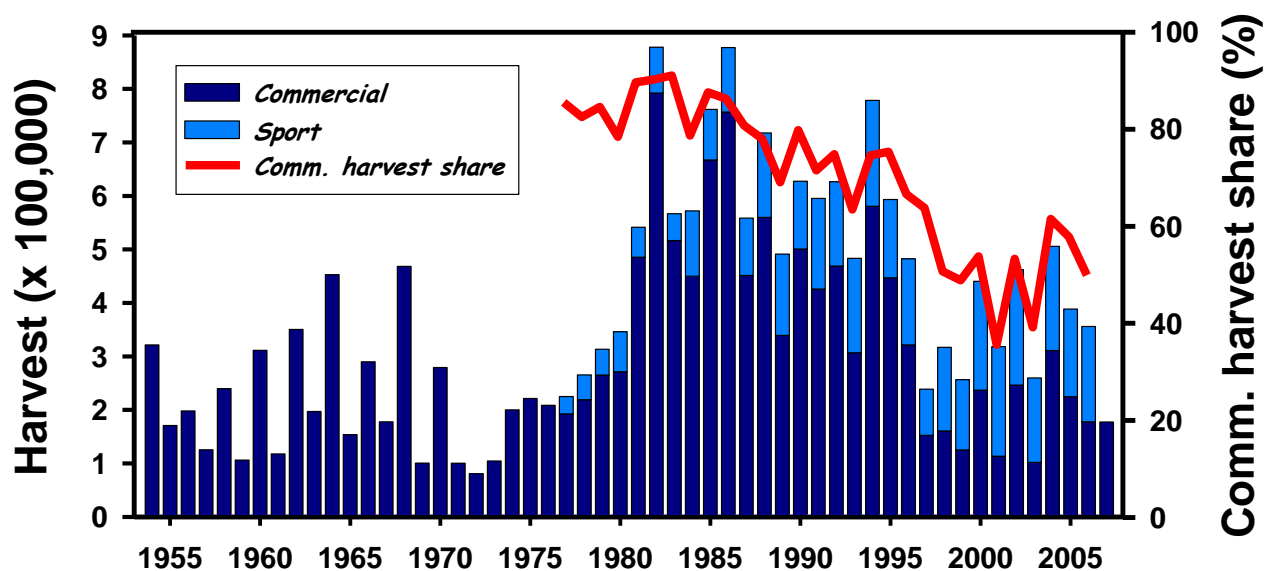


Figure 22. Commercial and sport harvest of coho salmon in the Upper Cook Inlet.

History

- ❑ A Kenai River Coho Salmon Conservation Management Plan was adopted in 1997 in response to declining UCI coho harvest and Kenai smolt production. The plan sought to reduce fishery harvest rates and to share the conservation burden among fisheries through a combination of restrictions in the Central District east-side set, personal use, and in-river recreational fisheries (Clark et al. 2000).
- ❑ Additional coho protection measures, including a reduction in the coho bag limit from three to two, were adopted by the BOF during a special meeting on coho conservation in February 2000.
- ❑ Total harvests of Kenai River coho salmon were reduced by about 20% as a result of fishery measures (Begich and Pawluk 2007). The reduction in the bag limit from three to two decreased the harvest of coho salmon on the Kenai by an average of 8% (Lafferty et al. 2007).
- ❑ In 2005, the BOF removed a stock of concern designation for Kenai River coho salmon, repealed the Kenai River Coho Salmon Conservation Management Plan, and adopted the Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan. Restrictions on the ESSN fishery were reduced, including season opening dates, fishery window lengths and EO time limitations. Drift net fishery opportunities were liberalized.
- ❑ Sport opportunities for coho were not significantly expanded in 2005 with the exception that the Kenai coho sport season was extended into October.
- ❑ In 2008, Harvest of coho in the drift gillnet fishery was further liberalized with the extension of the season through August 15. Coho sport regulations were slightly expanded after August. Coho fisheries in the Northern District were not expanded and were effectively reduced by the drift net fishery extension.

Issues

The management of coho salmon in UCI has been in a state of flux for about ten years. During the 40 year period between statehood and 1999 the sport fishery for coho salmon was managed passively with a daily bag and possession limit of three fish. In the commercial fishery coho were considered a bycatch in targeted sockeye fisheries and a target species themselves during August and September.

An observed downturn in abundance of coho salmon, particularly in the Kenai River, in the late 1990's resulted in a series of restrictive measures being adopted for both sport and commercial fisheries. On the sport fish side the bag and possession limit was reduced from three to two fish, plus time and area restrictions were put in place for both guided and non-guided anglers. On the commercial fish side the drift fleet was held out of some of the more productive areas in the middle of Cook Inlet in an attempt to pass coho and sockeye salmon on through to more terminal fisheries and the rivers.

Over the years since 1999 the commercial fisheries, particularly the set net fisheries, are pretty much back to having no conservation restrictions in place regarding coho salmon. The drift fleet is still restricted to the more southern part of the Central District of UCI for an opening or two in early July, but more so relative to passing sockeye salmon to the Northern District, and the effectiveness of this restriction in terms of passing coho to the more terminal fisheries and the

rivers is questionable. The sport fisheries are still restricted to a bag and possession limit of two fish in most instances in UCI.

The conduct of the commercial fishery in 2010 provides all the justification necessary for reestablishing the historical sport fish bag and possession limit. The commercial fishery harvested just over 200,000 coho salmon during the 2010 season. Not one single commercial opening was restricted or closed specifically to conserve coho salmon.

In answer to a question posed to the commercial fishery staff, they indicated that coho harvests of 50,000 more or less over the course of the season would not have affected their execution of the commercial fishery. The conclusion here is that the Department feels 50,000 coho one way or the other taken in the commercial fishery is good management but that sustained yield then rests on the difference between a restricted bag and possession limit of two fish and the historical norm of three fish in the sport fishery. KRSA respectively disagrees with that management approach and looks forward to this debate.

KRSA Proposals [20, 23, 200, 202, 203, 204]

KRSA has submitted a series of proposals addressing cross-cutting commercial and sport coho management and updating daily bag and possession limits for sport fishing.

Three proposals address management of coho salmon in major codified management plans:

- #126 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.
- #147 Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
- #159 UCI Salmon Management Plan (Umbrella Plan).

Additional detail on these proposals may be found in specific chapters of this booklet pertaining to these plans.

To address the disparity in commercial fishing harvest in the face of a restricted sport fishery and to equitably share the burden of conservation, KRSA has submitted proposals to the BOF to change the bag limit back to the historical norm of three fish. 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 would likely result in additional economic value for the fishery. Six proposals address general provisions of sport fishing regulations in specific areas.

| Proposal | Area | <u>ADFG Comments</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| #22 | West Cook Inlet | <i>Neutral on allocative aspects but believe that a bag increase would be biologically sustainable</i> |
| #23 | Kenai Peninsula | <i>Opposed due to the wide range of differences in coho production among area streams</i> |
| #200 | Susitna River Drainage | <i>Opposed due to lack of management data for high-use streams</i> |
| #202 | Knik Arm Drainage | <i>Opposed out of concern for unsustainable harvest in accessible streams during low return years</i> |
| #203 | Anchorage Bowl | <i>Opposed out of concern for unsustainable harvest in accessible streams during low return years</i> |
| #204 | Kenai River | <i>Opposed due to uncertainty related to the volatile nature of annual coho run strength.</i> |

Other Proposals

#140 [Steve Runyan] seeks to modify the Northern District Salmon Management Plan in terms of putting in a ratio index between sockeye and coho for commercial fishery emergency openers. Commercial fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet should not be targeted upon coho salmon. KRSA feels that there needs to be more discussion on the concept. See comments specific to this proposal in Box 9 Northern District Salmon Management Plan. **[KRSA Supports Further Discussion]**

#20 [David Coray] seeks to designate a portion of Silver Salmon Creek as a fly fishing only area. KRSA is aware of the mortality issue around fishing for coho salmon in intertidal areas and has supported bait restrictions where appropriate. KRSA is interested in hearing more specifics about the stock status of coho salmon in Silver Salmon Creek. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#21 [David Coray] seeks to reduce the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon from three to two fish in West Cook. KRSA has proposed maintaining the traditional bag and possession limit of three coho. KRSA is interested in hearing comments specific to Silver Salmon Creek but believes that any restriction on sport fishing in West Cook Inlet should be considered along with restrictions in the commercial fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#108 [Chris Every] seeks to extend the commercial fishing in all waters of Upper Cook Inlet in an effort to allow the commercial harvest of additional coho and pink salmon. Additional late-run king salmon bound back to the Kenai River would also be harvested in a commercial fishery expanded as proposed by this proposal. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#110 [Central Peninsula Advisory Committee] seeks to amend setnet fishing to close for the season by emergency order. The commercial fishery now closes by regulation on in most of the area discussed by this proposal on August 15. KRSA would prefer to see the season end on or around August 5. Adoption of this proposal would result in an expansion of commercial fishing effort in August. Additional coho salmon bound back for all rivers and streams of Upper Cook Inlet would be harvested in a commercial fishery expanded in this manner. Additional late-run king salmon bound back to the Kenai River would also be harvested. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#111 [South K-Beach Independent Fishermen] seeks to extend closure time by three hours in the Central District in an effort to allow all areas of the beach to fish an entire 12 hour opening. Tides in this area now affect just how much time each site can fish. KRSA understands the issue with respect to the individual commercial fishermen in this area but adoption of this proposal would result in the harvest of more late-run king salmon bound back to the Kenai River. KRSA suggests consideration of shallower gill nets, see proposal #116. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#112 [Central Peninsula Advisory Committee] seeks to modify the weekly fishing periods in UCI after August 10 to Monday, Wednesday and Friday until closed by emergency order. Any and all expansion of commercial fishing focused on pink salmon in the area discussed in this proposal would result in substantial additional commercial harvest of coho salmon bound back to the Kenai River and the rivers and streams of the northern Kenai Peninsula and Northern Cook Inlet. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#201 [Stephan Warta] seeks to restore the traditional daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Talkeetna River Drainage by increasing the limit to three fish. **[KRSA Supports]**

#205 [*James Johnson*] seeks to restore the traditional daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers by increasing the limit to three fish. **[KRSA Supports]**

#206 [*ADFG*] seeks to align coho salmon bag limit with adjacent waters in the Russian River Sanctuary Area and Russian River. KRSA support clarification of area. KRSA does not support the lowering of the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the expanded area without more comprehensive discussion about coho stock status and commercial exploitation. **[KRSA has no position at this time]**

#213 [*Kenai River Professional Guide Association*] seeks to allow fishing from a registered guide vessel for coho salmon on Mondays during August 1 – November 30. The present restriction came about as part of a conservation package adopted when coho stocks were at lower abundance levels. Restrictions were shared among all components of the fisheries. Conduct of the commercial fishery strongly suggests that the Department is comfortable with coho stock status so KRSA supports restoring all traditional regulations. **[KRSA Supports]**

#214 [*Mel Erickson*] seeks to allow fishing from a registered guide vessel for coho salmon on Mondays during August and September. See comments for proposal 213. **[KRSA Supports]**

#260 [*Greg Bush*] seeks to remove the restriction on fishing for coho salmon upstream of the Sterling Highway bridge on the Kasilof River. KRSA supports expansion of sport fishing opportunity on coho but we are aware of the history of the regulation now in place. Enforcement of the prohibition of fishing for king salmon during the coho season was extremely difficult. In this case KRSA supports restriction on fishing for coho salmon as a necessary management tool for conservation of king salmon. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#261 [*Kenai River Professional Guides Association*] adds opportunity to sport fish for coho salmon and provides for a more consistent regulatory framework for Kasilof. No conservation issue, no allocation issue. **[KRSA Supports]**

#269 [*Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee*] seeks to extend use of bait for an additional week in Unit 5 of the Susitna River. Unit 5 is the Talkeetna River Drainage. The restriction on the use of bait was put in place as part of a comprehensive management plan for rainbow trout. The present restriction is for both the conservation of rainbow trout and for the maintenance of a diversity of sport fishing opportunity. KRSA has discussed this proposal with individuals knowledgeable about sport fishing in Northern Cook Inlet. KRSA was a member of the team that helped develop the rainbow trout management plan. KRSA supports continuation of this restriction on the use of bait. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#272 [*ADFG*] seeks to eliminate obsolete language in regulation by repealing the Little Susitna River Coho Salmon Management Plan. This proposal is housekeeping in nature since all aspect of management of coho in the Little Susitna River can now be found in other sections of the codified regulations. **[KRSA Supports]**

#273 [*Kurt Hensel*] seeks to change the location on the Little Susitna River within which an angler is prohibited from continuing to fish for coho salmon after retaining a bag limit for the day. The current regulation references a weir located at mile 32.5 on the Little Susitna River. The weir is no longer in place. Adoption of this proposal would result in a reduction in the area open to fishing for coho salmon. KRSA supports refreshing the regulations when necessary

minimize confusion but would like to hear more about the stock status before supporting a reduction in area open to fishing. *[KRSA is Neutral]*

#276 [Mat-Su Anglers Sportfishing Club] seeks to establish a youth-only fishery for coho salmon on Fish Creek. *[KRSA is Neutral]*

#296 [ADFG] seeks to standardize the opening date for fishing for coho salmon across all areas of Campbell Creek in Anchorage. KRSA supports clearly worded regulations and full utilization of hatchery fish. *[KRSA Supports]*

#138 [Northern District Setnetters Association] seeks to increase the amount of set net gear that can be fished during the time when coho salmon are likely to be the most abundant species available. This would increase the commercial harvest of coho salmon bound back for all the streams in Northern Cook Inlet. *[KRSA Opposes]*

Annotated Plan Language

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>(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;</p> <p>(D) from September 1 through November 30, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater is three fish;</p> | <p><i>Example of the proposed bag limit revision language</i></p> |
|--|---|

PINK SALMON

Background

- Annual landings of pink salmon historically exceeded those of sockeye until the 1970s when sockeye numbers increased following increases in escapement goals and pink markets began to fade.
- Significant numbers of pinks continue to be harvested during even-run years in sockeye target fisheries during late July and early August, particularly in the drift net fishery.
- Pinks typically account for about 1% or less of the UCI commercial salmon ex-vessel value. Total value of UCI pink salmon landings has dropped from a peak of over \$2 million per year to just under \$100,000 per year since 2007.
- Pink salmon are currently underutilized because of very low market value. Pink salmon prices have fallen as low as \$0.05/lb. and were \$0.10/lb. in recent past years (\$0.36 per fish).

History

- A Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan [5 AAC 21.356] was adopted in 2002 and reauthorized in 2005 to provide access to pink salmon while minimizing harvest of sport fishery priority coho from the Northern District and Kenai.
- The plan provided fishery opportunity for this commercial priority species in an area off the Kenai and Kasilof where August commercial fisheries were restricted by the 1999 and 2002 BOFs.
- Participation in the August pink fishery authorized by this plan was very limited.
- This plan was repealed in 2008 when the need for additional fishing time was eliminated by extension commercial fishing periods to the middle of August.

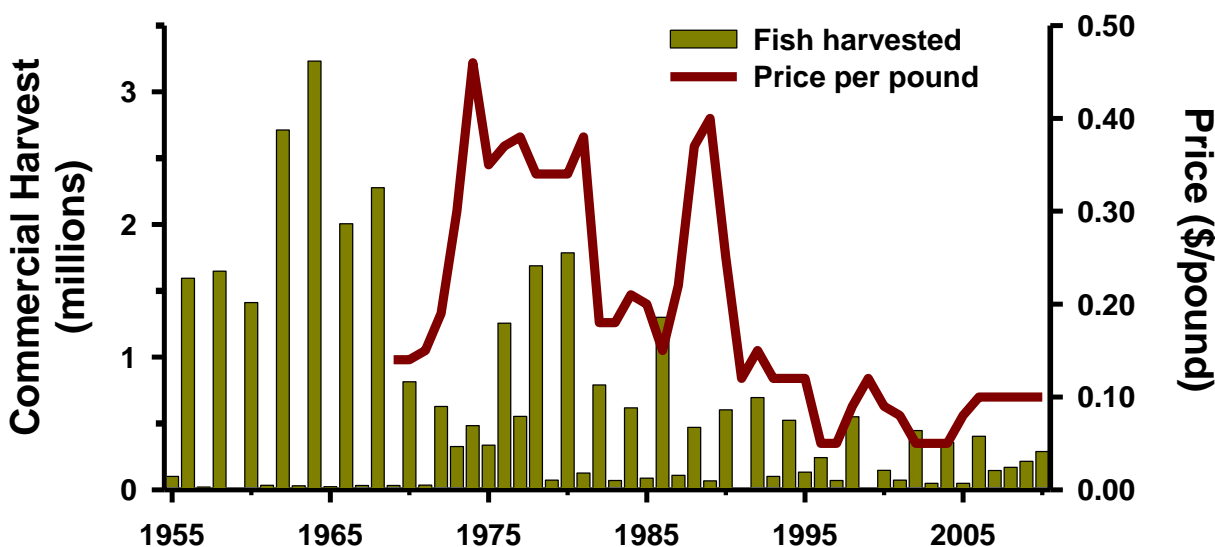


Figure 23. Trends in pink salmon harvest and value in UCI commercial fisheries. (No price adjustments for inflation).

Issues

Very low pink salmon values currently provide little incentive for commercial drifters to target pink salmon in August. The special August pink salmon drift net fishery in 2002 to 2008 has demonstrated that pink salmon values are not adequate to justify significant fishing effort based on pinks alone. In fact, low prices result in many drift gill netters actively avoiding harvest of pinks when other species are available (Fox and Shields 2003).

August commercial fisheries harvest a mixed bag of species and catch large numbers of coho. August commercial fisheries delay and constrict coho fisheries in the Kenai River just as coho are beginning to build to fishable numbers. Coho have comprised a significant portion of the commercial salmon harvest in years when the special pink salmon drift fishery plan was in effect. Risks of overfishing coho in late July and early August commercial fisheries are increased by the inability to estimate run size in-season and to regulate fisheries to protect escapement. Concentrated commercial harvest of the early part of the coho run could also have long term biological impacts if these early fish are a unique substock.

Proposals

KRSA has submitted no proposals specifically addressing pink salmon.

#129 [South K-Beach Independent Fishermen] seeks to establish a management plan for pink salmon bound for the Kenai River. No specifics are included. Any and all expansion of commercial fishing focused on pink salmon in the area discussed in this proposal would result in substantial additional commercial harvest of coho salmon bound back to the Kenai River and the rivers and streams of the northern Kenai Peninsula and Northern Cook Inlet. Additional late-run king salmon bound back to the Kenai River would also be harvested. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#130 [Central Peninsula Advisory Committee] seeks to amend the Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan by adding language specifying that pink salmon stocks be managed primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. First, the Pink Salmon Plan referenced was repealed in 2002 so it cannot be amended. Secondly, it is curious that same authors submitted at least two other proposals seeking to delete allocative intent language from other plans because, as they state, “Unnecessary language in management plans that restricts the flexibility for the managers to manage on a real-time basis of in-season abundance”. Additional fishing time in the commercial fishery aimed at harvesting pink salmon would result in the harvest of substantial numbers of both coho salmon bound for streams throughout UCI and late-run king salmon bound back to the Kenai River. KRSA opposes any expansion of commercial fishing effort targeting pink salmon that results in increased incidental catch of coho and king salmon. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#321 [Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association] seeks to extend the season in the Kenai, Kasilof and East Forelands sections. Any and all expansion of commercial fishing focused on pink salmon in the area discussed in this proposal would result in substantial additional commercial harvest of coho salmon bound back to the Kenai River and the rivers and streams of the northern Kenai Peninsula and Northern Cook Inlet. Additional late-run king salmon bound back to the Kenai River would also be harvested. **[KRSA Opposes]**

KENAI PENINSULA RESIDENT SPECIES

Proposals

KRSA has submitted no related proposals but is supportive of a number of proposals and concepts submitted by others.

#215 [Allen Tigert & Phil Brna] seeks to prohibit barbed hooks when using beads in the Kenai River drainage. Although the authors of this well-meaning proposal speak only to protection of trout and char, beads are also commonly used by individuals fishing for sockeye and coho salmon. KRSA does not support adoption of a regulation that makes anglers less successful when fishing for salmon. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#216 [Steve Tvenstrup] seeks to increase allowable size limit for rainbow trout in the lower Kenai River from 18 to 24 inches. KRSA supports the present suite of regulations governing the sport fishery for rainbow trout in the Kenai River. The size restrictions now in regulation are an important element of the regulatory program. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#217 [ADFG] seeks to establish a bag limit for burbot in the Kenai Peninsula. KRSA is not aware of an expanding sport fishery for burbot in the lakes of the Kenai Peninsula. **[No Position by KRSA]**

#218 [ADFG] seeks to establish a steelhead/trout spawning closure for all tributaries of Tustumena Lake. KRSA has reviewed the information describing the distribution of spawning steelhead trout in the Tustumena Drainage. KRSA supports the added protection that the proposed spawning closure would provide. **[KRSA Supports]**

#219 [ADFG] seeks to correct list of Kenai River Drainage Area rainbow trout stocked lakes. Housekeeping. **[KRSA Supports]**

#220 [ADFG] seeks to add Rainbow Lake to the list of Upper Kenai River drainage stocked lakes. Housekeeping. **[KRSA Supports]**

#221 [ADFG] seeks to correct list of Kenai River Drainage Area and Kenai Peninsula Area king salmon stocked lakes. Housekeeping. **[KRSA Supports]**

#222 [ADFG] seeks to repeal special sport fishing gear regulations that apply to Arc Lake, Cisca Lake, and Scout Lake. This proposal is a follow-up to treatment of the lake to remove invasive northern pike and subsequent stocking with coho salmon. **[KRSA Supports]**

#223 [ADFG] seeks to add a new section to increase emergency order authority flexibility to address invasive northern pike. **[KRSA Supports]**

#244 [John McCombs] seeks to establish a \$10 tax on sport fishing licenses the revenue from which is to be used to fund a \$3 bounty for each northern pike taken and turned in. This proposal requests action beyond the powers of the Board of Fishery. **[KRSA Opposes]**

KENAI RIVER VESSEL RESTRICTIONS

Proposals

KRSA has submitted no related proposals but is supportive of a number of proposals and concepts submitted by others.

#245 [*John McCombs*] seeks to add an additional drift boat only day (Wednesdays) on the Kenai River. KRSA is opposed to any expansion of drift-boat-only fishing on the Kenai River. Establishing more drift-boat-only fishing on the Kenai River does not help address any specific fishery objective and is detrimental to the economic return provided by the sport fishery. In addition, the Kenai River lacks the infrastructure (boat launches and parking) necessary to support additional drift-boat-only fishing. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#246 [*Kenai Area Fishermen's Coalition*] seeks to add an additional drift boat only day (Thursdays) on the Kenai River. KRSA is opposed to any expansion of drift-boat-only fishing on the Kenai River (see #245 above for rationale). **[KRSA Opposes]**

#247 [*Kenai Area Fishermen's Coalition*] seeks to allow the use of a motor downstream of Cunningham Park to exit the fishery on drift-only Mondays. KRSA is opposed to any expansion of drift-boat-only fishing on the Kenai River. The justification provided within this proposal illustrates the lack of infrastructure (boat launches and parking) necessary to support additional drift-boat-only fishing. Further this proposal seeks to blur the distinction between drift-boat-only and power boating. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#248 [*Daniel Schaff*] seeks to prohibit drift boats from using motors to travel upstream in the lower Kenai River at the outlet of Skilak Lake. At the present time drift-boat-only fishermen are using small motors to enable them to travel upstream to set up for repetitive drifts. KRSA agrees with the justification provided by the author of this proposal. KRSA supports a clear distinction between power and drift-boat-only in the Kenai River. **[KRSA Supports]**

#249 [*Ted Wellman*] seeks to prohibit drift boats from using motors to travel upstream in the lower Kenai River. See comments for 247 and 248. KRSA support allowing motors on drift boats only when the drift boat is crossing a lake. **[KRSA Supports]**

#250 [*Joseph Hanes*] seeks to establish three areas in the lower Kenai River for drift fishing from a motorized vessel during the king salmon season in July. Drift-fishing is an important traditional method in a number of river sections. Drift areas are increasingly displaced in recent years by "back-trolling". The proposal correctly describes the most important "drifts". Adoption of this proposal would require development of a definition of drift-fishing. KRSA believes that this proposal merits serious consideration. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#251 [*Colin Lowe*] seeks to prohibit boats on the Kenai River and Russian River confluence back channel. KRSA does not believe that the problem described by the author of this proposal warrants regulatory relief. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#252 [*Kip Minnery*] seeks to allow fishing for resident species from a motorized vessel on Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake. KRSA supports the existing regulations governing the use of motorized vessels on the lower Kenai River. **[KRSA Opposes]**

#253 [*Funny River Chamber of Commerce/Jim Harping*] seeks to allow fishing for sockeye from a boat in the Funny River King Salmon Sanctuary Area. KRSA supports current regulations for boat use when fishing in the Funny River King Salmon Sanctuary. **[KRSA Opposes]**

NORTHERN COOK INLET NORTHERN PIKE & MISCELLANEOUS SPORT FISH

Proposals

KRSA has submitted no related proposals but is supportive of a number of proposals and concepts submitted by others.

#270 [Steve Runyan] addresses a variety of issues related to Alexander Creek including management of early-run king salmon and northern pike. KRSA supports any reasonable action taken to reduce the abundance of this invasive species but does not take a position on the specifics of a proposal outside of the Kenai Peninsula. **[KRSA Supports Concept]**

#284 [ADFG] seeks to repeal bag and possession limits and liberalize methods and means for northern pike in Alexander Lake. This well thought out proposal should be a template for the discussion about northern pike control. **[KRSA Supports]**

#285 [Anchorage Advisory Committee] seeks to liberalize bag and possession limits and methods and means for northern pike in Alexander Lake. **[KRSA Supports]**

#286 [Susitna Valley Advisory Committee] seeks to increase the amount of gear (lines) that can be fished during the winter months in Big Lake in an effort to harvest more northern pike. KRSA has learned that char and trout may be taken in larger numbers as a result of approval of this proposal as written. While KRSA supports increasing the harvest of northern pike we caution the BOF to seek local advice before adopting this proposal. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#287 [Susitna Valley Advisory Committee] seeks to increase the amount of gear (lines) that can be fished during the winter months in Nancy Lake in an effort to harvest more northern pike. KRSA has learned that burbot may be taken in larger numbers as a result of approval of this proposal as written. While KRSA supports increasing the harvest of northern pike we caution the BOF to seek local advice before adopting this proposal. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#288 [Anchorage Advisory Committee] seeks to liberalize methods and means for the taking of northern pike in Big Lake and Nancy Lake. See comments for Proposals 286 and 287. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#289 [Duane Gluth] seeks to liberalize methods and means for the taking of northern pike in Threemile/Tukhalla and Chiutbuna lakes. KRSA supports increasing the harvest of northern pike so long as other native species are not over-harvested in the process. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#290 [Bob Andres] seeks to allow two fishing rods per person to be used on all still waters. This regulation is common in many western states. KRSA looks forward to a comprehensive discussion because, if adopted for lakes in Northern Cook Inlet, we would expect to see a proposal of this type for the Kenai in the future. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

#291 [ADFG] seeks to remove Symphony Lake from the list of stocked lakes and reduce the bag limit for Arctic grayling. **[KRSA Supports]**

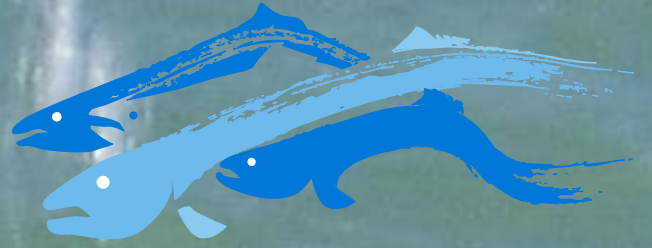
#275 [Michael Hendrickson] seeks to limit boat motors to no more than 25 horse power on the Little Susitna River. The BOF can only address motor size for individuals who are fishing. The author of this proposal does not specify "when fishing." **[KRSA Opposes]**

#283 [Jason Jordet] seeks to establish a catch and release fishery for rainbow trout on the Little Willow Creek. The BOF has adopted a Cook Inlet Rainbow Trout Management Policy to help guide adoption of regulations for rainbow trout. KRSA supports adherence to this well-respected policy. **[KRSA is Neutral]**

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