

**Written materials submitted to the record for the
November 15-18, 2010 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting
pertaining to Proposals 21, 22, and 23**

Homer Advisory Committee
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management
National Park Service
Kenai River Sportfishing Assoc. and Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee
Central Peninsula Advisory Committee
ADF&G Staff Comments
Committee B Report

Homer F&G Advisory Committee

Sept 28, 2010

6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Marvin Peters (Chair), Trina B. Fellows (Sec), Tom Young (Vice), Michael Craig, Lee Martin, Cliff Calkins, George Matz, Joey Allred, Dave Lyon, Tabor Ashment, Gus Van Dyke, Thomas Hagberg, Skip Avril, & Pete Wedin.

Excused: James Meesis

F&G Biologist: Thomas McDonough, Charlie Trowbridge, Tracy Lingnan, Lee Hammarstrom, Mike Booz, Carol Kelkoliet & Ethen Ford.

Public: Meryl Wolford, John L. Martin, Dianne Debou (Seward Advisory board) Bruce A Susinger, Howard Hoyhum, & Carl Anderson.

Proposal 12 1 Favor 11 Oppose 2 Abstain

Comments – adopted by Lee 2nd by Trina

Remove the sunset clause- pull the plug – Seward fishermen are upset because of no return on their cost.

Proposal 14 0 14 Oppose 0

Proposal 15 13 favor 1 oppose 0 abstain

Proposal 18 0 13 Oppose 1 Abstain

Comments adopted by Pete 2nd by Lee

F& G Biologist Charlie Trowbridge – this area cannot be opened to Pot fishermen. This is Tanner Crab habitat. The mortality would be too great.

Proposal 23 0 14 Oppose 0

Comments adopt by Tom 2nd by Trina

Stay at 2 Coho.

Proposal 24 12 Favor 0 2 Abstain

F&G Biologist Carol Kelkoliet discussed this.

Proposal 25 0 14 Oppose 0

Comment Adopt by Dave 2nd Skip

Look at rivers separately.



Anchorage Fish & Game AC

Proposal number	Subject; Author	Support	Oppose	TNA
18	OPPOSE; Tanner crab would be a heavy by catch with this type gear Tanner crab are currently depressed in this area		X	
19	TAKE NO ACTION; this is an allocate proposal			X
20	SUPPORT; 1/4 mile fly fishing zone, no biological concerns	X		
21	OPPOSE; No biological reason, Coho stock is sound		X	
22	SUPPORT; This proposal would make west side remote area bag limits all the same	X		
23	SUPPORT; this proposal should have been changed at 2008 BOF meeting. Commercial fishery got their provisions back from the emergency restriction in the year 2000	X		
24	SUPPORT; The information to set a range is available, years 2003-2010	X		
25,26,27	Support concept; But, Deep Creek has never been open on Wednesday or weekends before Memorial Day Weekend	X		
28,29,30	SUPPORT; Conservative approach, King salmon returns have been weak the last few years, Revert back to 2007 bag limits.	X		
31,32,33	SUPPORT; Restrictions on the use of bait would benefit the outgoing steelhead escapement and help the process during a week king salmon return	X		
34,35,36	SUPPORT; We support restrictions on size of hooks and "no bait" on the Anchor and Deep Creek Rivers	X		
***	offer amendment; Add Ninichik River and Stariski Creek to this proposal			
37	SUPPORT; Fishing persons are fishing prominate holes holding king salmon after the season has closed for king salmon	X		

}

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition
2010 Lower Cook Inlet
Proposal Comments

Proposal # 20 Make a portion of Silver Salmon Cr. fly fishing only.

Oppose ... HOM ADF&G advises that stocks seem stable per their annual aerial surveys.

Proposal #21 Reduce Coho limit to 2 fish for entire West side.

Oppose ... Stock are stable and current limits can be adjusted by EO if necessary.

Proposal #22 Increase Coho limit to 3 for entire West side.

Oppose ... Leave as is. Streams N. of West forelands where the limit is 2 are not enumerated and are closer to population centers where they could receive extra pressure.

Proposal #23 Increase Coho limit to 3 fish for entire Kenai Peninsula.

Oppose ... The only stream on the Peninsula that maintains Coho enumeration is on the Anchor R. so a more cautionary approach is prudent.

Proposal #24 Make Anchor R. escapement goals a range rather than a threshold.

Support ... This is our proposal and makes sense for reasons stated in the proposal.

Proposal #25 Management actions taken on the Anchor would also apply to Deep Cr..

Oppose ... Because these are two different watersheds we think it is prudent to rely on the Department to make stream appropriate decisions. Deep Cr. is managed much more conservatively than the Anchor. R. and we are concerned that liberalizing actions taken on the Anchor may not be appropriate for the smaller Deep Cr. run.

Proposal #26 & #27 Anchor and Deep Cr. open 1 week early and close 1 week early and close on Wednesday.

Oppose ... We oppose extending Deep Cr. openings, but we do **Support...** closing the Anchor R. on Wednesdays.

Proposal #28, #29 & #30 Reduce the combined annual limit in the Anchor and Deep Cr. to 2 per year instead of 5.

Support ... More conservative approach while still providing adequate opportunity.

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. All Federally qualified rural residents are eligible to harvest salmon in Silver Salmon Creek under a Federal permit. Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and method and means for take in the area affected by this proposal are the same as for the taking of these species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) unless modified herein. Therefore if this proposal is adopted, Federally qualified subsistence users would be required to conform to State methods and means when fishing in the designated fly-fishing-only area and use only single hook flies. The use of flies is generally considered a less efficient harvest method than lures and adoption would reduce harvest efficiency for subsistence users. The Federal inseason manager has the authority to issue a Special Action to temporarily change Federal regulations (effective for a maximum of 60 days) to maintain the current allowable gear types for Federally qualified subsistence users fishing within Federal jurisdiction. A proposal would need to be submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board to request a permanent change in Federal subsistence regulations.

Federal Position/Recommended Action: Oppose. Federal Subsistence Management Program staff support conservation of the resource. However, if there is no conservation concern, this proposal would unnecessarily reduce harvest opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest coho salmon in Silver Salmon Creek.



Proposal 21 requests a decrease in the coho salmon bag (daily harvest) limit from 3 to 2 coho salmon in a portion of West Cook Inlet.

Existing State Regulation:

5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area

Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, the following are localized additions and exceptions to seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means specified in 5 AAC 62.120 and 5 AAC 75 for the West Cook Inlet Area:

2) In drainages between the West Foreland and Cape Douglas, the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is three fish per day and six in possession, of which three per day and six in possession may be coho salmon; after taking a bag limit of coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length, a person may not sport fish for any species of finfish during that same day;

Existing Federal Regulation:

Cook Inlet Area

§ __.27(i)(10)(iv) *You may only take salmon, trout, Dolly Varden, and other char under authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. Seasons, harvest and possession limits,*

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and methods and means for take are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) unless modified herein.

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

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and method and means for take in the area affected by this proposal are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) unless modified herein. Therefore if this proposal is adopted, the Federal daily harvest limit for coho salmon 16 inches and longer for Federally qualified subsistence users would default to the State sport fishing regulations and be reduced from 3 to 2 coho salmon per day. In the waters within Lake Clark National Park draining into and including that portion of Tuxedni Bay within the Park, only residents of the Tuxedni Bay area would be affected as they are the only rural residents with a positive customary and traditional use determination for salmon in this area. In the remaining waters of Lake Clark National Preserve that flow into Cook Inlet (e.g. Silver Salmon and Shelter Creeks) all Federally qualified rural residents are eligible to harvest salmon under a Federal permit. As in Tuxedni Bay, the seasons, harvest and possession limits and method and means of take would default to the State sport fishing limit. The Federal inseason manager has the authority to issue a Special Action to temporarily change Federal regulations (effective for a maximum of 60 days) to maintain the current three coho salmon daily harvest limit for Federally qualified subsistence users fishing within Federal jurisdiction. A proposal would need to be submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board to request a permanent change in Federal subsistence regulations.

Federal Position/Recommended Action: Oppose. Federal Subsistence Management Program staff support conservation of the resource and would support this request if the Alaska Board of Fisheries and ADF&G determines that adopting this proposal is necessary for the conservation of coho salmon. However, unless a conservation concern exists, this proposal could unnecessarily reduce harvest opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest coho salmon in this portion of Cook Inlet.

Proposal 23 requests an increase in the bag (daily harvest) and possession limit from 2 to 3 coho salmon in the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Existing State Regulation:

5 AAC 56.120 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 56.122 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, the following are the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means that apply to sport fishing for finfish in the Kenai Peninsula Area:

2) salmon, other than king salmon,

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(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of three fish, of which only two may be coho salmon;

Existing Federal Regulation:

Cook Inlet Area

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

(B) In addition to the dip net and rod and reel fishery on the upper mainstem of the Kasilof River described under paragraph (i)(10)(iv)(A) of this section, residents of Ninilchik may also take coho and pink salmon through a rod and reel fishery in Tustumena Lake. Before leaving the fishing site, all retained salmon must be recorded on the permit and marked by removing the dorsal fin. Seasons, areas, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means for take are the same as for the taking of these species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56), except for the following methods and means, and harvest and possession limits:

(2) For coho salmon 16 inches and longer, the daily harvest and possession limits are 4 per day and 4 in possession.

(E) For Federally managed waters of the Kenai River and its tributaries, in addition to the dip net and rod and reel fisheries on the Kenai and Russian rivers described under paragraph (i)(10)(iv)(D) of this section), residents of Hope, Cooper Landing, and Ninilchik may take sockeye, Chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon through a separate rod and reel fishery in the Kenai River drainage. Before leaving the fishing site, all retained fish must be recorded on the permit and marked by removing their dorsal fin. Permits must be returned to the Federal fisheries manager at the end of the fishing season. Incidental caught fish, other than salmon, are subject to regulations found in paragraphs (i)(10)(iv)(F) and (G) of this section. Seasons, areas (including seasonal riverbank closures), harvest and possession limits, and methods and means for take are the same as for the taking of these species under Alaska fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57), except for the following bag and possession limits:

(5) For other salmon 16 inches and longer, the combined daily harvest and possession limits are 6 per day and 6 in possession, of which no more than 4 per day and 4 in possession may be coho salmon, except for the Sanctuary Area and

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Russian River, for which no more than 2 per day and 2 in possession may be coho salmon.

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

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and method and means for take are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) unless modified herein. Therefore, if this proposal is adopted, the Federal daily harvest limit for coho salmon 16 inches and longer, for Federally qualified subsistence users fishing in Federally managed waters of the Kenai Peninsula District, north of but excluding the Kenai River drainage, within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and the Chugach National Forest would default to the State sport fishing regulations and be increased from 2 to 3 coho salmon per day.

However, the Federally managed waters of the Kasilof and Kenai River drainages within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and the Chugach National Forest have specific regulations, including harvest and possession limits. Therefore if this proposal is adopted, Federal daily harvest and possession limits, for non-Chinook salmon 16 inches and longer, for Federally qualified subsistence users (residents of Hope, Cooper Landing, and Ninilchik) fishing with rod and reel in Federally managed waters of the Kasilof (including Tustumena Lake) and Kenai River drainages would not change. Federally qualified subsistence users would still be allowed a daily harvest and possession limit of 4 coho salmon, 16 inches and longer, except for the Sanctuary Area and Russian River, for which no more than 2 per day and 2 in possession may be coho salmon. When the Federal Subsistence Board adopted these limits they were double the daily harvest and possession limit for coho salmon for sport anglers. A proposal would need to be submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board if an increase in the subsistence harvest limit was sought.

Federal Position/Recommended Action: Neutral. Federal Subsistence Management Program staff support conservation of the resource, and has some concerns that increasing the coho salmon daily harvest and possession limit could adversely impact the coho salmon population. If this proposal is adopted, State and Federal managers would need to closely monitor harvests to ensure they remain within sustainable limits.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. All Federally qualified rural residents are eligible to harvest salmon in Silver Salmon Creek under a Federal permit. Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and method and means for take in the area affected by this proposal are the same as for the taking of these species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) unless modified herein. Therefore if this proposal is adopted, Federally qualified subsistence users would be required to conform to State methods and means when fishing in the designated fly-fishing-only area and use only single hook flies. The use of flies is generally considered a less efficient harvest method than lures and adoption would reduce harvest efficiency for subsistence users.

National Park Service/Recommended Action: The National Park Service supports conservation of the resource. However, there is no information presented with the proposal that indicates a conservation concern. Because there is no known concern, this proposal would unnecessarily reduce harvest opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest coho salmon in Silver Salmon Creek. In this case, the Park Service would **Oppose** the proposal as unnecessary and unduly restrictive.

Proposal 21 requests a decrease in the coho salmon bag (daily harvest) limit from 3 to 2 coho salmon in a portion of West Cook Inlet.

Existing State Regulation:

5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area

Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means specified in 5 AAC 62.120 and 5 AAC 75 for the West Cook Inlet Area:

2) in drainages between the West Foreland and Cape Douglas, the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is three fish per day and six in possession, of which three per day and six in possession may be coho salmon; after taking a bag limit of coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length, a person may not sport fish for any species of finfish during that same day;

Existing Federal Regulation:

Cook Inlet Area

§ ____ 27(i)(10)(iv) *You may only take salmon, trout, Dolly Varden, and other char under authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. Seasons, harvest and possession limits,*

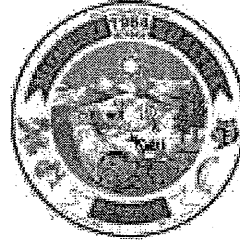
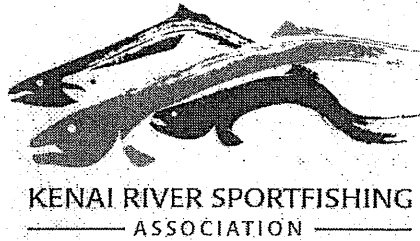
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

and methods and means for take are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) unless modified herein.

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

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and method and means for take in the waters of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve affected by this proposal are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) unless modified herein. Therefore if this proposal is adopted, the Federal daily harvest limit for coho salmon 16 inches and longer, for Federally qualified subsistence users would default to the State sport fishing regulations and be reduced from 3 to 2 coho salmon per day. In the waters within Lake Clark National Park draining into and including that portion of Tuxedni Bay within the Park only residents of the Tuxedni Bay area would be affected as they are the only rural residents determined to have customary and traditional use in this area. In the remaining waters of Lake Clark National Park that flow into Cook Inlet (e.g. Silver Salmon and Shelter Creeks) all Federally qualified rural residents are eligible to harvest salmon under a Federal permit. As in Tuxedni Bay, the seasons, harvest and possession limits and method and means of take would default to the State sport fishing limit in effect at the time the permit was issued.

National Park Service/Recommended Action: The National Park Service supports conservation of the resource. However, there is no information presented with the proposal that indicates a conservation concern. Because there is no known concern, this proposal would unnecessarily reduce harvest opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest coho salmon in the waters of Lake Clark National Park on the west side of Cook Inlet. In this case, the Park Service would **Oppose** the proposal as unnecessary and unduly restrictive.



October 29, 2010

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section, ADFG
ATTN: Jim Marcotte
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Delivered via FAX: 907-465-6094

RE: KRSA Comments on 2010 Board of Fisheries (BOF) Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals

Dear Chairman Webster and members of the Board of Fisheries:

Please see the attached comments from the Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) and the Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee (MSMBRSC) regarding the 2010 BOF Lower Cook Inlet finfish proposals at the regularly scheduled meeting in Homer November 15 - 18, 2010.

Our comments are limited to proposals 20, 21, 22 and 23, where we ask action on them be postponed to a time certain when all related aspects of the issues can be considered together.

Thank you for your time and attention to our comments in your consideration of these proposals.

Respectfully,

Ricky Gease, Executive Director
Kenai River Sportfishing Association
907-262-8588
ricky@kenairiversportfishing.com

Larry Engel, Representative
Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee
907-745-4132
larryengel@gci.net

Attachment: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee comments on Proposals 20, 21, 22 and 23

Proposals 20, 21, 22 and 23:

Proposals 20 – 5 AAC 62.122 and 21 – 5 AAC 56.120 (2)(A), submitted by David Coray, and proposals 22 – 5 AAC 62.120(2) and 23 – 5 AAC 56.120, submitted by the Kenai River Sportfishing Association and the Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, seek to address methods and means and a daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in West Cook Inlet and Lower Cook Inlet Freshwater – Salmon.

Proposals 21, 22 and 23 are on the agenda during both the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings of the Alaska Board of Fisheries during the 2010/2011 cycle. These proposals are part of a total of 15 proposals submitted by these same authors that seek to address the issue of bag and possession limits, stock status and commercial harvest of coho salmon in a comprehensive manner.

Kenai River Sportfishing Association and the Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee asks that the Board consider postponing action on these three proposals and also Proposal 20 which addresses methods and means for coho salmon in a stream located in West Cook Inlet until a time certain when all pertinent issues related to this subject can be considered together. We suggest that action should be taken during the Upper Cook Inlet meeting.

The management of coho salmon in Upper Cook Inlet 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 conservation measures included reducing the bag and possession limit from three to two fish. On the commercial fish side conservation measures included restricting the drift fleet from 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 normal when it comes to conserving coho salmon. The drift fleet is still restricted to the more southern part of the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet for an opening or two in early/mid July but this restriction is more in an effort to pass sockeye salmon through to the Northern District than to reduce harvest of coho. The sport fisheries are still restricted to a bag and possession limit of two fish.

The conduct of the commercial fishery in 2010 is typical of recent years and provides all the justification necessary for reestablishing the sport fish historical bag and possession limit of three for coho. 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 UCI 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 coho sport fishery. We respectively disagree and look forward to this debate.

VOTER RECORD/COMMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Central Peninsula

DATE: 10/25/10 PAGE 5 OF 12

Board of Fish Comments for Lower CI Finfish.

Please use this format to record the votes and comments of members regarding proposals. The boards are particularly interested in hearing the reasons why proposals are supported/opposed. If committee members believe a proposal does not pertain to their jurisdiction, it is not necessary to spend time on that proposal.

Proposal #	Support	Oppose	Abstain	Summary of Discussion (include minority view)
#16	9	0	0	Housekeeping Passed:
#17	9	0	0	Passed: Housekeeping. No body doing it now.
#18	NO	ACTION		This proposal is full of errors. IT is confusing and contradictory as to what is being asked for what areas.
#19	0	9	0	Failed: Leave as is. Any jig quota not used now is reallocated to both gear types on Sept. 1st. Passing this proposal would eliminate any growth in the jig fishery and discourage new participants.
#20	0	9	0	Failed: The coho stocks are healthy with no conservation concerns. This is strictly allocative. No need. Could go to single hook barbless to reduce mortality from hook & release.
#21	0	9	0	Failed: Leave under the current bag limit. There are no conservation concerns in Silver Salmon Creek or Shelter Creek or any other west side streams. Current bag limit marking.

VOTER RECORD/COMMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Central Peninsula

DATE: 10/25/10 PAGE 7 OF 12

Board of Fish Comments for Lower CI Flufish.

Please use this format to record the votes and comments of members regarding proposals. The boards are particularly interested in hearing the reasons why proposals are supported/opposed. If committee members believe a proposal does not pertain to their jurisdiction, it is not necessary to spend time on that proposal.

Proposal #	Support	Oppose	Abstain	Summary of Discussion (include minority view)
#23	1	8	0	Failed! Leave as is: See comments to #22. The one in support said there are no conservation concerns and he would like to catch 3 coho per day.
#24	9	0	0	Passed: Every system must be managed with a BEG for MSY.
#25	0	9	0	Failed: Each system is different and should be managed separately.
#26	9	0	0	Passed: These rivers are getting abused and returns are decreasing. We agree with the issue statement pointing out the increase mortality.
#27	NO ACTION			See #26
#28	9	0	0	Passed: The returns are decreasing steadily. ADF&G says this reduction is not necessary because the current bag limit is sustainable and they can EO reduced bag limits. We think it should be the other way around reduce annual limit to two to be conservative and insure escapement is met, and EO a more liberal limit if runs are strong.

ADF&G, STAFF COMMENTS (RC 2, NOV. 2010)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.

PROPOSED BY: David Coray.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would lower the coho salmon bag limit from 3 fish to 2 fish in waters south of West Forelands to, and including, Chinitna Bay.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In flowing waters between the Susitna River and West Foreland, the bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is 2 per day and 4 in possession. In flowing waters between West Foreland and Cape Douglas the bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is 3 per day and 6 in possession (Figure 21-1).

A person who takes a daily bag limit of coho salmon 16 inches or more in length in the West Cook Inlet waters may not fish for any species in West Cook Inlet waters for the remainder of that day.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal may or may not result in a decrease in the overall harvest. Adoption of this proposal may decrease angler effort by some small, but unknown amount, simply because, given the choice, anglers would probably prefer to participate in a fishery where they could harvest 3 fish rather than 2.

BACKGROUND: The department has limited information regarding the status of coho salmon stocks returning to the West Cook Inlet area south of the West Foreland. The majority of coho salmon sport harvest occurs in the Kustatan River (previous 5 year average of approximately 3,500 fish) and Silver Salmon Creek (previous 5 year average of approximately 1,000), with harvests of a few to a few hundred occurring in some of the smaller streams such as Shelter Creek. Harvest estimates from the Statewide Harvest Survey are relatively stable (Table 21-1). Additionally, commercial fishing effort directed at Westside Cook Inlet coho salmon is currently at a low level.

Coho salmon return to numerous small systems throughout the area, making stock assessment of all drainages difficult. However, returns to the Kustatan River and Silver Salmon Creek since 2000 appear to be good.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. There appear to be no coho salmon conservation problems in the proposed area and the current harvest levels appear sustainable. This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting, therefore, the department recommends tabling this proposal until that meeting.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

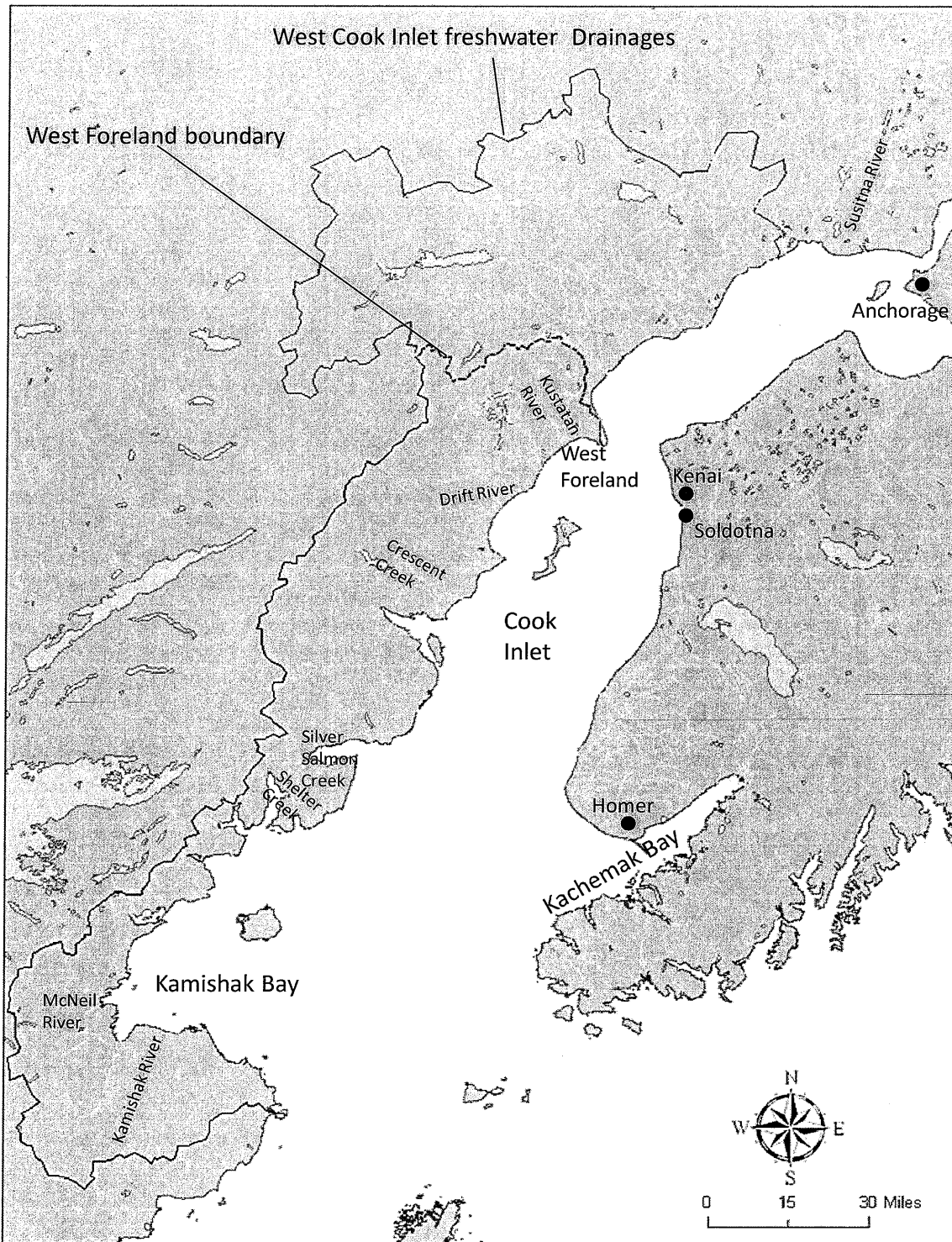


Figure 21-1. Map of West Cook Inlet freshwater drainages.

Table 21-1. Coho salmon catch and harvest from Western Cook Inlet freshwater drainages, 1996-2009.

Year	North of West Forelands						South of West Forelands							
	Theodore River		Chuitna River		Total		Kustatan River		Big River System		Silver Salmon Creek		Total	
	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest
1996	460	361	2,088	1,254	4,350	2,732	10,600	6,266	924	600	6,066	1,979	22,741	11,025
1997	256	187	2,388	1,156	4,159	1,979	6,750	3,605	698	305	935	408	10,721	5,071
1998	411	380	3,551	2,384	5,286	3,526	6,369	3,999	601	264	1,104	422	9,898	5,429
1999	473	290	2,492	1,579	5,609	3,352	3,908	3,178	1,306	463	2,082	590	10,492	6,161
2000	2,678	1,161	4,318	1,872	10,712	4,525	9,725	5,699	566	325	2,293	1,013	15,626	8,200
2001	1,322	1,029	6,334	3,284	11,299	6,178	8,353	4,920	857	508	3,178	2,054	16,579	9,825
2002	2,455	1,208	5,170	2,586	11,389	5,910	11,463	5,795	1,633	497	2,598	942	20,920	8,034
2003	313	225	2,635	1,467	4,912	2,790	6,263	3,967	7,393	2,876	7,377	2,269	26,676	10,867
2004	1,299	645	2,719	1,655	7,409	3,161	7,698	3,984	7,426	2,648	10,902	1,389	32,944	11,505
2005	317	229	2,223	972	5,001	2,336	6,201	3,551	11,144	3,916	7,053	1,568	27,867	9,948
2006	1,327	282	1,409	531	5,323	1,888	5,251	3,556	6,128	3,997	5,234	997	22,837	9,892
2007	936	811	2,129	1,577	5,131	3,749	5,249	4,057	5,120	2,981	1,998	1,041	14,531	8,771
2008	50	31	3,263	1,401	4,631	2,340	5,345	3,868	8,922	7,124	776	356	17,469	12,333
2009	1,643	313	2,485	707	6,775	2,302	3,960	2,639	4,085	3,032	2,812	1,133	12,548	7,412
Average														
1996-2009	996	511	3,086	1,602	6,570	3,341	6,938	4,220	4,057	2,110	3,886	1,154	18,704	8,891

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 62.120(2). General provisions for season, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the daily limit of coho salmon from 2 to 3 in West Cook Inlet (WCI) streams between the Susitna River and West Foreland.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In flowing waters between the Susitna River and West Foreland, the bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is 2 per day and 4 in possession. In flowing waters between West Foreland and Cape Douglas, the bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is 3 per day and 6 in possession (Figure 22-1).

A person who takes a daily bag limit of coho salmon 16 inches or more in length in the WCI waters may not fish for any species in WCI waters for the remainder of that day.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal could increase the overall harvest of coho salmon in that area by approximately 200–500 fish. Given low angler effort compared to road accessible areas, increasing limits from 2 fish per day to 3 fish per day for WCI streams would likely not increase the harvest above sustainable levels.

BACKGROUND: Poor returns of coho salmon to Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) in 1997 and 1999, in concert with not meeting escapement objectives, prompted the board to restrict sport fisheries on select Knik Arm and Susitna River streams to allow more coho salmon on the spawning grounds. In 2000, the board conducted a special out-of-cycle session to address Cook Inlet coho salmon. Because of the broad decline in coho salmon abundance, restrictive action was taken in a wide geographic range (i.e., Anchorage, Kenai, Susitna River, Knik Arm, and parts of WCI). Coho salmon restrictions were placed on both sport and commercial fisheries throughout most of the UCI area. In the sport fishery, coho salmon limits were reduced from 3 fish per day to 2 fish per day. Possession limits were reduced from 6 to 4 in some areas, while in other cases, possession limits were equal to the bag limit. In addition to these restrictions, the board took action to close Wasilla Creek to salmon fishing. Commercial fishing restrictions consisted of reducing time, net lengths, and number of nets in selected areas as described in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* (5AAC 21.358).

However, in remote systems that experienced relatively low angler use and that had good to above average returns, restrictions implemented in 2000 may not have been necessary. In recent years (2005, 2010), coho salmon returns to the several systems in the WCI area have experienced above average returns. In 2005, the board extended the commercial fishing season for the Central District. Sport fish restrictions were also relaxed on some Westside Susitna River streams where coho bag and possession limits were increased from 2 per day and 4 in possession to 3 per day 6 in possession. Some remote Northern Cook Inlet areas could likely support an

increase in harvest, such as Westside Susitna River and WCI streams. Others, such as Eastside Susitna River tributaries and Knik Arms systems, which are road accessible and receive high angler use, may not be able to sustain an increase in harvest during years with low or below average returns. For example, in 1999, sport harvests of coho salmon for the Little Susitna River and Cottonwood, Fish, and Jim creeks were 8,964; 537; 233; and 2,612, respectively, while escapements objectives were only met for 1 of these 4 systems despite inseason restrictions (Table 22-1). In the case of the Little Susitna River in 1999, sport harvest was nearly three times the escapement.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, staff believes that an increase in bag and possession limits of 1 fish in the WCI Area would likely be sustainable since the average overall coho salmon sport harvest in WCI streams north of West Forelands is fewer than 3,500 fish. This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting, therefore, the department recommends tabling this proposal until that meeting.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 22-1. Coho salmon harvest and escapement from Knik Arm sport fisheries, 1981-2009.

Year	Little Susitna River		Wasilla Creek		Cottonwood Creek		Fish Creek		Jim Creek	
	Harvest	Escapement (weir)	Harvest	Escapement (foot survey)	Harvest	Escapement (foot survey)	Harvest	Escapement (weir)	Escapement (foot survey)	
									McRoberts Creek	Jim Creek Drainage
1981	5,940		814	302	1,373	423		2,382	1,801	
1982	7,116		1,624	276	1,886	737		5,201	2,306	
1983	2,835		345	32	518	506		2,342	774	
1984	14,253		1,920	966	1,895	935		4,510	3,429	
1985	7,764		1,900	247	1,005	334	284	5,089	2,523	662
1986	6,039	6,999	944	288	690	121	364	2,166	2,948	439
1987	13,003	20,491	1,195	403	1,159	360	833	3,871	3,676	667
1988	19,009	15,232	1,273	112	746	293	1,637	2,162	11,078	1,911
1989	14,129	15,232	975	106	876	147	784	3,479	4,220	597
1990	7,497	14,310	1,012	84	286	167	398	2,719	6,184	599
1991	16,450	37,601	844	139	176	158	486	1,297	2,920	1,188
1992	20,033	20,393	413	14	348	6	526	1,705	3,409	902
1993	27,610	33,378	1,133	136	736	265	741	2,328	2,878	70
1994	17,665	27,820	1,390	418	1,100	232	492	350	3,946	503
1995	14,451	11,817	445	104	340	242	435	390	3,549	506
1996	16,753	15,803	872	143	762	168	607	682	3,911	702
1997	7,756	9,894	708	229	372	386	148	2,578	1,786	511
1998	14,469	15,159	970	176	1,098	537	1,334	5,463	4,197	1,264
1999	8,864	3,017	313	267	537	131	233	1,766	2,612	922
2000	20,357	15,436	0	654	282	876	470	5,218	5,653	12
2001	17,071	30,587	0	505	647	983	361	9,247	8,374	657
2002	19,278	47,938	664	1,196	561	1,191	1,233	14,651	14,707	1,019
2003	13,672	10,877	261	294	665	229	112	1,231	14,707	2,473
2004	15,307	40,199	488	1,148	532	430	774	1,415	6,415	1,421
2005	10,203	16,839	347	130	668	619	535	3,011	11,766	4,652
2006	12,399	8,786	857	737	789	912	281	4,967	10,114	1,464
2007	11,089	17,573	324	430	856	1,024	120	6,868	19,259	2,389
2008	13,498	18,485	1,086	1,536	308	1,821	993	4,868	11,848	725
2009	8,346	9,523	1,002	978	1,503	942	1,178	8,214	17,545	1,890
Average										
2005-2009	11,107	14,241	723	762	825	1,064	621	5,586	15,436	1,560
BEG 1999-2001		9,600-19,200		300		300		2,700		
SEG 2002-2010		10,100-17,700								
								1,200-4,400 ^c		450-700

^a 1982-1991 weir count, plus stream survey; 1994-1996 and 2004-2008 weir was removed on August 15 before the majority of the coho run. In 1997, the weir was out on September 1.

^b Incomplete or partial count due to submersion of the weir during high water.

^c Fish Creek SEG discontinued in 2004.

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association and Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the coho salmon bag limit in the Kenai Peninsula Area from 2 fish to 3 fish.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In flowing waters on the Kenai Peninsula, the bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is 2 per day and 4 in possession.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the overall harvest of coho salmon in that area by an unknown amount. In Kenai Peninsula streams (excluding the Kenai River), the increased harvest may be unsustainable, particularly in streams with small runs or in years with below average runs.

BACKGROUND: All road accessible streams on the Kenai Peninsula support popular coho salmon sport fisheries. The Kasilof River drainage, Swanson River drainage, Anchor River, and Deep Creek are thought to have larger runs than the Ninilchik River and Bishop, Resurrection, and Stariski creeks. Sport fishing for salmon is open only in the lower sections (upstream 2 miles from the mouth) of Lower Cook Inlet Management Area (LCIMA) streams of Anchor and Ninilchik rivers, and Deep and Stariski creeks.

Coho salmon escapement has been periodically monitored with weirs in the Anchor River and Deep Creek, while runs in other streams have not been monitored as frequently. Weir count information indicates run sizes fluctuate widely across years. In the Anchor River, coho salmon escapement has been monitored from 1987 through 1992 and from 2004 through 2010. For both periods, coho salmon escapement has ranged from fewer than 3,000 (1987 and 2009) to more than 18,000 fish (1989 and 2005). From 1996 through 2001, annual coho salmon escapement in Deep Creek has ranged from 1,537 in 1997 to 6,164 in 2001 (Table 23-1). In the Swanson River the number of coho salmon enumerated at a weir in 1988 and 1989 was 23,514 and 20,841, respectively. In the Kasilof River, abundance of coho salmon estimated by a tagging project was 16,000 in 2009. A feature of the Kasilof and Swanson rivers fisheries is the directed coho fisheries that occur within tributaries of each drainage. These include fisheries in the Swanson River Canoe Trail lakes and Crooked Creek, a tributary of the Kasilof River. There are no coho salmon escapement goals for any Kenai Peninsula area streams.

The annual harvest of coho salmon from streams on the Kenai Peninsula varies between streams and years. From 1977–2006, the average annual coho salmon harvest is higher in Anchor River (2,692) and Deep Creek (1,414) than Ninilchik River (961) and Stariski Creek (271). The annual harvest of coho salmon in each system has approximately ranged from 1,000–5,000 in the Anchor River, 300–3,500 in Deep Creek, 100–3,000 in Ninilchik River and 25–1,000 in Stariski Creek (Table 23-2). The average annual sport harvest from Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River has slightly increased since 2000 when the bag limit was reduced from 3 to 2 coho salmon. Since the bag limit reduction in other streams on the Kenai Peninsula, the average

coho salmon harvest has increased compared to those observed prior to the bag limit reduction. For instance, in the Kasilof and Swanson river drainages, harvests averaged approximately 2,900 and 1,900 fish, respectively, prior to 2000 (Table 23-3). Harvests in the Kasilof River drainage now average 3,700 fish, and those from the Swanson River drainage now average about 2,200 fish. Six Mile and Resurrection creeks support coho salmon fisheries with harvests that now average about 472 and 130 fish, respectively, more than double previous harvests estimated for these locations. The larger harvest is likely due to a combination of factors, including an increase in participation in these coho salmon fisheries and favorable coho salmon production. The variation in the annual coho salmon harvest from Kenai Peninsula streams is not well understood but is likely due in part to the wide fluctuation in run strength and angler effort, as well as the bag limit.

Based on escapement data and harvest estimates, harvest rates in the Anchor River and Deep Creek have been high in some years. The average annual inriver harvest rate of coho salmon has ranged from 11.5% in 1989 to 59% in 2009. From 1997–2002, the inriver harvest rate of coho salmon in Deep Creek ranged from 27% in 1999 to 60% in 1998. Generally, smaller runs are harvested at a higher rate than large runs.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal due to the wide range of differences in coho salmon production among streams of the Kenai Peninsula. The uncertainty surrounding the volatile nature of annual coho salmon run strength greatly increases the likelihood that coho salmon stocks will be exploited at unsustainable harvest rates during periods of low coho salmon productivity if the bag limit were increased for streams of the Kenai Peninsula. This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting, therefore, the department recommends tabling this proposal until that meeting.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 23-1. Anchor River and Deep Creek coho salmon harvest, catch and escapement, 1977-2009.

Year	Anchor River					Deep Creek				
	Effort (days fished)	Harvest	Catch	Escapement	Exploitation rate (%)	Effort (days fished)	Harvest	Catch	Escapement	Exploitation rate (%)
1977	31,515	1,339				11,399	306			
1978	42,671	1,559				13,872	1,383			
1979	44,220	4,006				12,560	362			
1980	33,272	2,649				8,796	478			
1981	34,257	2,949				10,127	464			
1982	24,709	2,379				12,149	366			
1983	28,881	1,395				13,505	545			
1984	26,919	1,135				15,760	1,197			
1985	31,715	2,239				19,802	2,301			
1986	34,938	1,021				17,354	588			
1987	39,045	2,010		2,409	45.5	16,734	1,050			
1988	24,356	2,219		2,805	44.2	12,115	1,528			
1989	19,145	2,635		20,187	11.5	13,414	2,254			
1990	28,829	2,782	4,666			23,567	1,111	2,039		
1991	22,187	3,169	3,980			17,048	1,290	1,710		
1992	24,028	2,267	4,850	4,596	33.0	15,226	737	1,239		
1993	29,338	4,003	6,657			19,535	1,722	2,790		
1994	27,856	3,360	5,136			18,357	1,895	2,970		
1995	25,888	3,080	5,141			12,727	1,014	1,636		
1996	16,016	1,762	4,025			9,629	2,313	3,818		
1997	17,020	1,636	4,017			9,712	1,115	1,943	2,017	35.6
1998	14,310	2,386	3,949			9,206	2,035	3,635	1,537	57.0
1999	21,184	1,780	3,807			11,367	2,651	3,991	2,267	53.9
2000	22,971	2,604	4,807			12,174	2,018	3,660	3,425	37.1
2001	19,195	2,960	6,327			7,834	1,828	2,529	3,747	32.8
2002	19,245	3,830	7,510			8,925	1,832	3,663	6,164	37.3
2003	17,482	3,999	12,133			8,959	1,751	3,179		
2004	20,452	4,383	10,194	5,728	43.3	10,575	2,474	4,624		
2005	20,079	5,314	11,639	18,977	21.9	10,182	2,202	4,631		
2006	17,065	3,920	7,634	10,181	27.8	7,128	1,606	3,302		
2007	34,390	3,962	9,881	8,226	32.5	9,382	1,932	3,158		
2008	26,182	4,790	7,658	5,951	44.6	9,332	1,631	3,174		
2009	22,057	3,882	6,332	2,692	59.1	8,367	1,323	2,341		
Averages										
1977-2009	26,104	2,830	6,517	8,175	28.5	12,631	1,433	3,002	3,193	37.5

Table 23-2. Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek coho salmon harvest and catch, 1977-2009.

Year	Ninilchik River		Stariski Creek	
	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch
1977	122		133	
1978	88		201	
1979	200		275	
1980	321		155	
1981	432		410	
1982	241		119	
1983	210		251	
1984	549		0	
1985	697		25	
1986	336		187	
1987	924		127	
1988	709		146	
1989	379		396	
1990	368	633	169	287
1991	789	899	280	339
1992	785	1,433	97	138
1993	845	1,636	392	602
1994	1,089	1,486	446	464
1995	620	971	72	72
1996	1,071	1,332	426	482
1997	402	948	111	178
1998	836	963	1,168	1,289
1999	2,980	5,127	153	436
2000	1,724	3,354	419	534
2001	708	1,196	270	328
2002	1,655	3,238	367	384
2003	2,526	4,596	309	470
2004	3,425	4,440	374	915
2005	1,339	2,663	379	475
2006	2,472	3,069	280	407
2007	1,591	2,225	385	502
2008	692	986	283	1,386
2009	895	1,853	139	265
Averages				
1977-2006	961	2,234	271	459
2007-2009	1,059	1,688	269	718

Table 23-3. Northern Kenai Peninsula Management Area (except Kenai River drainage) coho salmon sport harvest, 1981-2009.

Year	Kasilof River Drainage				Swanson River Drainage				Other NKPMMA Drainages			
	Tustumena Lake ^a	Kasilof River	Crooked Creek	Total	Swanson River	Swanson Canoe Route Lakes	Total	Six Mile Creek	Resurrection Creek	Chickaloon River	Other ^b	Total
1981	NA	335	NA	335	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1982	NA	325	NA	325	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1983	NA	409	NA	409	525	NA	525	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1984	NA	1,085	NA	1,085	1,484	NA	1,484	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1985	NA	560	NA	560	NA	187	187	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1986	NA	1,783	497	2,280	NA	969	969	45	13	NA	0	58
1987	36	3,785	NA	3,821	NA	1,485	1,485	72	36	NA	0	108
1988	200	2,928	291	3,419	5,603	546	6,149	236	18	NA	55	309
1989	111	4,222	1,952	6,285	6,379	127	6,506	79	127	NA	0	206
1990	236	1,590	486	2,312	1,501	0	1,501	316	125	NA	0	441
1991	52	4,754	265	5,071	811	81	892	125	29	NA	0	154
1992	32	3,304	251	3,587	1,984	49	2,033	49	89	154	97	389
1993	258	3,698	867	4,823	3,477	10	3,487	344	171	439	0	954
1994	30	4,457	1,026	5,513	1,876	0	1,876	534	81	18	27	660
1995	218	5,349	98	5,665	1,132	0	1,132	472	39	0	0	511
1996	144	2,612	471	3,227	2,578	76	2,654	551	224	155	0	930
1997	345	1,286	0	1,631	1,153	0	1,153	381	84	20	56	541
1998	119	2,107	0	2,226	2,371	123	2,494	470	274	115	0	859
1999	48	3,269	0	3,317	2,054	0	2,054	92	233	0	0	325
2000	229	2,965	0	3,194	2,506	0	2,506	429	52	136	0	617
2001	90	3,173	110	3,373	1,959	117	2,076	459	125	19	86	689
2002	93	6,046	35	6,174	2,467	0	2,467	1,025	114	22	163	1,324
2003	46	4,082	0	4,128	3,087	80	3,167	262	125	23	0	410
2004	338	4,217	270	4,825	1,466	45	1,511	582	138	0	0	720
2005	117	3,124	117	3,358	2,367	0	2,367	146	39	120	72	377
2006	85	3,782	54	3,921	2,028	32	2,060	545	121	0	0	666
2007	15	1,740	0	1,755	1,660	10	1,670	252	289	0	0	541
2008	252	3,613	0	3,865	2,814	0	2,814	354	195	0	0	549
2009	61	2,725	63	2,849	1,790	0	1,790	664	103	0	0	767
Avg. (1981-1999)	96	2,519	327	2,942	1,733	192	1,925	198	81	47	12	339
Avg. (2000-2009)	133	3,547	65	3,744	2,214	28	2,243	472	130	32	32	666
Avg. (1981-2009)	109	2,873	236	3,218	1,899	136	2,035	293	98	42	19	452

Source: All harvest estimates from Statewide Harvest Survey (Mills 1982-1994; Howe et al. 1995-1996, 2001a-d; Walker et al. 2003; Jennings et al. 2004, 2005a-b, 2007, 2009a-b, *In prep.* a-b).

^a Tustumena Lake data includes harvests from creeks draining into Tustumena Lake (Nikolai Creek 1998, 2000; Glacier Creek 2004).

^b Harvest data from Ingram Creek (1988, 2001, 2002), Otter Creek (1992, 1994, 1997), Sunnise Creek (2005).

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.

Decrease coho salmon bag limit from 3 fish to 2 fish south of West Forelands to, and including, Chinitna Bay.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Written Tab 2.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 2.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 4, PC 5, PC 14, PC16.

Record Comments: RC 14, RC 15, RC 22.

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Note: This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting and will be acted in there.

Department:

- No sustainability issues with the fisheries in this area.
- Harvest is sustainable.
- Kustatan River supports the most effort and harvest which has been stable over recent years.
- In Silver Salmon Creek effort and harvest has been stable over recent years.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- The proposed area is within Lake Clark National Park with joint jurisdiction with USFWS.
- FWS NPS are opposed to this proposal.
- May limit harvest opportunities for subsistence users.
- Reduce the efficiency of subsistence users to harvest coho salmon.
- There are no specific federal subsistence regulations for this area, so state sport regulations are the default subsistence regulations.
- No federal subsistence permits have been issued for this area.
- There has been no customary and traditional subsistence determination for this area.

Support:

- None.

Opposition:

- None.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Opposes.

AC Positions: Support: None.

Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Board Committee Recommendation: Table to Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 62.120(2). General provisions for season, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Increase coho salmon bag and possession limit from 2 fish to 3 fish in West Cook Inlet streams between the Susitna River and West Foreland.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Written Tab 2.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 2.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 4, PC 14.

Record Comments: RC 14, RC 15, RC 22.

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Note: This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting and will be acted in there.

Department:

- Harvest increase would be sustainable.
- Harvest would increase by 200-500 fish.
- Streams not easily accessible.
- No inseason monitoring of coho salmon in West Cook Inlet.
- Management is based on annual trends in catch and harvest.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Lightly used sport fisheries.
- The conservation concerns identified in 2000 for coho salmon in Cook Inlet systems are no longer present.
- Bag limit of 3 fish/day is consistent with saltwater bag limit.

Opposition:

- No data on run strength to manage inseason.
- Opposed to blanket increase in bag limit regulations.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: Support: Anchorage.

Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Table to Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Increase coho salmon bag and possession limit from 2 fish to 3 fish in the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Written Tab 2.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 1, AC 2.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 4.

Record Comments: RC 14, RC 15, RC 22.

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Note: This proposal is also listed for consideration during the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting and will be acted in there.

Department:

- Large fluctuations in coho salmon escapements across Kenai Peninsula streams.
- Exploitation rates can be quite high when abundance is low for some stocks with the current bag limit.
- May not be sustainable for some stocks.
- Harvests have increased rather than decreased with the bag limit of 2 coho salmon.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- Neutral; conservation concerns with some stocks but defer assessment of sustainability to the Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Fish.

Support:

- None.

Opposition:

- Opposed to blanket increase in bag limit regulations in an area with limited data except the Anchor River.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Opposes.

AC Positions: Support: None.

Oppose: Homer.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Board Committee Recommendation: Table to Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting.

Substitute Language: None.



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February 4, 2011

State of Alaska
Department of Fish & Game
Board Support Section
Chairman Vince Webster
Attn: BOF Comments
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Chairman Webster,

KPFA's mission is "*Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources*". Our goal is to continue to strengthen our *fishing community* (MSA) and to promote the economic stability of the fishery.

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA) is a non-profit 501(c) (6) commercial fisheries advocacy trade group representing Cook Inlet (CI) fishing families for 56 years. Primarily representing salmon set net permit holders from Kachemak Bay to Susitna River, from the West Side of CI to East Side of the Kenai Peninsula.

Comprised of generations of family style set net fishing cooperatives with a few other adventurous individuals, residents make up better than 82% of the 736 (CI) permit holders and the remaining majorities are US citizens.

The Commercial Fishing Entry Commission (CFEC) executed a demographics report for (CI) fishing people in 2004. Interesting to note is that 47% of the participants were between the ages of 40-59, 30% were in the 10-39 age group and 23% landed in the 60-90 age class. Participation since limited entry (1973) indicates 51.9% have held permits for 19-31 yrs. and 42.8% have participated for 7-31 yrs. Out of 2710 different permit holders in 31 yrs approximately 1525 have changed ownership. Of the other 49 states, 19 states have permits holders. The state of Alaska has 25 cities in the CI greater area and still others villages elsewhere within the state that are considered home for CI Setnetters.

A profile defining stable Alaskan's; commercial fishing economies benefit many of south-central large and small communities. Many family units are homesteaders; pioneers and are an integral fiber that binds the infrastructure within our state.

Article VIII, Section 15 of the Alaska's Constitution power of the State to limit entry into any fishery for purposes of resource conservation, to prevent economic distress among fishermen and those dependent upon them for a livelihood...

In the fourth edition to the Alaska Legislative Affairs Agency's, Alaska's Constitution A Citizen's Guide, by Gordon Harrison, Article VIII, Natural Resources;

Section 1. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.

Section 2. General Authority

The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.

Section 4. Sustained Yield

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

Alaska Statute 16.43.010 (a) ... promote the conservation and the sustained yield management of Alaska's fishery resource and the economic health and stability of commercial fishing in Alaska by regulating and controlling entry of participants and vessels into the commercial fisheries in the public interest and without unjust discrimination.

Alaska Statute 38.04.910 (12), "sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the state land consistent with multiple use;

5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.

(c)(2)(B) salmon escapement goals, whether sustainable escapement goals, biological escapement goals, optimal escapement goals, or inriver run goals, should be established in a manner consistent with sustained yield; unless otherwise directed, the department will manage Alaska's salmon fisheries, to the extent possible, for maximum sustained yield;

KPFA would like to assist the Board with these Constitutional guidelines while they review proposals for the 2011 Upper Cook Inlet Regulatory meeting.

We believe that the principles that would continue to promote healthy resource development are centered on acquiring the best available science with the expertise from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The members of KPFA understand the complexities that confront BOF members when they are subject to stakeholders views on fisheries allocation. We offer a simplified view of the challenges before you. Please review; figure 1.2, figure 1.4 and figure 3.1. These diagrams are described in brief in "*Managing Small Scale Fisheries, Alternative Directions and Methods*" chapters 1.5.2 – 1.5.4.

While not being a perfect model, the inclusion of "*social values*" are intangible benefits, are messy and rather vague. The Maximization of a single objective is much easier than optimization. A healthy fishing industry, in which the primary users of the resource are able to sustain a decent standard of living and return on their investment, is obviously in the best interest of the country. The interests of the resource users and of the public do not always coincide, particularly when short-term interests predominate.

What is the best approach for a planning structure for CI management and harvest of salmon stocks bound for their natal streams? The management objective driven (MOD) process requires industry input as to the size of the participants, a political process then establishes the allocative policies. Industry again continues to press for

a management strategy. Not until this political posturing is over and near the end of the decision making phase does biological input take place. It becomes secondary to the principles of maximized yield. The managers are then managing people instead of the resource. In season management with the modern concepts of adaptive management are restrained because of the “*social objectives*”.

The stock assessment driven (SAD) flow diagram is more traditional to the Alaskan management principles. It requires a high degree of science to assess the targeted stocks, a biologically directed management approach. The department would then suggest the best strategy for maintaining high yields and a healthy environment. They would consider utilizations that would maintain the near maximum sustainable yields for each fishery. Industry would then have a chance to participate within the goals and objectives. Politics then determine the final policies that maintain the rules of procurement while not violating the long term health and utilization of the resource.

KPFA is insistent that the principles of high sustained yield with strong guidelines to maintain environmental standards should be the first rule in CI fisheries management. Managers of both sport and commercial division should formulate different strategies that complement each other not conflict. Departments should actively seek guidance from stakeholders on how best to participate in the fishery resources. They should engage the users to be realistic in their approach to maintain the goals. The public should support reasonable achievable expectations within a fully utilized resource.

It is in the best interest of the state and for resource stability to have open discussions with stakeholders, department personnel and BOF members. Restrictions on the open meeting process from past boards should not and cannot be tolerated. Back room bargaining, interest group coercion of department personnel, closed meetings with board members and the public, ADF&G staff that are instructed to work on proposals for individual board members with secrecy, and that are aligned with a single interest group, or individual staff that are advocating for the own interest or a division’s goal is not the way to accomplish a fair promulgation of the laws of the state and of the country.

.KPFA members and associates will be available to Board of Fisheries members throughout the regulatory meeting. We are interested win discussing all the fisheries issues with you. Please do not hesitate to question our views and our science. We are to assist you with our extensive support information. Just look for those of us with a KPFA button or visit us in the Egan Center meeting room #9, just next to the BOF meeting room on the North side.

Respectfully,

Robert Williams, President

Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association

Enclosures; Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Comments on Proposals 2011, Resident Demographic graph, *Managing Small-scale Fisheries* Figures 1.2, 1.4, 3.1, Chapters 1.5.2 – 1.5.4

Proposal 321 – 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons;

Support

This proposal extends the season in Kenai/Kasilof/East Forelands section and removes the 1% language. Season would continue to close through August 15 or until closed by emergency order (EO) under even years.

Historical season opening and closures have diminished the set net fisheries harvest opportunities since Statehood. Proposal 321 addresses late season harvest of sockeye excess to escapement needs. 20% or more of the sockeye escapement into the Kenai River on average appear after July 31.

Pink salmon return in abundance to the Kenai River throughout the month of August. Typically these salmon run in the highest concentration on the spring tides. Current restrictions in time and production severely hinder the access to the resource.

Economic viability of a salmon fishery requires reasonable access to the abundance of the resource.

We request the Department and the Board to write a conservative Kenai River Pink Salmon Management Plan that will allow the set net fishery access to an under utilized resource; while maintaining a less than 2% exploitation rate currently harvested on Kenai Coho salmon returning to the East side beaches.

Proposal 322 – 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons (b) (2) (C) (ii);

Support

This proposal will open the Kenai and East Forelands sections of the East Side Set Net (ESSN) on July 1, additional changes address the ending season date by establishing August 15 as the official closing date.

From 1978 until 2000 the ESSN fishery opened in the Kenai and East Forelands section on July 1. Changes in management plans reduced the opportunity to harvest known Kasilof stocks in this area.

Drift fishermen are open from the third Monday in June or June 19 and fish within all areas of the Central district except the traditional setnet areas which are closed at this time. This at a minimum restricts the two setnet sections from fishing 20 or more days in each and every season.

We see no biological reason for this area to remain closed during this time frame. The result is that this area suffers an economic loss and reduces the time in which to train and improve safety.

Late season instability creates an unreasonable economic hardship for ESSN fishing operations in that they must either let crew go earlier or extend contracts. This requires an additional expense if the areas are closed on this arbitrary 1% closure rule. We have requested a definition of “season’s total sockeye harvest” as it is not clear to what fishery this is relative too. We consistently question the valid intent to this rule and consider the closure particularly applies to a loss of real income for the Kenai and East Forelands sections. Considering that 20% or more of the final escapement of Kenai sockeye are traveling through these sections at this time, this is another restriction to this area that is not scientifically defensible.

Proposal 323 – 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons (b) (2) (C) (ii);

Support

This proposal deletes the one percent rule and extends the regular season within the ESSN to August 15 without restrictions on the Commissioners Emergency Order (EO) authority.

This restriction interferes with the orderly historic harvest of sockeyes for all areas of the ESSN and especially to the sections close to the salmon terminus areas. This is a directed harvest for sockeye and the directed harvest of pink salmon that are bound for the Kenai river.

This restriction continues to restrict the fisheries managers from implementing “in season” management tools that is a hallmark of Alaskan fisheries management. This provision negates run timing and other variables that affect harvest of stocks excess to sustaining escapement levels.

The result of the current restrictions is a significant economic loss of harvest opportunity for the local community, the local commercial fishermen and the local fish processing facilities.

This proposal should alleviate some of the loss in harvest opportunity of the fishermen who direct their efforts toward harvesting an abundant number of pink salmon and restores the Departments EO authority to manage for a harvestable surplus of stocks.

We direct the Board to 5AAC 21.357. Kenai River Coho Salmon Conservation Management Plan that was repealed 06.11.05. There is no conservation issue for coho in the Kenai River or adjacent Cook Inlet (CI) systems. There is no conservation concern from the public as is apparent for liberalization proposals for sport caught coho in and around the CI watershed. A minimal harvest by setnet fishermen on coho does occur as incidental harvest but this a very small percentage as compared to in-river harvest records.

Proposal 324 – 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations (a) xx;

Support

This proposal asks the board to exercise its authority to allow one person to operate two Cook Inlet CFEC salmon set gillnet permits with a full complement of gear at the same time. This proposal is considered “restructuring” and is grouped with proposals 117 and 118.

AS 16.05.251 Regulations of the Board of Fisheries (i) ... *the board may adopt, at a regularly scheduled meeting at which the board considers regulatory proposals for management of a specific salmon fishery, a regulation to allow a person who holds two entry permits for that salmon fishery an additional fishing opportunity appropriate for that particular fishery*

5 AAC 06.331 Gillnet specifications and operations (u) adopted 04.09.10 for Bristol bay set net fishermen that hold CFEC permits to fish two full compliments of gear.

There are approximately 983 set net permits in Bristol Bay and 736 in CI. Bristol Bay has about 69% held in State resident hands and 82% in CI are residents. Recent CFEC reports indicated that in the last three years of permit transfers in Kodiak area, 90% of the transfers remained within the same family.

This proposal allows the set net fishing families in CI to maintain stability within their family orientated cooperatives. Stabilizing operational planning is an important consideration in lowering the cost of fishing operations and to better utilize the available time allowed for commercial fishing to improve quality.

- *It will promote an increased net economic benefit to the participants
- *There will be not interaction between regions as current requirements in CI require area registration
- *There are no known mitigation measures to those dependent on the fishery and in fact this proposal will allow family members to continue education objectives, work on specialized trades in the lesser seasons, recover from complex medical conditions, allow elders to maintain there presents in their fishery and further strengthen the family unit.
- *There will be and increase in efficiency as quality improvements take a great amount of time and product to justify the considerable effort to maintain high standards of quality. Some family members will be able to devote more time to promote the refined market while in season.
- *There will be no changes in management as there will be minimal changes to gear or locations that are currently harvesting salmon. Our organization would not promote a change that would disrupt the current balance in gear. We truly believe that this is a move for efficiency and not for divergent purposes.

*This stabilization in participation will allow consistent production to be better utilized by the local processing industry. The community is better served by continuing the CI brand of salmon by improving quality which will be accomplished by hiring crew that will better handle the resource, and by the economic activity that will be continue to be sustained by the consistent resource.

One of the greatest aspects of commercial set net fishing in CI has always been the family unit. Generations of families continue to identify their life's endeavors as commercial fishermen. Grandfathers & grandmothers, fathers & mothers, uncles & aunts, brothers and sister, cousins, in-laws, friends & others always come to the fish site with seasonal enthusiasm and strong lessons on life. Many crewmen who move on to other occupations will contact our family members many years latter to reminisce on the fond memories and life lessons learned. This is a true Alaskan experience and must remain intact. This proposal will continue this proud tradition.

Proposal 325 – 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Management Plan;

Support

Revise the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan to a single spawning escapement goal and a single OEG range, as measured at river mile 19 (sonar station).

Since 1999, in 10 of the 11 years, the abundance based goals and tiers operated under forecasted returns have been incorrect; in season management before and after July 20 is inconsistent, possibly shifting to different tiers and thus other management provisions. Impacting the final; spawning escapement goal, yields, resource use and resource user's in season.

Regardless of annual run strength, the level of escapement must be maintained in order to achieve the spawning goal objectives. Maximum benefit of this fishery resource will not be maintained or utilized without strong consideration to biological management.

Our main objective in this proposal is to maintain maximum benefit and use of the resource in season and for future returns.

Defined escapement goals benefit; regulators, fishery managers, stakeholders and public participants.

Simplification of the management plan will give clear understanding and guidance to managers and resource users.

We want to formally object to comments to this proposal submitted by the Department. In the section titled, "What would be the effect if the proposal were adopted?" the state made assumptions to what our proposal was asking for. We did not request a departure in this plan that would change any windows or recommendation for limiting EO openings. King salmon management is addressed in its own directed plan and this proposal does not question allocation directives. We see no direct or indirect connections with any closures to the Kenai River sport fishery or for the early or late season Russian River sport fishery.

We do believe that management actions taken in-season would be dependent on run strength and run timing of the sockeye run. We do believe that there would be less need to open commercial fisheries because there was time allowed within a given tier; but believe that more thought will be given in to harvesting fish for all users. Both sport and commercial fishing managers should be accountable for their performance and in-season management should be real time and responsive to the health of the different salmon runs while affording opportunity to harvest the resource by all user groups. Active management requires co-operative managers.

We believe that the Department wished to place thier comments into controversy; objective was to make this an allocative proposal. We would ask the BOF members to ask which division or particular manager decided to make a statement that obviously is not NEUTRAL in intent. We further would like to register a complaint in the

lack of integrity and respect to the public that the Department did not apply in reviewing this proposal and with many of their repetitious “cut and paste” comments for other proposals. The Department did not have to wait six months to develop these comments, very little research or useable information was applied in addressing proposals. If the Department had taken a sufficient time to contact the individual public submitters since the April 10 mandatory submittal date, maybe more relevant conclusions could have been stated, more useful information may have been detailed for the public and the Boards regulatory process.

Proposal 326 – 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Management Plan (c)

(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan)

Support

This proposal would delete this section (c) and require the board to revisit the justifications for these restrictions; changes the language in (b)(2) achieve the inriver [goals] goal... Finally it would reinstate an OEG range of (400,000 to 700,000 bendix counted) sockeye.

We believe that the best indicator of MSY relies on what is tabulated in the Markov table which is nothing more than what has occurred over time in real numbers of fish that have escaped into the Kenai River. Ranges for escapement should be developed around the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG). We would request a direct answer on why after many years of fact finding scientific evaluations which included a very expensive genetics analysis that this River continues to have a Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) designation. The Department has decided to redefine the early run Russian River run as a BEG but does not believe that it can come to a similar conclusion for the mainstem Kenai River. After 43 years of data gathering and a 90 to 100% belief that Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) / (BEG) lies within the midrange of the suggested (SEG) range, the conclusion still remains that Department managers still cannot determine and re-instate a BEG for the Kenai River?

We understand that the BOF still has the authority to maintain an Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) range. We suggest that the least amount of risk in establishing an OEG should be centered on the Best Available Science (BAS). *Board members should review 5 AAC 39.223 Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals.*

The 2010 preseason predicted a low return; an average return post season analysis indicated otherwise. We question the limited genetic information used to determine the harvest proportionality. We have yet to see the report that is scientifically defensible that substantiates this result. We do know that the returns are erratic and do not comply with a definition of high sustained yield or Optimum Sustained Yield.

The Department suggests that we are requesting lowering the range by 100k sockeye but fails to explain in detail that they did just that with their recommended DIDSON SEG range. The Department has assumed that for years on low returns that the sockeye inriver fishery above the counter will harvest the same number of sockeye as on a large return and therefore has set an arbitrary extra 100k on previous inriver low range goals. We ask the Department to prove that a consistent take of sockeye is had when concentrations of sockeye are low. Simple analogous logic for most users would not agree.

Protecting, maintaining and managing for higher yields continues to improve the quality of the resource and substantially improves harvest opportunity.

Proposal 327 – 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Management Plan (c);

Support

Removes windows from the Kenai River Late run Sockeye Management Plan; deletes references to allowable hours of EO per week based on estimated run projections.

Windows fail to provide predictable fishing success inriver. Salmon migrate throughout CI in various degrees of abundance based on complex changes in tidal currents, wind, fresh water concentrations and temperatures to

just to name a few variables. The assumption that sockeye will return on a given day at a given time is unrealistic. The result of this unrealistic expectation is to request more no fishing days/windows. The same outcome will occur and those that do not achieve their expectation will continue to rely on a fishery resource that is neither predictable nor stable.

Meanwhile the commercial fishing community continues to be denied to harvest targeted abundant recourses in an orderly and historic manner.

A limit on EO hours per week impedes the Departments ability to mange salmon fisheries, to achieve spawning escapement goal objectives, and to open and close fisheries in a timely manner based on inseason stock assessments.

Windows and hourly restrictions in regulation conflict with the Boards primary management directive to the department; to achieve in river spawning goals and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the goal range.

Proposal 328 – 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Management Plan (g);

Support

This proposal adds additional language that will give the Department a clear management directive to ensure equal burden sharing in the event of a conservation necessity in order to achieve the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye escapement goal

Current language gives the Department direction in providing a personal use fishery while establishing a side board that requires achieving the lower end of the OEG. The current plans fails to establish what steps will be taken to achieve this goal when other fisheries are closed for conservation. The additional language also offers a relief from this restriction if inseason abundance assessments should change.

Proposal 329 – 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (b);

Support

This proposal adds deleted language that continues to support the BEG range as is defined in 5 AAC 39.222 Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries (SSFP). This additional language does not change the BOF's authority to direct a management plan to manage for an OEG.

*Since 1987(24 yrs) the BEG for the Kasilof River has been set at 150k to 250k. DIDSON vs. Bendix numbers are statistically identical. In 2002 language changed to reflect an OEG range of 150k to 300K. Language that opened the terminal area designated 275k as the action point. In 1986, 5 AAC 21.365 Kasilof River sockeye salmon special harvest area management plan (a) *This management plan governs the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon excess to spawning escapement needs...**

We agree with the Department in its authority to establish SEG's and BEG's as it is defined in 5 AAC 39.223 Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals (PSSEG). In (b) (2) it is clearly the Departments responsibility to establish biological escapement goals. Further in (b) (8) notify the public whenever a new BEG ... is established or an existing BEG ... is modified. In addition (c) (2) ...the board will provide an explanation of the reasons for establishing an OEG and provide, to the extent practicable, and with the assistance of the department, an estimate of expected differences in yield of any salmon stock, relative to maximum sustained yield, resulting from the implementation of an OEG.

We would also like to remind the Department that under the SSFP (c) (2) (B) ...the department will manage Alaska's salmon fisheries, to the extent possible, for maximum sustained yield;

We are thoroughly shocked at the opposition the Department has with this proposal as stated within their comments. The Department must by regulation undergo escapement goal reviews and report to the BOF at their

3 yr. regulatory cycled meetings. What is the real issue with having the BEG stated within this or any other salmon management plan?

This is in direct disregard to both the SSFP and the PSSEG. We believe that it is the commissioner's duty (AS 16.05.020 Functions of Commissioner (2)) to maintain the highest degree of science in establishing escapements that will sustain Alaska's salmon resources. The Department is accountable to the people of this state. The Alaska supreme court has established that the state's resources are in a "Public Trust". If the Department is not willing to maintain this responsibility then who is. Is the Department referring it's duties to the State legislature?

We should hope not; we continue to highly recommend that the Department will maintain their integrity and professionalism by continuing to establish the guidance for maintaining MSY or optimum sustained yield (OSY) whenever there is sufficient science to support this conclusion.

Proposal 330 – 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (f);

Support

This proposal adds additional language that will require the Department to open that portion of the Kasilof section within one-half mile of the mean high tide mark when the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) is opened by the commissioner's emergency order authority.

Our Association believes that we should fish in the traditional and historic areas before utilizing the KRSHA terminal fishery. We offer this amendment to the current plan as a further tool to managers in order to reduce the conflicts between other set net fishermen and other users. It is our intent to reduce the number of set nets within the harvest area thereby increasing potential harvests for the remaining users within the terminal area. We are promoting an orderly and manageable fishery.

The Department is not clear with their opposition of this proposal. We understand that the managers can modify any portion of an emergency opening as it authorizes time, area, methods and means. We believe that this change would give more authority to the Department to modify the current open waters outside of the terminal area in order to achieve the minimum goals for the Kenai OEG while attempting to not exceed the top end of the Kasilof River BEG. Harvest proportioning analysis indicates that at times a high percentage of sockeye harvested within the terminal area are bound for other systems. We believe that restrictive nature of the half mile has proven to be very effective in maintaining a high harvest of Kasilof bound sockeye as compared to a relatively low harvest of Kenai bound sockeye. Compared to the total annual harvest of Kenai sockeye, that portion that is harvested within the half-mile is typically minimal.

KPFA agrees with **Proposal 170**. We would like to note that the Anchorage and the Kenai-Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory committees both voted in support of this proposed action.

Proposal 331 – 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (f) (1) (3);

Support

This proposal extends the set gillnet area 600 feet seaward within the terminal area when the KRSHA has been authorized by the commissioner's EO authority.

Allocation of the surplus harvest away from the traditional fisheries is of serious concern to set net fishery within the waters of CI. We oppose any measure to undermine traditional fisheries.

We have calculated that setnet fishermen are restricted to an area that is approximately 6.6% of the total harvest area. Set net fishermen are restricted from fishing within the channel entrance to the Kasilof River. Extreme mudflats conditions completely leave this setnet dry on most if not all outgoing tides. Many drift fishermen will reregister an open setnet skiff to fish in the waters just outside of the 600 ft line. Many set net fishermen are

drawn across this line because of tidal conditions and congestion. Enforcement has a difficult time with determining this spot because of the multiple use confusion.

The additional 600 feet will alleviate serious disorder and improve the quality of the harvest for set net fishermen. Please note that setnet permits comprise 57% of the CFEC limited entry salmon permits in upper CI. This requested change will allow setnet fishermen to operate within less than 15% of the total allowable area designated as the KRSHA.

The following are comments that we took up and discussed.

Cook Inlet Subsistence and Commercial Fishing		
Committee A	Support	Comments/Modifications
Seasons	322	KPFA Proposal
	321	KPFA Proposal
	323	KPFA Proposal
	105, 106	Harvestable surplus of Kasilof Sockeye, minimal Chinook
	106, 107	harvest, reduces the chance of a terminal harvest area, and
	109, 167	economic benefit for upper K-Beach
	110	Amend it to after August 15, under utilized salmon resource, makes it consistent with other management plans
Fishing Periods	111	Allows for fishermen to utilize a full 12 hour tide in their area
	112	Under utilized salmon resource, no stock of concern
Gillnet specifications and operations	324	KPFA Proposal
	117, 118	Already in regulation in other areas of the State

Committee A	Oppose	Comments/Modifications
Fishing Periods	113	Ambiguous proposal, isn't clear to the intent of the proposer Violates the EO directive and makes it impossible to manager for the goal.
	114	
Gillnet specifications and operations	116	Allocative, economic hardship for commercial fishermen. Department addressed this in 2008 and discredited the study
Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathom of drift gillnet in the CI area	120	Changes the allocation and does not address the conservation concern

Cook Inlet Subsistence and Commercial Fishing

Committee A	Oppose	Comments/Modifications
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Closed Waters

	121	Restrictions are already in place to address the conservation concerns
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Committee A	No Action	Comments/Modifications
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Subsistence	102	
	103	

Fishing Districts, Subdistricts	104	
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Seasons	108	Support of the intent
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Gillnet specifications and operations	115	
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Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathom of drift gillnet in the CI area	119	Tabled
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Drift and Northern District Salmon Management Plans, Commercial Fishing

Committee B	Support	Comments/Modifications
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Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan	122	Clarification of BOF intent
	125	

		Deletes the 3 tier management system and returns management back to the Department to manage for MSY
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Northern District Salmon Management Plan	131	
	132	Creates economic opportunity to surplus stocks
	134	Clarifies the count
	138	Commissioner has EO authority to restrict the fishery as needed
	139	To be managed as specified in 5AAC 77.540 (d)

Northern District King Salmon Management Plan	145	More data is always good
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Drift and Northern District Salmon Management Plans, Commercial Fishing

Committee B	Oppose	Comments/Modifications
Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan	123	
	124	Department has changed escapement goal in the Northern District based on Weir count data, too restrictive, BOF and Department need to address area 1
	126	Allocative
	127	Too broad in restrictions as written
Northern District Salmon Management Plan	133	Needless restricting of the Northern District set netters, no conservation concerns
	136	
	140	Unreasonable approach to the escapement goals in these systems, the Department is taking action on these tributaries No conservation concern, Commissioner already has the authority to close the fishery by EO
	141	Restricts the Departments ability to manage
Northern District King Salmon Management Plan	142	Department already manages these systems conservatively
	143	Harvest caps have not been reached in the Northern District and have been less than 20%. SSFP – offers opportunity for all users
	144	Violates the SSFP

Committee B	No Action	Comments/Modifications
Pink Salmon	129	Based on KPFA Proposal 321
	130	
Northern District Salmon Management Plan	135	Based on action taken on 134
	137	Based on action taken on 134

Kenai and Kasilof River Salmon Management Plans and Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan

Committee C	Support	Comments/Modifications
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Committee C	Support	Comments/Modifications
Kenai Late Run Sockeye Management Plan	327	KPFA Proposal
	326	KPFA Proposal
Kenai and Kasilof River Salmon Management Plans and Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan	325	KPFA Proposal
	149	Under MSA, 10 National Standards, fisheries will be managed by a BEG
	151	21.360 (c), no reason to manage at three goals, doesn't work
Early Russian River Sockeye Salmon	152	(b)(1)(b)(3) – cautious in the language addressed in (a)
	128	Removes 3 tiered management
	156	Run has met and exceeded escapement goals, no reason for this to be an exclusive fishery, brings economic value to the community
Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan	160	Goes back to a BEG and gets rid of 3 tier management
	329	KPFA Proposal
Kasilof Sockeye Salmon Management Plan	330	KPFA Proposal
	331	KPFA Proposal
	162	In favor of BEG of 150,000 to 250,000
	169	Based on KPFA Proposal 330
	170	Based on KPFA Proposal 330
Committee C	Oppose	Comments/Modifications
Kenai River Late Run King Salmon Management Plan	146	Allocative, concern that if the mouth of the Kenai River is opened it will have a direct impact on achieving the in river escapement goals
	147	Allocative, windows does not allow for the Department to manage the fisheries, over escapes the river. Restrictions are already in place. At the 2008 BOF these issues were addressed
Kenai Late Run Sockeye Management Plan	148	Not practicable, no way to separate the Russian River and Hidden Lake fish
	158	Not enough information by proposer
Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan	159	Language is already in regulation, addressed in Kenai River

Sockeye Management Plan, creates conflict in management plan.

Kasilof Sockeye Salmon Management Plan 161 Decoupling plan, eliminates KRSHA

Kenai and Kasilof River Salmon Management Plans and Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan

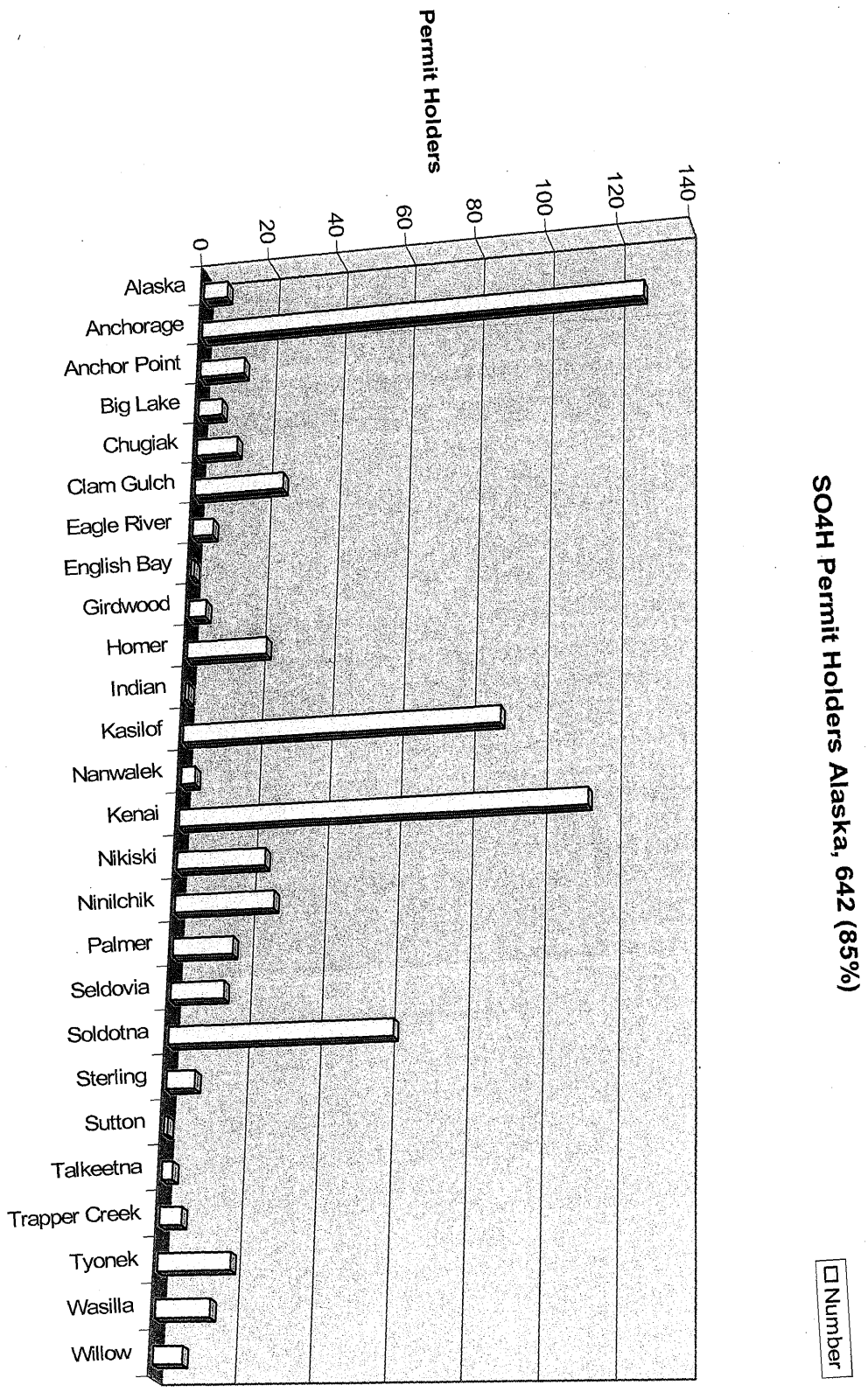
Committee C	Oppose	Comments/Modifications
	163	Management in Kasilof is already coupled with Late Run Kenai River Sockeye Management Plan to meet this objective
	164	This violates the objective of management in Kasilof River and meeting the goal in the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Management Plan
	165	Takes away the authority of the Commissioner
	166	Kasilof River Management Plan addresses this issue
	168	Too restrictive, not biologically sound management, micro managing

Committee C	No Action	Comments/Modifications
Kenai Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan	150	Too Vague
	153	
	154	
Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan	157	Already out of regulation

Upper cook Inlet Personal Use Fishing

Committee D	Support	Comments/Modifications
Personal Use Fishing	328	KPFA Proposal
	155	Shares the burden of concern

Committee D	No Action	Comments/Modifications
Personal Use Fishing	All other proposals	Based on KPFA Proposal 328



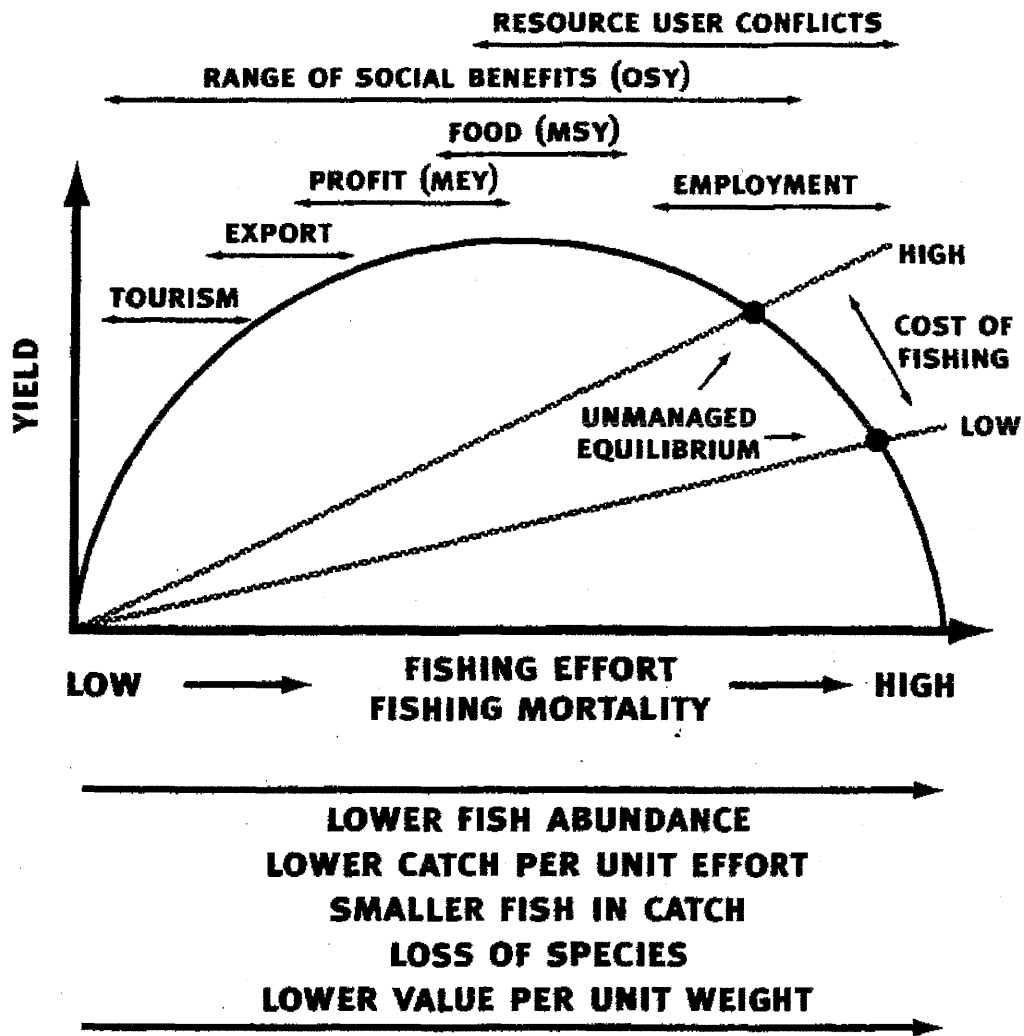


Figure 1.2 Fisheries yields and objectives.