

October 26, 2022

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Chairman Van-Dort

Re: ACR #19

Members of the Board,

Please review submissions of especially;

Fishery Data Series No. 22-13

Late-Run Kasilof River Chinook Salmon Sonar Assessment, 2019-2020

Published: August 2022

SOKI believes that this document supplies the Board with "new and significant" data that was not available to the members and the public. Within the report statements directed to sustainability of the Chinook stocks bound for the Kasilof River system and methodologies used to assure accurate ARIS counting is paramount to the establishing of escapement goals and the parameters of accuracy encompassing the process.

Please accept ACR 19 to address the ESCAPEMENT issues on the Kasilof River/Tustumena sockeye and Chinook salmon issues.

Thank you,

Paul A. Shadura II

SOKI

P.O. 1632

Kenai, AK.

907.252.4290

LAYDOWN

Introduced By:

Hutchings, Chisen

Date:

July 27, 2022

Action:

Vote:

**CITY OF SOLDOTNA
RESOLUTION 2022-035****A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA COMMISSIONER OF FISH AND
GAME ALLOW THE EAST SIDE SETNET FISHERY ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO
HARVEST SOCKEYE SALMON DURING THE 2022 SEASON**

WHEREAS, the City of Soldotna benefits from well-managed salmon runs as a central part of its economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, all user groups within the City: sport; personal use; subsistence and commercial benefit from healthy sustainable runs in the Kenai River; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the implementation of fisheries regulations based on sound science and research-based biology intended to achieve a maximum sustainable yield providing for the highest possible number of returning salmon and greatest opportunity for all user groups; and

WHEREAS, sockeye salmon runs in both the Kenai and Kaslof Rivers are currently projected to exceed escapement goals; and

WHEREAS, personal use fishermen, sport fishermen, and the commercial drift fleet are all currently permitted to harvest sockeye salmon with expanded opportunities including sport fish limits of six per day and 24 hour a day personal use opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in-river guides also have opportunities to guide clients for sockeye salmon; and

WHEREAS, the only user group currently denied any opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon are the East Side Setnet fisheries participants; and

WHEREAS, there are over 400 East Side Setnet Permit holders in the Upper Cook Inlet, with close to 90 percent Alaska Residents and approximately 80 percent of those Alaskans residing on the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, the East Side Setnet fishery has a long history on the Kenai Peninsula preceding Statehood; and

WHEREAS, the East Side Setnet fishery provides direct employment opportunities, is a critical business component of local seafood processors and supports numerous other local businesses through its activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, more than one million sockeye in excess of escapement goals entered the Kenai River resulting in economic opportunity costs estimated to be \$80 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the current late run king salmon return in the Kenai River is projected to meet escapement goals within an allowable margin of error using the Alaska Department of Fish and Game timing scenarios if the run is two days or more late; and

WHEREAS, Department of Fish and Game harvest data shows that only 32 late run Kenai River large king salmon were harvested in the East Side Setnet fishery through July 14, 2022 representing a very small fraction of a percent of needed escapement; and

WHEREAS, while all user groups are targeting sockeye, all incidentally catch king salmon while conducting their fisheries; and

WHEREAS, allowing all other user groups to continue to harvest sockeye with increased fishing opportunities while completely prohibiting the East Side Setnet fishery to harvest sockeye is inequitable, does not appear to be scientifically based, will result in economic disaster for some East Side Fishermen and negatively impacts the economy of the City of Soldotna;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the City Council of Soldotna requests the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to authorize further sockeye salmon fishing opportunity for the East Side Setnet fishery during the 2022 season.

Section 2. That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the State of Alaska Commissioner of Fish and Game, all members of the Board of Fisheries, and Governor Mike Dunleavy.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 27TH DAY OF JULY, 2022.

Paul J. Whitney, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brekke Hewitt, CMC, Interim City Clerk

Yes:
No:
Absent:



KENAI

Sponsored by: Vice Mayor Glendening, Council Members Knackstedt, Pettey, Winger, Baisden and Sounart

[Handwritten signatures]

**CITY OF KENAI
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-57**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA COMMISSIONER OF FISH AND GAME ALLOW THE EAST SIDE SETNET FISHERY ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST SOCKEYE SALMON DURING THE 2022 SEASON.

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai benefits from well-managed salmon runs as a central part of its economy and quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, all user groups within the City; sport; personal use; subsistence and commercial benefit from healthy sustainable runs in the Kenai River; and,

WHEREAS, the City supports the implementation of fisheries regulations based on sound science and research-based biology intended to achieve a maximum sustainable yield providing for the highest possible number of returning salmon and greatest opportunity for all user groups; and,

WHEREAS, sockeye salmon runs in both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers are currently projected to exceed escapement goals; and,

WHEREAS, personal use fishermen, sport fishermen, and the commercial drift fleet are all currently permitted to harvest sockeye salmon with expanded opportunities including sport fish limits of six per day and 24 hour a day personal use opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, in-river guides also have opportunities to guide clients for sockeye salmon; and,

WHEREAS, the only user group currently denied any opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon are the East Side Setnet fisheries participants; and,

WHEREAS, there are over 400 East Side Setnet Permit holders in the Upper Cook Inlet, with close to 90 percent Alaska Residents and approximately 80 percent of those Alaskans residing on the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and,

WHEREAS, the East Side Setnet fishery has a long history in the City of Kenai preceding Statehood; and,

WHEREAS, the East Side Setnet fishery provides direct employment opportunities, is a critical business component of local seafood processors and supports numerous other local businesses through its activities; and,

WHEREAS, in 2021, more than one million sockeye in excess of escapement goals entered the Kenai River resulting in economic opportunity costs estimated to be \$80 million dollars; and,

WHEREAS, the current late run king salmon return in the Kenai River is projected to meet escapement goals within an allowable margin of error using the Alaska Department of Fish and Game timing scenarios if the run is two days or more late; and,

Table 2. Sockeye smolt migrations and hatchery contribution, Tustumena Lake, 1998–2021

Year ^a	Total (million)	95% C.I.	Wild	Hatchery ^d	% Hatchery ^d	95% C.I.
1998	4.6	(±395,000)	3,872,000	727,000	15.8	(±2.2)
1999	4.5	(±461,000)	3,555,000	945,000	21.0	(±2.5)
2000	4.3	(±526,000)	3,986,000	316,000	7.4	(±1.8)
2001	5.3	(±612,000)	5,155,500	105,000	1.9	(±1.0)
2002	3.5	(±618,000)	3,474,000	0	0	0
2003 ^b	12.9	(±2,437,000)	10,619,000	2,329,000	18.0	(±4.6)
2004	6.4	(±997,000)	3,155,000	3,140,000	49.9	(±12.6)
2005	11.1	(±2,152,000)	7,631,000	3,592,000	32.0	(±7.4)
2006	2.8	(±756,000)	2,833,000	10,600	0.4	(±0.5)
2007	3.2	(±832,000)	3,231,000			
2008	5.4	(±2,149,000)	5,418,000			
2009	3.6	(±885,000)	3,614,000			
2010	1.9	(±885,000)	1,949,000			
2011	ND	ND	8,282 ^c			
2012	7.3	(±1,026,115)	7,383,018			
2013	7.0	(±2,697,000)	7,087,523			
2015	9.8	(±1,809,261)	9,832,522			
2017	3.7	(±574,029)	3,756,102			
2018	4.4	(±722,844)	4,406,731			
2019	5.3	(±782,151)	5,314,186			
2020	8.1	(±1,387,200)	8,077,998			
2021	4.2	(±1,053,462)	4,262,454			
Average	5.7		5,172,025	1,240,511	16.3	

ND = No Data

a. The project was not operated in 2014 or 2016.

b. CIAA discontinued the stocking program at Tustumena Lake in 2003 and remaining hatchery fish outmigrated by 2006.

c. This was the actual number of smolt counted; there were no results from the mark-recapture study.

d. Hatchery averages are calculated from data collected 1998–2006. No hatchery fish were present after 2006.

Smolt Characteristics

Age, weight, and length (AWL) samples (N=303) were collected from May 20 through June 26 from migrating sockeye salmon smolt to determine age structure and physical characteristics of the population. Age structure was analyzed by scale evaluation to classify the proportion of migrating smolt into the following age classes: age-1 class 80.2% (±0.07%) and age-2 class 19.8% (±0.61%) (Table 3). Sockeye salmon smolt in the age-1 class had an average weight and length of 5.41 g (±0.12 g) and 94.2 mm (±0.77 mm). Sockeye salmon smolt in the age-2 class had an average weight and length of 11.12 g (±0.47 g) and 120.4 mm (±1.48 mm). No measurements were collected on any other species.

Upper Subdistrict Permits Registered in the Solid Waste ADRC Office 2000-2021 (north and south of Blanchard line)

Blanchard Line	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North	157	148	138	140	135	140	135		133	145	143	158	160	0	0	0	161	163	166	167	146	146	149
North/South	20	7	1	23	24	25	23		30	20													19
South	260	273	238	249	270	257	240		263	260	288	285	285	0	0	0	296	268	273	277	262	282	268
Blank	9	10	29	111	0	9	34	497	18	19				448	445	445							15
Permits Registered	446	438	406	414	429	431	432	437	444	444	431	443	445	448	445	445	457	431	439	444	408	428	436