

FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1632 Kenai, Alaska 99611-1632 (907) 283-5098

*Protecting and Preserving the Kasilof River Aquarian System***RC 181**

February 7, 2014

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

RE: Cook Inlet Regulatory Meeting 01.31- 02.13/14**Proposal 150 suggested language changes:**

Chairman Karl Johnstone,

SOKI continues to request relief from the current restrictions imposed upon the traditional and historical harvest opportunity to harvest Kasilof River stocks. SOKI setnet fishermen by geography are the near shore terminal harvest area for sockeye returning to the Kasilof River in mid July. Historical run timing tables place the peak returns to this River at around the 14 – 16 of July. Current directives within *5 AAC 21.365 Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* direct managers to manage this area (c) (3) for the *5 AAC 21.360 Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (c)* for the Kenai River sockeye while ignoring the peak of the Kasilof River sockeye run. This results in the use of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) more than is necessary. In 2005, 11 days were open in the KRSHA with a harvest of 78,000 sockeye, final escapement was 360,000; in 2011 245,000 was the final escapement; in 2013, 14 days were open in the terminal area, 64,000 were harvested with a final escapement of 490,000 sockeye. These three examples are relative to early indicators in June where action points have directed managers to consider using their emergency order (EO) authority to open directed fisheries on Kasilof River bound sockeye.

In the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 years the stat area of 244-31 has been denied access to the peak returns as indicated by the dates of opening and the catch in this stat area. This fishery because of the tidal flats and the protection of Humpy Point (the mouth of the Kasilof River on the north side is two miles east of the point) is historically a ebb tide fishery. Especially within the half mile vicinity of South K-Beach. Proposal 150 seeks relief to harvest sockeye in the abundance phase of the historical returns. Please review the run timing and harvest records for the Kasilof River to support our request. The escapement goal range for the Kasilof River is 160,000 to 340,000 BEG. Note how many times the Kasilof has exceeded the top end of the goal.

Appendix A8.—Commercial salmon catch by gear, statistical area and species, Upper Cook Inlet, 2013.

Gear	District	Subdistrict	Stat Area	Permits ^a	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	
Drift	Central	All	All	496	493	1,662,561	184,771	30,605	132,172	2,010,602	
Setnet	Central	Upper	24421	91	330	225,551	140	3,372	13	229,406	
			24422	69	641	131,501	158	5,053	5	137,358	
			24425	98	358	64,150	633	2,426	2	67,569	
			24431	63	304	116,726	52	973	2	118,057	
			24432	43	407	101,306	56	464	1	102,234	
			24441	58	890	251,003	608	1,137	58	253,696	
			24442	28	58	31,296	619	1,246	21	33,240	
			All	350	2,988	921,533	2,266	14,671	102	941,560	
		Kalgin Is.	24610	24	361	37,445	20,489	574	614	59,483	
			24620	10	1	5,140	4,363	112	57	9,673	
			All	28	362	42,585	24,852	686	671	69,156	
		Chinitna	Western	24510	<4		4	731	2	672	1,409
				24520	0						0
		Western	Western	24530	19	103	22,501	4,232	257	3,477	30,570
				24540	0						0
				24550	<4	1	7,496	1,555	64	34	9,150
				All	21	104	29,997	5,787	321	3,511	39,720
				Kustatan	24555	8	124	3,097	38		
		Kustatan	Kustatan	24560	<4		24	105	5		134
				All	9	124	3,121	143	5	0	3,393
		All	All	All	408	3,578	997,240	33,779	15,685	4,956	1,055,238
				Northern	General	24710	11	504	969	2380	33
		Northern	24720	8		73	5417	12,384	47	82	18,003
			24730	7		1	3,257	4,829	134	303	8,524
			24741	9		165	798	3,115	170	469	4,717
			24742	10		185	889	3,161	160	581	4,976
			24743	7		122	1,056	4,791	10	245	6,224
All	42		1,050	12,386		30,660	554	1,697	46,347		
Eastern	Eastern		24770	16		190	5,521	4,331	770	465	11,277
			24780	12		52	2369	2,772	268	46	5,507
			24790	7		35	3,147	4,650	393	29	8,254
			All	28		277	11,037	11,753	1,431	540	25,038
All	All		All	70		1,327	23,423	42,413	1,985	2,237	71,385
All	All		All	476		4,905	1,020,663	76,192	17,670	7,193	1,126,623
Seine	All		All	All		-	-	-	-	-	-
All	All	All	All	972	5,398	2,683,224	260,963	48,275	139,365	3,137,225	

^a Permit totals may be less than the sum of individual statistical areas if some permits were fished in multiple statistical areas.

Appendix A3.-Commercial Chinook salmon catch by area and date, Upper Cook Inlet, 2013.

Date	244-21		244-22		244-25		244-31		244-32		244-41		244-42		Total	
	Ninilchik		Cohoe		Kasilof Terminal		South K-Beach		North K-Beach		Salamatof		E. Forelands		Daily	Cum
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum		
27 Jun	15	15	36	36			8	8							59	59
30 Jun	15	30	36	72			21	29							72	131
1 Jul	34	64	39	111			32	61							105	236
4 Jul	29	93	36	147			14	75							79	315
6 Jul	29	122	42	189			18	93							89	404
8 Jul	32	154	66	255			22	115	88	88	145	145	9	9	362	766
10 Jul	24	178	79	334			11	126							114	880
11 Jul	35	213	58	392			34	160	111	199	215	360	11	20	464	1,344
15 Jul	38	251	84	476			36	196	34	233	105	465	9	29	306	1,650
17 Jul			26	26											26	1,676
18 Jul	26	277	81	557	8	34	47	243	73	306	129	594	14	43	378	2,054
20 Jul	25	302	34	591			27	270	42	348	150	744	7	50	285	2,339
21 Jul			18	52											18	2,357
22 Jul			36	88											36	2,393
23 Jul			10	98			34	304	59	407	146	890	8	58	335	2,728
24 Jul	28	330	50	641	37	135									37	2,765
25 Jul			15	150											15	2,780
26 Jul			58	208											58	2,838
27 Jul			18	226											18	2,856
28 Jul			26	252											26	2,882
29 Jul			18	270											18	2,900
30 Jul			55	325											55	2,955
1 Aug			11	336											11	2,966
2 Aug			22	358											22	2,988

-continued-

Appendix A14.—Upper Cook Inlet salmon average weights (in pounds) by area, 2013.

Fishery	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Upper Cook Inlet Total	13.9	6.3	6.1	3.2	7.4
A. Northern District Total	11.6	5.6	5.7	3.1	7.2
1. Northern District West	11.5	5.7	5.5	2.9	7.4
a. Trading Bay 247-10	11.6	6.0	6.0	3.8	6.5
b. Tyonek 247-20	11.5	5.7	5.2	3.0	6.5
c. Beluga 247-30	21.0	6.0	5.8	3.3	5.9
d. Susitna Flat 247-41	10.7	5.4	5.8	2.1	7.5
e. Pt. Mackenzie 247-42	11.4	5.3	5.7	3.2	7.7
f. Fire Island 247-43	11.8	5.3	5.5	4.0	8.2
2. Northern District East	12.3	5.5	6.2	3.2	6.7
a. Pt. Possession 247-70	13.1	5.4	5.8	3.2	6.8
b. Birch Hill 247-80	9.8	5.5	6.5	3.1	6.2
c. Number 3 Bay 247-90	11.5	5.7	6.3	3.1	6.1
B. Central District Total	14.7	6.3	6.2	3.2	7.4
1. East Side Set Total	14.9	5.9	5.7	2.9	7.1
a. Salamatof/East Foreland	12.9	5.6	5.2	2.9	7.4
1. Salamatof 244-41	15.8	6.8	5.9	3.2	7.3
2. East Forelands 244-42	11.0	6.3	5.7	3.2	6.8
b. Kalifonsky Beach	16.1	5.5	5.7	2.8	5.0
1. South K. Beach 244-31	13.5	5.0	5.4	2.8	4.0
2. North K. Beach 244-32	15.1	6.6	6.1	3.1	6.0
c. Kasilof Terminal 244-25	19.4	4.5	5.7	2.7	5.5
d. Cohoe/Ninilchik	12.9	5.6	5.2	2.9	7.4
1. Cohoe 244-22	11.5	5.5	5.1	2.8	7.4
2. Ninilchik 244-21	15.6	5.6	5.3	3.1	7.5

-continued-