

1/20/2014 Minutes

Time: 6:30PM

Roll Call: Co Chair Ermold, Brandt, Carmichael, Strieby, Dykema, Joseph, Shadura II, Van Devere, Hamrick, Roberts.

Secretary Brandt informed the AC that previous meeting minutes and Comments had been sent to Sherry Wright.

Co Chair Ermold informed that Board of Game member Ted Spraker's seat was up and again and urged the AC to send a letter of support. Brandt moved to send a letter of support for Ted Spraker, Carmichael seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Brandt asked Pat Shields the effect of gear reduction on proposal 211. Mr. Shields responded that there was no data to quantify net reduction or 29 meshes.

Proposals: 139-147, 122-127, 173-180, 107-110 & 120

See attached.

Next meeting 1/22/2014

Rc24

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee

1/22/2014 Minutes

Time: 6:30PM

Roll Call: Co Chair Ermold, Brandt, Carmichael, Dykema, Joseph, Shadura II, Van Devere, Hamrick, Roberts, Maher, Erkeneff.

Proposals: 186-206, 219-228

See attached.

Discussion on representation of AC at Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish, there is no objection to Chair Crawford, Paul A. Shadura II and Monte Roberts representing the AC.

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game AC Comments for the
Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting January 31 – February 13, 2014

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Proposal #	Description	AC Vote For – Against – Abstain Amendment Committee Discussion
107 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.XXX. New Section. Allow commercial set gillnet fishing to occur in areas where commercial drift gillnetting is allowed in the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet.	10/0/0 No action, allocative, no supporting information.
108 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons. Allow commercial salmon fishing in the Central District to remain open until closed by emergency order (EO).	0/9/1 failed Oppose – Unspecified changes.
109 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21 310. Fishing seasons. Allow commercial salmon fishing in Central District to remain open until closed by emergency order (EO).	10/0/0 No action based on 108.
110 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons. Allow commercial salmon fishing in the Central District to remain open until closed by emergency order (EO).	10/0/0 No action based on 108.
120 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods. Allow commercial salmon fishing in the Central District to remain open on Mondays and Thursdays until closed by emergency order (EO).	10/0/0 No action based on 108.
122 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 31.320. Weekly fishing periods. Allow weekly fishing periods for the drift gillnet fishery in the Central District to be moved up to 36 hours when the NOAA forecast for Area 140, Cook Inlet north of Kamishak Bay and English Bay, is calling for winds above 23 knots, including small craft advisory, and gale or storm force winds.	1/8/1 failed Support – For safety and quality of fish, considering limited opportunity. Oppose – Fishing day are already scheduled and not to take a chance at losing opportunity. Abstain – Both reasons.
127 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area. Allow one individual to hold two limited entry drift gillnet permits and fish both at the same time from the same vessel.	4/2/2 Support Support – Support his efforts, something in regulation to encourage new ideas, not sure that this is the time to put it in regulation. Oppose – Don't want it to be in regulation as a legal gear type at this time. Abstain – Respect the idea but do not want to see it in regulation until it is proven to work.
139 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Restrict drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections.	1/9/0 failed Support – Harvest allocation. Oppose – Oppose any restrictions that hampers the ability of the Department to manage for historical goals and biology.
140 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Amend management plan to restrict drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections.	10/0/0 No action based on 139.

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<p>141 1/20/14 10</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Modify management plan to provide reasonable opportunity for Northern District set gillnetters to harvest all salmon stocks.</p>	<p>2/8/0 failed Support – Believe everyone should have reasonable access and opportunity. Oppose – Ambiguous, sockeye stock of concern.</p>
<p>142 1/20/14 10</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Amend management plan to provide Northern Cook Inlet Management Area subsistence users and personal use dipnetters a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon by restricting commercial gillnet fishing to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict from June 19 through August 10.</p>	<p>0/10/0 failed Oppose – Does not allow fishery managers to manage to goals, restricts reasonable opportunity to harvest mixed stocks.</p>
<p>143 1/20/14 10</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Require drift permit holders to register to fish in one of two specific Central District drift fisheries.</p>	<p>0/10/0 failed Oppose – Not enforceable, no justification, coho are not a stock of concern.</p>
<p>144 1/20/14 10</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Amend management plan to provide reasonable subsistence, personal use, and commercial setnetting harvest opportunity and manage the drift gillnet fishery so that any commercial drift fishing opportunity outside the Expanded Kenai and Expand Kasilof sections is based on abundance of Northern District sockeye and coho salmon.</p>	<p>0/10/0 failed Oppose – It happens to late to afford access for opportunity, no ability to manage inseason.</p>
<p>145 1/20/14 10</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Amend management plan to add a section about mixed-stock salmon management, using the long-term commercial harvest report as a tool to reduce harvest of salmon stocks by the drift gillnet fishery in the Central District.</p>	<p>0/10/0 failed Oppose – No information.</p>
<p>146 1/20/14 10</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Develop an inseason harvest estimate.</p>	<p>10/0/0 No action, exceeds the authority of the BOF.</p>
<p>147 1/20/14 10</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Amend management plan to reduce sport fish bag limit to two coho salmon in all sport fisheries on the west side of Cook Inlet and restrict drift gillnet fishing to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections, if sport fishing for coho salmon is restricted or closed in the Little Susitna River.</p>	<p>0/10/0 failed Oppose – Puts too much weight on the Little Susitna River.</p>
<p>173 1/20/14 10</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Modify confusing provisions of the management plan to reference the Upper Subdistrict to ensure they meet board intent as originally adopted.</p>	<p>10/0/0 Support Support – Clarifies regulations within the plan.</p>

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174 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Modify pink salmon management and/or develop a new management plan to allow for harvests of earlier-arriving Northern pink salmon and later-arriving Kenai and Kasilof pink salmon.	9/1/0 Support Support – Underutilized resource. Oppose – Don't think we can handle the pressure on Coho.
175 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Amend management plan to read that the department shall manage Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance.	10/0/0 No action based on 174. 21.356 have been repealed.
176 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons and 5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Amend fishing seasons and management plan to remove restrictions on set gillnet fishing in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections of the Upper Subdistrict in August, and change mesh size from four and three-quarters inches to four and seven-eighths inches when fishing for pink salmon.	3/5/2 failed Support – Provides opportunity for harvestable surplus of pinks. Oppose – Deletes 1%, Coho concern. Abstain – Approve the spirit of the proposal, but adverse to recommending specifics.
177 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Remove provisions restricting harvest of pink salmon in Upper Cook Inlet and add language to allow harvest of pink salmon from August 1-15 during even-numbered years, with mesh-size restrictions of five inches or less; no restrictions on area of operation relative to shore; and manage pink salmon based on harvest or escapement goals.	10/0/0 No action based on 173, with hope that further discussion will be taken up on restrictions.
178 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Modify management plan to remove the 600-foot restriction and allow set gillnets to be operated from shore for pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict.	10/0/0 No action based on 173, with hope that further discussion will be taken up on restrictions.
179 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Amend management plan to remove restriction that only allows operation of set gillnets 600 feet or greater from the shoreline.	10/0/0 No action based on 173, with hope that further discussion will be taken up on restrictions.
180 1/20/14 10	5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Develop a management plan to harvest pink salmon in Upper Cook Inlet.	10/0/0 No action. Unspecified changes.
186 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King salmon Management Plan methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Add a reference to the existing optimal escapement goal (OEG) for Kenai River early-run king salmon and provide department additional management flexibility.	11/0/0 support Support – Gives the Department flexibility in management.

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187 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Kenai River early-run king salmon plan to provide the department more flexibility when liberalizing the sport fishery.	11/0/0 No action base on 186
188 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Maintain existing optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 5,300-9,000 Kenai River early-run king salmon.	11/0/0 No action base on 186
189 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Modify Kenai River early-run king salmon optimal escapement goal (OEG) to 9,000-14,000 fish.	0/11/0 failed Oppose – No scientific data to support this.
190 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Revise the management plan with measures that stabilize fisheries during low-run years, increase opportunities during large-run years, and eliminate the “slot limit” for king salmon.	9/2/0 No action Support – No action based on upcoming individual proposals that will address the issue better. Oppose – No action, wanted to vote on it.
191 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kenai River Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Repeal slot limit for early-run king salmon.	0/11/0 failed Oppose – Protects 5 ocean fish.
192 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Increase Kenai River early-run king salmon slot-limit size requirement.	7/4/0 support Support – Protects large females. Oppose – Restrictions already in place, limits harvest on a healthy run.
193 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Increase the Kenai River early-run king salmon slot-limit size requirement and extend slot limit through July 31.	Amendment 5/6/0 failed – to include sunset of 3 years. Amendment 8/3/0 support – (i) ... Sterling Highway Bridge, may restrict the retention of king salmon more than 42” and less than 55”. 9/2/0 support as amended. Support – Provision in 21.359 Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan. Oppose – Presently in the plan.
194 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit retention of early-run and late-run Kenai River king salmon 42 inches or greater in length.	10/0/0 No action based on action taken on 192 & 193.

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<p>195 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit retention of female king salmon greater than 33 inches in length in the Kenai River sport fishery.</p>	<p>10/0/0 No action based on action taken on 192 & 193.</p>
<p>196 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Extend Kenai River early-run king salmon regulations through July 9.</p>	<p>0/11/0 failed Oppose – Already protected.</p>
<p>197 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Kenai River early- and late-run king salmon sport fisheries to begin seasons without bait and catch-and-release only.</p>	<p>0/11/0 failed Oppose – By the time the Department figures out the run strength it's too late.</p>
<p>198 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Begin early- and late-run king salmon seasons with catch-and-release only and then liberalize during the season.</p>	<p>11/0/0 No action based on 197.</p>

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199 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan. Allow catch-and-release fishing for king salmon on the Kenai River when runs are projected to be below the escapement goal.	0/11/0 failed Oppose – The Department manages the fishery to meet the lower end of the goal.
200 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Prohibit catch-and-release fishing for king salmon on the Kenai River.	0/9/2 failed Oppose – Too restrictive, loss of recreational opportunity. Abstain – Personally believe in catch and keep, but don't believe in restricting someone else opportunity.
201 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King salmon Management Plan. Establish the lower Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area as the lower boundary for restrictive actions in July to conserve early-run king salmon and prohibit bait for an additional two weeks in July in those waters.	6/5/0 support Support – Department requires protection of Slikok kings. Oppose – Reduces opportunity for anglers from shore.
202 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Increase Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area an additional 200 yards.	10/0/1 support Support – Affords more protection for a distressed stock, still allows anglers opportunity from bank, down from Centennial. Abstain – Not enough information.
203 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Increase Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area an additional 600 feet.	11/0/0 No action based on 202.
204 1/22/14 10	5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Increase Kiley River king salmon sanctuary area an additional 600 feet.	0/9/1 failed Oppose – Current regulations effective for sustainability. Abstain – Affords more protection.
205 1/22/14 11	5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Close Kenai River tributaries to all fishing July 1-August 30, and the Kenai River mainstem upstream of river mile 13 from July 10-September 20.	0/11/0 failed Oppose – Too restrictive takes away unnecessary opportunity.

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Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game AC Comments for the
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<p>206 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Close the Kenai River upstream of the Soldotna Bridge to sport fishing for king salmon.</p>	<p>1/8/2 failed Support – Protects the spawning area. Oppose – Adequate protection is already in place for tributaries. Department has emergency order authority to close the area. More pressure in lower river. Abstain – Agree to both sides.</p>
<p>219 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area and 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Close sections of the Kenai River to sport fishing for king salmon during July.</p>	<p>7/4/0 No action based on 206.</p>
<p>220 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area and 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Prohibit sport fishing for king salmon every other mile on the Kenai River between Eagle Rock and the Soldotna Bridge.</p>	<p>0/11/0 failed Oppose – Too confusing and unenforceable.</p>
<p>221 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. In times of low escapement of Kenai River king salmon, close or create conservation zones where king salmon spawn.</p>	<p>10/1/0 No action based on 206.</p>
<p>222 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit use of eggs for bait in the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery.</p>	<p>2/9/0 failed Support – Protects females from selective harvest. Oppose – Doesn't protect females.</p>

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game AC Comments for the
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<p>223 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit use of bait in the Kenai River king salmon sport fisheries.</p>	<p>See 222</p>
<p>224 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Require barbless hooks when use of bait is prohibited on the Kenai River.</p>	<p>3/8/0 failed Support – Less harm to fish. Oppose – The barb on the hook is not what damages the fish.</p>
<p>225 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Modify Kenai River king salmon annual limit to two fish, of which only one may be greater than 28 inches in length.</p>	<p>0/11/0 failed Oppose – Larger impact on unguided anglers.</p>
<p>226 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area and 5 AAC 75.011. Sport fishing by proxy. Prohibit proxy fishing for king salmon in the Kenai River.</p>	<p>Amendment 11/0/0 – cannot fish for personal and proxy on the same day. 11/0/0 support as amended.</p>
<p>227 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Require department to demonstrate a significant savings of fish when restricting Kenai River king salmon sport fisheries.</p>	<p>11/0/0 No action does not specify regulatory or management change.</p>
<p>228 1/22/14 11</p>	<p>5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section. Stock the Kenai River with 50,000 king salmon smolt.</p>	<p>10/1/0 No action based that the BOF does not have this authority. The Department already has the authority to do this. Oppose to no action, thinks the Department should do this.</p>