

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**STAFF COMMENTS  
SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL FINFISH  
REGULATORY PROPOSALS  
COMMITTEES A, B, AND C**

**FOR THE UPPER COOK INLET MANAGEMENT AREA**

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**February 20-March 5, 2011**



Regional Information Report No. 2A10-05

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, February 20–March 5, 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

## ABSTRACT

This document contains Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff comments on commercial and subsistence finfish regulatory proposals for the Upper Cook Inlet Management Areas. These comments were prepared by the department for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 20–March 5, in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Key words: Alaska Board of Fisheries (board), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) staff comments, Upper Cook Inlet (UCI), finfish, management, management plan, regulatory proposals, inriver, subsistence, personal use, sport, guided sport, commercial fisheries, biological escapement goal (BEG), sustainable escapement goal (SEG), optimal escapement goal (OEG).

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## Summary of Department Positions, Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish Meeting, 2011

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

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

continued

**Summary of Department Positions, Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish Meeting, 2011 (Page 2 of 3)**

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

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

continued



**Summary of Department Positions, Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish Meeting, 2011 (Page 3 of 3)**

<b>Proposal No.</b>	<b>Dept. Position</b>	<b>Issue</b>
321	N	Extend the season in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections
322	N	Reinstate the July 1 season opening in the Kenai and East Forelands sections
323	N	Revise closing date in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections
324	N	Allow for use of dual permits in the Cook Inlet set gillnet fishery
325	N	Revise the Kasilof River sockeye harvest management plan.
326	N	Expand the fishing area in the North Kalifornsky Beach Subsection.
327	N	Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.
329	N / O	Open KRSHA to gillnet salmon fishing when escapement exceeds 275,000.
330	N / O	Modify the area that may be fished if the commissioner opens the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.
331	N	Revise the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.
<b>N = Neutral; S= Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action</b>		

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**COMMITTEE A - COOK INLET SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL FISHING  
(25 PROPOSALS)**

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**COMMITTEE A: Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing (Total proposals: 25)**

Subsistence – 2

Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections – 1

Seasons – 10

Fishing periods – 4

Gillnet specifications and operations – 5

Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathom of DGN in the Cook Inlet area – 2

Closed Waters – 1

**PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 01.570. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 01.010(a). Methods, means, and general provisions for subsistence.)*

**PROPOSED BY:** Tyonek Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would increase the current mesh size of set gillnets used in the subsistence fishery from 6 inches to 8 1/2 inches. The net depth would decrease from 45 meshes to 29 meshes or 22 1/2 feet to 20 1/2 feet.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Fishing is allowed only in the Tyonek Subdistrict of the Northern District. A permit is required which allows 25 salmon per permit holder and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. An additional 70 king salmon per permit holder is allowed in the Tyonek subsistence fishery from May 15 to June 15. The early subsistence fishery is from May 15 through June 15 from 4:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. This portion of the fishery is closed when 4,200 king salmon have been taken.

In the Tyonek Subdistrict, subsistence set gillnets shall not exceed 10 fathoms in length, six inches in mesh size, and 45 meshes in depth.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal could increase the harvest of king salmon migrating to rivers in the Northern District and would select for larger fish, leaving smaller fish to escape.

**BACKGROUND:** The king salmon subsistence fishery in the Tyonek Subdistrict was mandated by an Anchorage Superior Court order in May 1980. In March 1981, the board adopted permanent regulations for this fishery following a positive customary and traditional use determination. Originally open only to those individuals living in the village of Tyonek, the *McDowell* decision in 1989 opened the fishery to all Alaska residents, although very few individuals not residents of Tyonek obtain permits. Fishing is allowed only in the Tyonek Subdistrict of the Northern District. A permit is required which allows 25 salmon per permit holder and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. An additional 70 king salmon per permit holder is allowed in the Tyonek subsistence fishery from May 15 to June 15 during three 16-hour openings per week. Annual king salmon harvests have ranged from a low of 636 in 2009 to 2,665 in 1983 (Table 102-1).

The Tyonek king salmon subsistence fishery that occurs in the Tyonek Subdistrict harvests king salmon that are likely bound for rivers north of this subdistrict. Those tributaries include the Chuitna, Lewis, and Theodore rivers.

The department has recommended these rivers, along with Alexander Creek, be designated as stocks of management concern, and Willow and Goose Creeks as stocks of yield concern due to declining escapements. The department has conducted annual single aerial surveys on these rivers since 1979 to index spawning escapement of king salmon. These surveys are conducted from helicopters at slower speeds than traditional fixed-wing aircraft surveys. In the Chuitna River, the average escapement from 1979–2005 was approximately 2,000 fish (Figure 102-1). A more recent average (2006–2010) is approximately 1,000 fish, nearly one-half the previous 5-year average. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for king salmon returning to the Chuitna River is 1,200–2,900 fish. The average escapements for the Theodore River, from 1979–2005, were approximately 1,090 fish. A more recent average (2006–2010) is approximately 470 fish, less than one-half the previous 5-year average. The SEG for king salmon returning to the Theodore River is 500–1,700 fish. In the Lewis River, the average escapement from 1979–2005 was approximately 560 fish. A more recent average (2006–2010) is 126 fish, approximately one-fourth the previous period's average. The Lewis River SEG for king salmon is 250–800 fish. Despite restrictive actions taken in the sport fishery in these rivers since the mid 1990s and closure of the sport fishery in 2010, the lower bound of these goals was not achieved for the past four consecutive years.

Preliminary information indicates that in 2009, 89 subsistence permits were issued for the Tyonek Subdistrict, including 62 permits issued to Tyonek residents (69%) and 27 permits issued to other Alaska residents (31%), mostly residents of Anchorage (19 permits). The 2009 harvest of 1,081 salmon was below the historical average of 1,561 salmon, as well as the 5-year average of 1,273 salmon or the 10-year average of 1,323 salmon. Of the total reported subsistence salmon harvest of 1,081 salmon, 258 were coho salmon (28%), 178 were sockeye salmon (19%), and one was a pink salmon (<1%). The king salmon harvest was 636 salmon (53%), almost half the historical average of 1,285 king salmon. Residents of Tyonek accounted for 86% of the harvest total (927 salmon), including 77% of the king salmon harvest (489 fish).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to increasing harvest potential on Chuitna, Lewis, and Theodore river king salmon stocks, which have been recommended as a stock of management or yield concern. Although the board affirmed the positive customary and traditional use finding for this fishery in November 1992, and made an administrative finding regarding the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (ANS), the ANS amounts do not appear in regulation. The board might consider adopting the ANS findings from 1992 into regulation or review more recent harvest information as a basis for a revised ANS determination.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Fishers wishing to use the proposed gillnet specifications would need to purchase new nets.

## **SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:**

1. Is this stock in a nonsubsistence area? No.
2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes.
3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.
4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence use? In an administrative finding made in November 1992, the board established the following amounts as reasonably necessary for subsistence for this fishery: king salmon, 750–2,750; sockeye salmon, 100–275; chum salmon, 50–100; pink salmon, 50–100; and coho salmon, 100–375. The board has not adopted this ANS finding into regulation.
5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.
6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

Table 102-1. Historical subsistence salmon harvests, Tyonek subdistrict, 1980–2009.

Year	Permits		Reported Salmon Harvests					Total
	Issued	Returned	King	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Pink	
1980	67	NA	1,757	235				1,992
1981	70	NA	2,002	269	64	32	15	2,382
1982	69	NA	1,590	310	113	4	14	2,031
1983	75	NA	2,665	187	59	6	0	2,917
1984	75	NA	2,200	266	79	23	3	2,571
1985	76	NA	1,472	164	91	10	0	1,737
1986	65	NA	1,676	203	223	46	50	2,198
1987	64	61	1,610	166	149	24	10	1,959
1988	47	42	1,587	91	253	12	8	1,951
1989	49	47	1,250	85	115	1	0	1,451
1990	42	37	781	66	352	12	20	1,231
1991	57	54	902	20	58	0	0	980
1992	57	44	907	75	234	19	7	1,242
1993	62	54	1,370	57	77	17	19	1,540
1994	58	49	770	85	101	22	0	978
1995	70	55	1,317	45	153	15	0	1,530
1996	73	49	1,039	68	137	7	21	1,272
1997	70	42	639	101	137	8	0	885
1998	74	49	1,027	163	64	2	1	1,257
1999	77	54	1,230	144	94	11	32	1,511
2000	60	59	1,157	63	87	0	6	1,313
2001	84	58	976	172	49	6	4	1,207
2002	101	71	1,080	209	115	4	9	1,417
2003	87	74	1,183	111	44	10	7	1,355
2004	97	75	1,345	93	130	0	0	1,568
2005	78	66	982	61	139	2	0	1,184
2006	82	55	943	20	14	1	0	978
2007	84	67	1,281	200	123	2	3	1,609
2008	94	77	1,509	140	196	15	10	1,870
2009	89	69	636	184	258	2	1	1,081
5-Year Avg. (2005–2009)	85	67	1,070	121	146	4	3	1,273
10- Year Avg. (2000–2009)	86	67	1,109	125	116	4	4	1,323
Historical Average	72	57	1,296	135	128	11	8	1,561



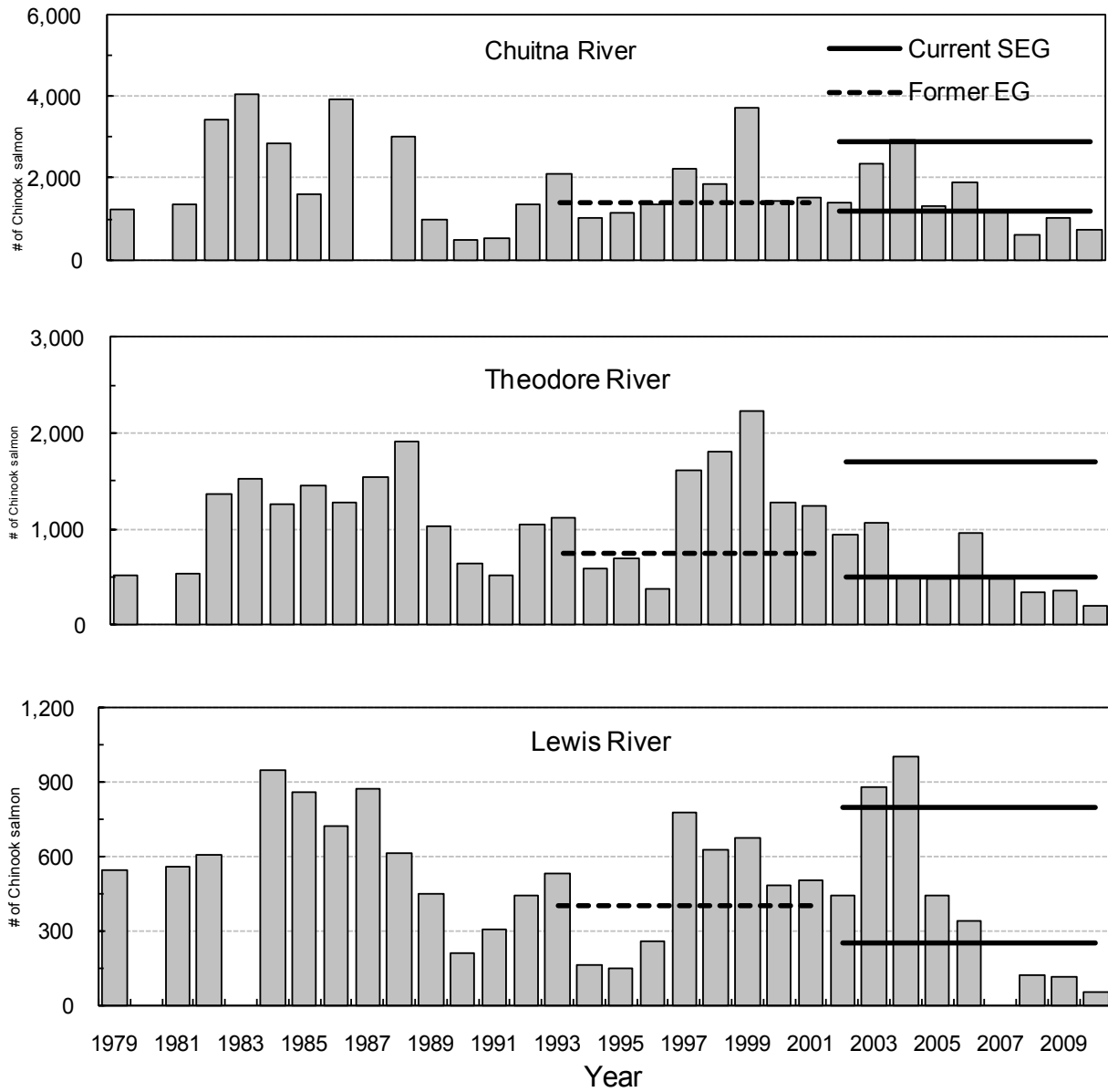


Figure 102-1. West Cook Inlet king salmon escapement index counts, 1979–2010.

**PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 01.593. Upper Yentna River subsistence salmon fishery.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would 1) review the current positive customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for the Upper Yentna subsistence salmon fishery; and 2), if the positive C&T finding is not repealed, reduce the current total allowable subsistence harvest in the Yentna River subsistence fishery from 2,500 salmon to 500 salmon and mandate that the first 500 salmon caught be harvested.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** A permit issued by department is required prior to fishing; fishers must record their harvests on the permit, and return it to the department. The total annual possession limit for each subsistence salmon fishing permit is 25 salmon for the head of a household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. No more than 2,500 salmon may be taken during the entire season. Legal gear consists of fish wheels only; each fish wheel must be equipped with a live box, and all king salmon and rainbow trout must be returned to the water unharmed. Permit holders must be present at the fish wheel while the wheel is fishing. The subsistence fishing season occurs from July 15 through July 31, and from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during this time frame.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the positive C&T finding is repealed, the fishery could no longer be administered as a subsistence fishery. The board could provide an opportunity to harvest salmon with fish wheels under personal use regulations. This proposal would reduce salmon harvest in most years and could hinder some households' ability to harvest salmon if the 500 fish quota was already taken. This proposal would increase the harvest of king salmon and rainbow trout by an unknown amount.

**BACKGROUND:** The specific area open for the fishery is in the mainstem Yentna River from its confluence with Martin Creek, upstream to its confluence with the Skwentna River. Sockeye salmon are primarily harvested in this fishery. Harvests have ranged from 273 in 2009 to 673 in 1998, with an average annual harvest of 556 salmon, of which 424 are sockeye salmon. The total salmon harvest has exceeded 500 fish in seven of the past 12 years (1998-2009).

The board first considered proposals to provide subsistence salmon fishing opportunities in a portion of the Yentna or Skwentna rivers in 1988 and made a negative C&T use finding (Board of Fisheries 124-88) which focused on the lack of transmission of traditions about the fishery within multigenerational families and the relative short length of residency in the area by potential participants in the fishery. The board affirmed this negative finding in 1992 following the passage of the present state subsistence statute. In response to another proposal in 1996, the board again affirmed its negative C&T finding, but adopted regulations establishing a personal use fish wheel fishery in a portion of the Yentna River. In 1997, in *Payton et al. v. State*, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that the board had erred in requiring transmission of traditions through family lines, focusing on the short length of time that current area residents had lived in the area, and requiring that salmon be preserved by methods similar to those used in Alaska Native communities in the Cook Inlet area. The court remanded the issue to the board, and instructed the board to review the information about the transmission of knowledge about the

fishery across generations (but not necessarily within families who still resided in the area) that was included in interviews and archival data collected and organized by the Division of Subsistence. During its meeting in February 1998, the board reviewed this and other information, and made a positive C&T use determination for Yentna River salmon stocks. The personal use fish wheel fishery established in 1996 became a subsistence fishery as a result of these board actions.

Since 1998, the Division of Subsistence has conducted no new research that would update the information on the eight C&T criteria as summarized in the worksheet prepared in 1996, and supplemented by a synopsis of interviews and archival data. The only new information now available is harvest records compiled from permit returns since 1996, and updated demographic data from the US Census and Alaska Department of Labor.

Preliminary information indicates that there were 17 subsistence permits issued for the Yentna River subsistence fish wheel fishery in 2009, the most recent year that data are available, and 16 were returned. In 2009, seven of the 17 permit holders resided in the Skwentna area (41%), with the remaining 10 permits held by residents of other Cook Inlet area communities. Residents of the community of Skwentna harvested 89 of the reported 273 salmon, or 33% of the harvest. The 2009 harvest of 273 salmon was below both the 5-year and 10-year averages; the 5-year average is 403 salmon and the 10-year average is 469 salmon (Table 103-1).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to hindering a recognized preference for subsistence users to harvest fish. When the board made its positive C&T finding for the salmon stocks of the Yentna River drainage in 1998, it did not establish an ANS, although it did establish a harvest limit for the fishery, and prohibited the retention of king salmon. If the board retains the positive C&T finding for these stocks, it may want to consider establishing an ANS in regulation, using harvest records for guidance.

**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.

**SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:**

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.
2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes.
3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.
4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has not made an ANS determination for this fishery.
5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Table 103-1. Yentna River subsistence fishery salmon harvest, 1996–2009.

Year	No. of Permits		Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
	Issued	Returned					
<b>Personal Use</b>							
1996	NR	14	191	36	88	40	355
1997	NR	21	492	61	21	8	582
<b>Subsistence</b>							
1998	28	21	473	147	33	20	673
1999	NR	21	455	43	15	11	524
2000	NR	20	379	92	4	7	482
2001	NR	16	514	47	9	4	574
2002	NR	25	414	116	14	28	572
2003	NR	15	433	76	2	13	524
2004	NR	22	391	132	0	2	525
2005	NR	21	177	42	24	25	268
2006	26	23	388	178	15	27	608
2007	22	22	367	66	17	18	468
2008	16	16	310	57	23	7	397
2009	17	16	253	14	0	6	273
5 yr Avg. 2005–09	20	20	299	71	16	17	403
10 yr Avg. 2005–09	NA	20	363	82	11	14	469
Historical Avg. 1996–2009	NA	20	374	79	19	15	488

*Note* Regulations prohibit the retention of king salmon in this fishery (5 AAC 01.593).

**PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections.** *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.350 Closed waters.)*

**PROPOSED BY:** Tyonek Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would create a corridor on the west side of Cook Inlet during the king salmon fishing season similar to the Kenai and Kasilof section corridors.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In the Tyonek Subdistrict, the early subsistence fishery is from May 15 through June 15 from 4:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. This portion of the fishery is closed when 4,200 king salmon have been taken. The Northern District king salmon commercial fishery opens with the first fishing period beginning on the first Monday on or after May 25, except when May 25 falls within a closed period, in which case the season opens the next following open period and continues through June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. The area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing the second regular Monday period only. The Central District drift fishery opens June 19 at the earliest.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would have no effect beyond what is currently in regulation because the drift gillnet fishery does not open until June 19, missing the majority of the early king salmon run.

**BACKGROUND:** The Kenai and Kasilof sections on the east side of Cook Inlet, which the proposer wants to copy for the west side, are designed to manage set gillnet fisheries harvesting stocks migrating to either, or both, the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Drift gillnet fishermen are also allowed to fish these sections when they are open to fishing outside of the regular Monday and Thursday scheduled drift fishing periods. However, because the drift gillnet fishery does not begin until on or after June 19, harvest of Northern District-bound king salmon stocks is precluded.

The king salmon subsistence fishery in the Tyonek Subdistrict was mandated by an Anchorage Superior Court order in May 1980. In March 1981, the board adopted permanent regulations for this fishery following a positive customary and traditional use determination. Originally open only to those individuals living in the village of Tyonek, the *McDowell* decision in 1989 opened the fishery to all Alaska residents, although very few individuals not residents of Tyonek obtain permits. Fishing is allowed only in the Tyonek Subdistrict of the Northern District. A permit is required which allows 25 salmon per permit holder and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. An additional 70 king salmon per permit holder is allowed in the Tyonek Subsistence fishery from May 15 to June 15 during three 16-hour openings per week. Annual king salmon harvests from the drift gillnet fisher prior to June 25 have ranged from 0 to 77 king salmon in the years 1980–2010 (Table 104-1).

In 2009, the board passed an emergency regulation reducing Northern District king salmon commercial fishing periods of May 25 and June 1 from 12 hours to six hours. The last two

commercial periods of the 2009 season (June 15 and June 22) were closed by emergency order in response to lagging king salmon escapements into the Doshka River. In 2010, commercial king salmon fishing was closed for the season by emergency order in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River for all of the fishing periods scheduled for the 2010 king salmon fishing season. The Monday fishing periods closed in this area were May 31, June 7, June 14, and June 21, 2010.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Creating fishing corridors in this area would have no effect beyond what is already in regulation.

**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 104-1. Drift gillnet king salmon harvest prior to June 25, 1980–2010.

Year	King Salmon Harvest
1980	0
1981	0
1982	0
1983	0
1984	0
1985	0
1986	0
1987	38
1988	0
1989	0
1990	0
1991	0
1992	0
1993	0
1994	0
1995	0
1996	0
1997	0
1998	0
1999	0
2000	0
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	0
2005	27
2006	77
2007	60
2008	51
2009	14
2010	24

**PROPOSALS 105, 106, 109, and 167 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons.** *(Proposal 167 was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Management Plan.)*

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Hollier (Proposal 105).  
Sarah E. Pellegram (Proposal 106).  
Pat Zurfluh (Proposal 109).  
Concerned North Kalifornsky Beach Fishermen (Proposal 167).

**WHAT WOULD THESE PROPOSALS DO?** These proposals would open statistical area 244-32 (Figure 105-1, North Kalifornsky Beach), along with the Kasilof Section, to commercial fishing from June 25 through August 15, lengthening the commercial salmon fishing season in this area by up to 12 days. Statistical area 244-32 is approximately three and one-half miles long and is in the area between the Blanchard Line and three miles south of the Kenai River.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof Section is open from June 25 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order. If the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the Kasilof Section may be opened by emergency order. From July 8 to August 10, the Kasilof Section is managed in concert with the Kenai and East Foreland sections. From August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only (Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). The Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland sections will be closed by emergency order after July 31 if the department determines that less than 1% of the season's total sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THESE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** These proposals would likely result in increasing the harvest of sockeye salmon bound for the Kasilof River. Additional set gillnet fishing in this area earlier in the season would also likely increase the harvest of early-run Russian River sockeye and Kenai River king salmon by an unknown, but likely small, amount.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 1999, statistical area 244-30 included all of the area between the Kasilof and Kenai rivers. This area was divided into statistical areas 244-31 and 244-32 beginning in 1999 (Figure 105-1). The Kasilof Section (Figure 105-2) extends from one mile north of the Ninilchik River to four and one-half miles north of the Kasilof River, a distance of approximately 30 miles (straight line). Prior to July 8, this area is managed primarily for the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks. After July 8, it is managed for sockeye salmon stocks of both the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Statistical area 244-32 is currently the southern portion of the Kenai Section and is open to commercial fishing after July 7.

The current Kasilof Section boundary has been in effect since approximately 1985. Prior to that time, the demarcation line was approximately one-half mile farther south on Kalifornsky Beach which resulted in more conflicts than the current site location. These conflicts were due to having adjacent permit holders managed for different rivers. While the name of the section implies that the section is managed for Kasilof stocks, in reality it is managed for both Kenai and Kasilof stocks. Early in the season, prior to Kenai stocks migrating into the district, the entire



area is opened or closed based on Kasilof run strength. By July 8, when Kenai stocks are beginning to be present in the area, this area is managed for Kenai and, to a lesser degree, Kasilof stocks. Prior to this season opening change from July 1 to July 8 in 1999, the estimated king salmon harvest during this time frame for all of North and South Kalifornsky Beach was approximately 200 king salmon. This is estimated by halving the average harvest of statistical area 244-30 (Table 105-1). Harvests from statistical areas 244-31 and 244-32 can be found in Table 105-2.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on these allocative proposals.

**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 105-1. Commercial king and sockeye salmon harvests prior to July 8 in statistical area 244-30, 1980–1998.

Year	King	Sockeye
1980	234	4,942
1981	369	8,547
1982	306	951
1983	1,097	11,410
1984	342	6,806
1985	317	15,599
1986	484	7,466
1987	398	14,168
1988	211	17,739
1989	332	19,563
1990	174	9,299
1991	248	19,357
1992	307	11,531
1993	484	10,596
1994	460	9,408
1995	726	9,252
1996	428	29,245
1997	368	28,583
1998	228	16,431
Average	395	13,205

Note: Statistical area 244-30 includes all of the area between the Kasilof and Kenai rivers. This area was divided into statistical areas 244-31 and 244-32 beginning in 1999.

Table 105-2. Commercial king and sockeye salmon harvest prior to July 8 in statistical area 244-31, 1999–2010.

Year	King	Sockeye	Days Open
1999	140	13,938	3
2000	148	13,468	2
2001	344	51,403	6
2002	332	64,794	7
2003	985	63,331	8
2004	553	83,651	8
2005	800	142,981	14
2006	382	62,754	8
2007	361	17,583	7
2008	262	92,200	9
2009	243	76,531	9
2010	260	40,633	8
Average	401	60,272	7.4

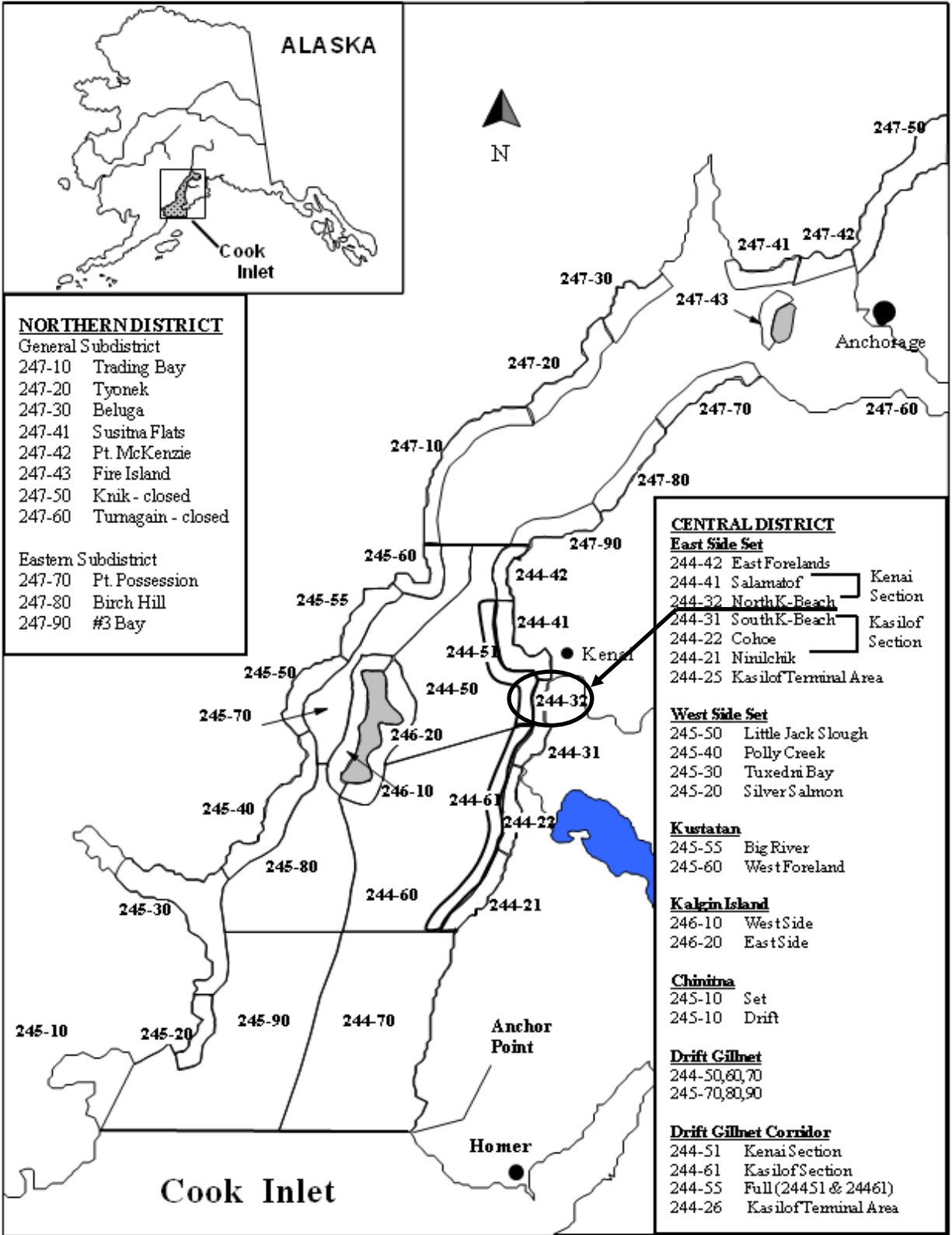


Figure 105-1. Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries statistical areas.

Latitude and longitude are based on the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83), which is equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84).

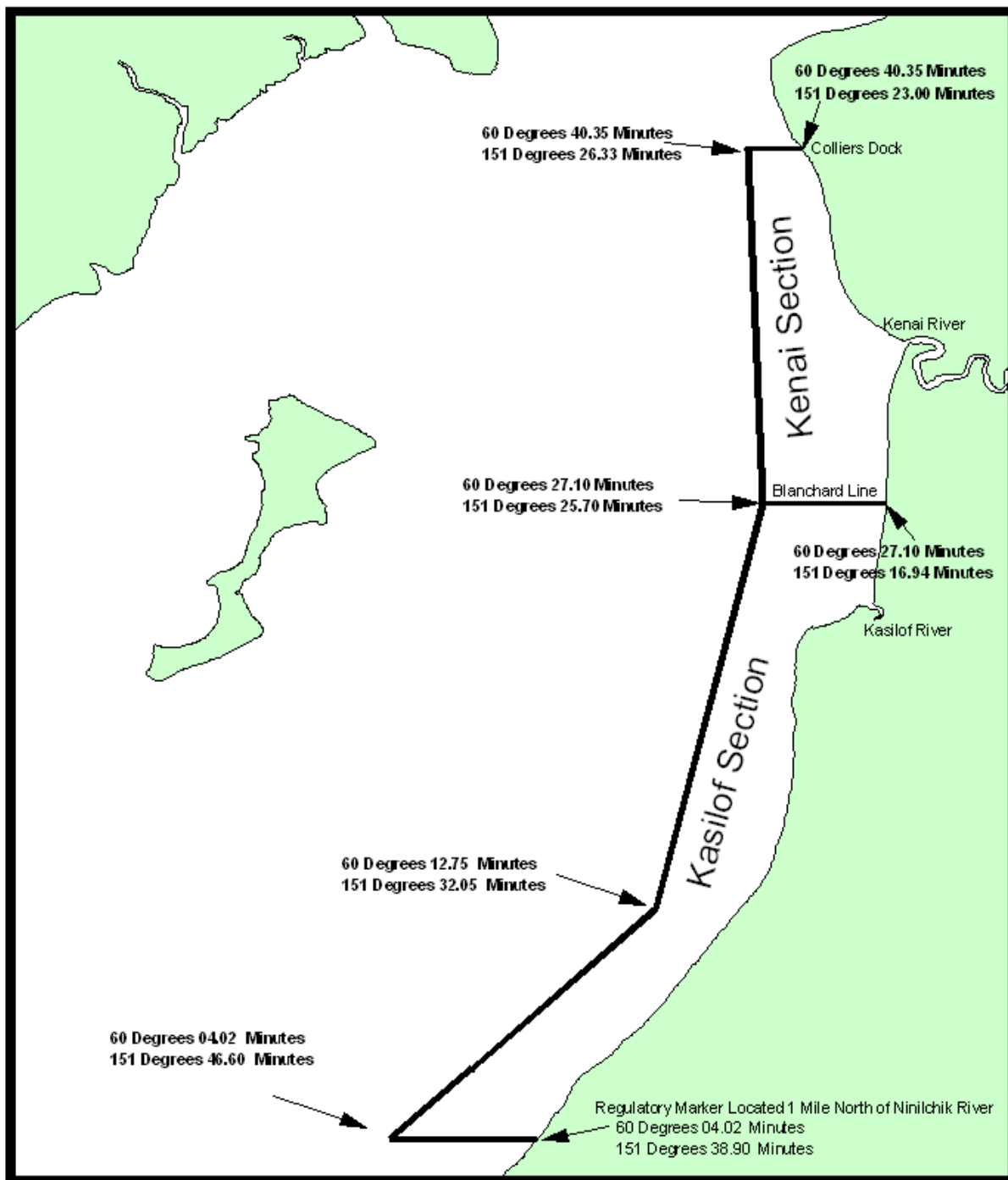


Figure 105-2. Map of the Kenai and Kasilof sections, with waypoint descriptions.

## **PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Sarah E. Pellegram.

**WHAT WOULD THIS PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would open statistical area 244-32 (North Kalifornsky Beach) beginning June 25. This subsection will fish the same time as the Kasilof Section until July 8. When the Kenai Section opens by regulation, on July 8, statistical area 244-32 will fish with the Kenai Section. Additionally, during the June 25 to July 8 time period, gear would be reduced in statistical area 244-32 to one net per permit.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof Section is open from June 25 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order. If the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the Kasilof Section may be opened by emergency order. From July 8 to August 10, the Kasilof Section is managed in concert with the Kenai and East Foreland sections. From August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only (5 AAC 21.320(a)(2). *Weekly fishing periods:* Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). The Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland sections will be closed by emergency order after July 31 if the department determines that less than 1% of the season's total sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods.

Set gillnets may not be more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. A permit holder may not operate more than four set gillnets with more than 105 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THESE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would likely result in increasing the harvest of sockeye salmon bound for the Kasilof River. Additional set gillnet fishing in this area earlier in the season would also likely increase the harvest of early-run Russian River sockeye and Kenai River king salmon by an unknown, but likely small, amount.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 1999, statistical area 244-30 included all of the area between the Kasilof and Kenai rivers. This area was divided into statistical areas 244-31 and 244-32 beginning in 1999 (Figure 107-1). The Kasilof Section (Figure 107-2) extends from one mile north of the Ninilchik River to four and one-half miles north of the Kasilof River, a distance of approximately 30 miles (straight line). This area is managed prior to July 8 primarily for the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks. After July 8, it is managed for sockeye salmon stocks of both the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Statistical area 244-32 is currently the southern portion of the Kenai Section and is open to commercial fishing after July 7.

The current Kasilof Section boundary has been in effect since approximately 1985. Prior to that time, the demarcation line was approximately one-half mile farther south on Kalifornsky Beach, which resulted in more conflicts than the current site location. These conflicts were due to having adjacent permit holders managed for different rivers. While the name of the section implies that the section is managed for Kasilof stocks, in reality it is managed for both Kenai and Kasilof stocks. Early in the season, prior to Kenai stocks migrating into the district, the entire

area is opened or closed based on Kasilof run strength. By July 8, when Kenai stocks are beginning to be present in the area, this area is managed for Kenai and, to a lesser degree, Kasilof stocks. Prior to this season opening change from July 1 to July 8 in 1999, the estimated king salmon harvest during this time frame for all of North and South Kalifornsky Beach was approximately 200 king salmon. This is estimated by halving the average harvest of statistical area 244-30 (Table 107-1). Harvests from statistical areas 244-31 and 244-32 can be found in Table 107-2.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 107-1. Commercial king and sockeye salmon harvests prior to July 8 in statistical area 244-30, 1980–1998.

Year	King	Sockeye
1980	234	4,942
1981	369	8,547
1982	306	951
1983	1,097	11,410
1984	342	6,806
1985	317	15,599
1986	484	7,466
1987	398	14,168
1988	211	17,739
1989	332	19,563
1990	174	9,299
1991	248	19,357
1992	307	11,531
1993	484	10,596
1994	460	9,408
1995	726	9,252
1996	428	29,245
1997	368	28,583
1998	228	16,431
Average	395	13,205

Note: Statistical area 244-30 includes all of the area between the Kasilof and Kenai rivers. This area was divided into statistical areas 244-31 and 244-32 beginning in 1999.

Table 107-2. Commercial king and sockeye salmon harvest prior to July 8 in statistical area 244-31, 1999–2010.

Year	King	Sockeye	Days Open
1999	140	13,938	3
2000	148	13,468	2
2001	344	51,403	6
2002	332	64,794	7
2003	985	63,331	8
2004	553	83,651	8
2005	800	142,981	14
2006	382	62,754	8
2007	361	17,583	7
2008	262	92,200	9
2009	243	76,531	9
2010	260	40,633	8
Average	401	60,272	7.4

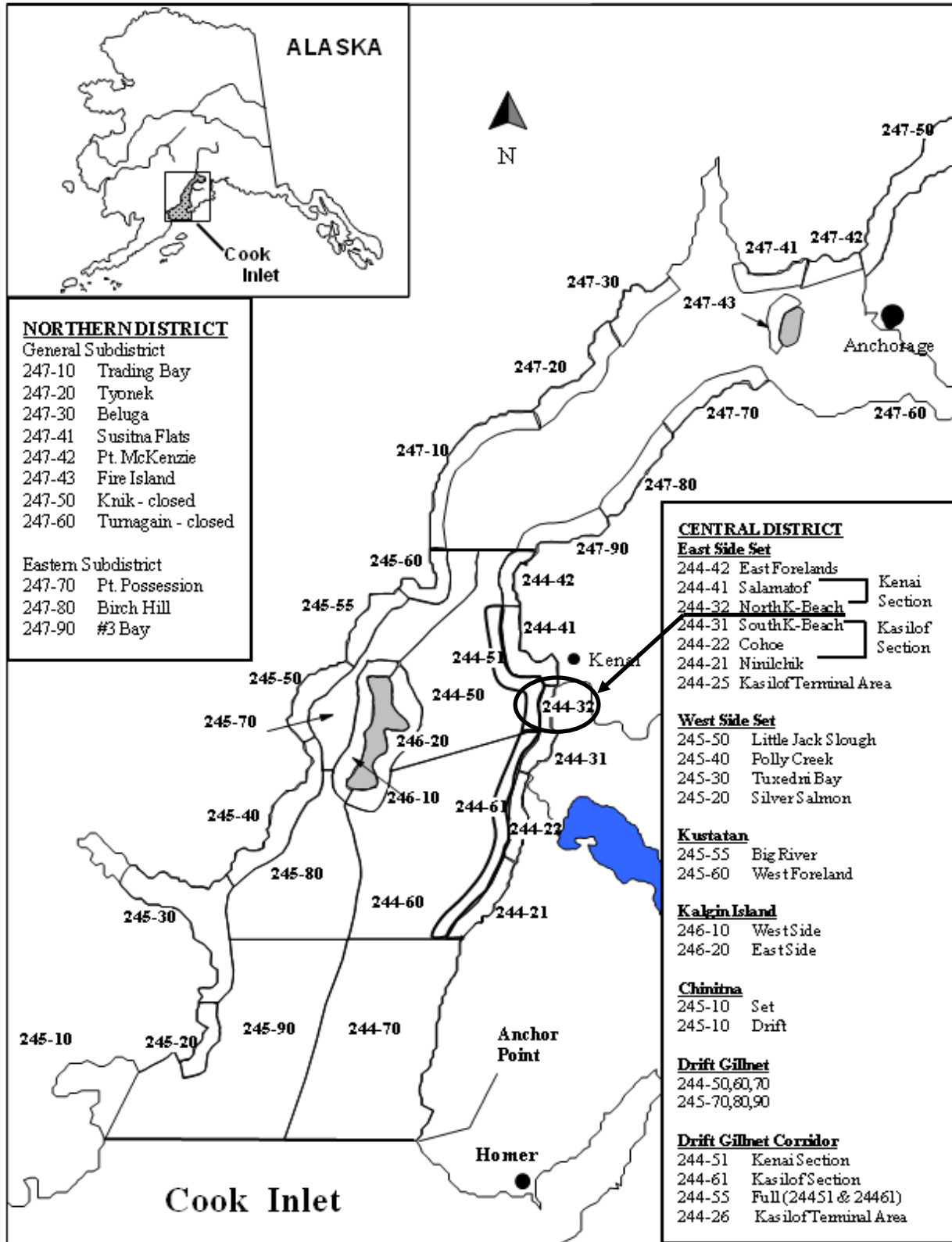


Figure 107-1. Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries statistical areas.



Latitude and longitude are based on the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83), which is equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84).

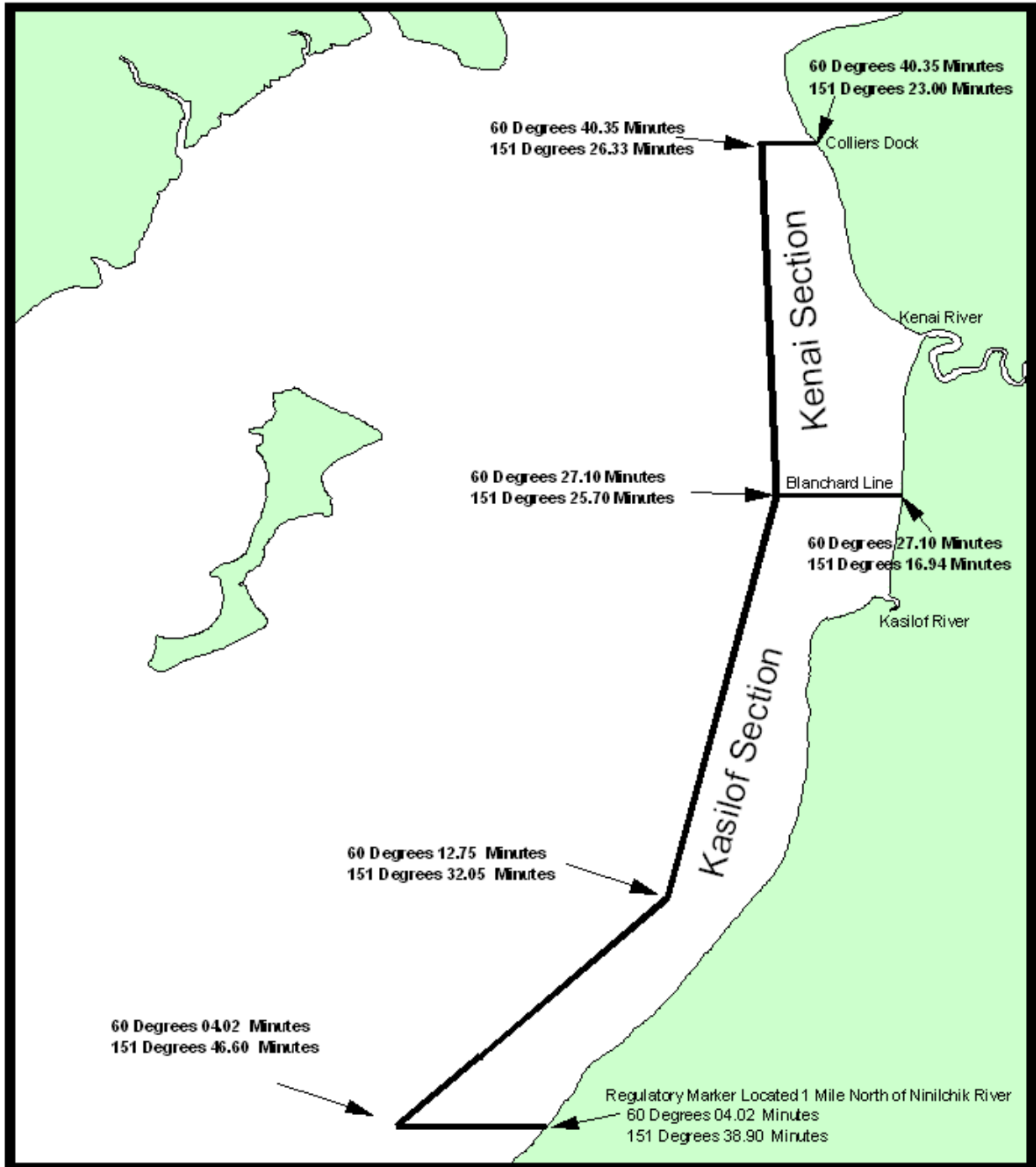


Figure 107-2. Map of the Kenai and Kasilof sections, with waypoint descriptions.

**PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 21.320. Fishing seasons.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** It is unclear exactly what this proposal asks for, except in one form or another, the proposer asks for additional fishing opportunity.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof Section is open from June 25 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order. If the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the Kasilof Section may be opened by emergency order. From July 8 to August 10, the Kasilof Section is managed in concert with the Kenai and East Foreland sections. From August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only (Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). The Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland sections will be closed by emergency order after July 31, if the department determines that less than 1% of the season's total sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would allow additional harvests of sockeye salmon migrating to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. However, additional fishing earlier in the season would also likely increase the harvest of earlier-running sockeye and king salmon migrating to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Allowing additional fishing time later in the season would increase the harvest of coho salmon and later-running king salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** From 1978 until 1999, the commercial fishery in the Kasilof Section on the east side was managed from June 25 until August 15 to achieve sockeye salmon escapement goals in the Kasilof River, and secondarily to achieve Kenai and Kasilof River king salmon escapements, as well as Kenai River sockeye salmon escapements. During the same time period, the Kenai and East Forelands sections were managed from July 1 until August 15 for Kenai River sockeye and king salmon escapement goals. Because of a petition filed prior to the 2000 field season, coho salmon management was altered. These changes included a shortened season, reallocation of fish to inriver users, restrictions on additional commercial fishing time and areas, and institution of mandatory closed windows. In 2008, the board extended the set gillnet fishing season on the east side of Cook Inlet from August 11 to August 15 for regularly scheduled periods only unless the fishery was closed when 1% of the set gillnet harvest was harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, within the goal three times, and below the goal once. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded nine of 10 years, while the optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded seven times and was within the goal three times, including in 2009 and 2010.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 322 - 5 AAC 21.310(C)(ii). Fishing seasons.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would return the opening and closing dates in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery in the Kenai and East Forelands sections to what they were prior to 1999. The starting date of commercial fishing in the Kenai and East Foreland sections would be July 1 instead of July 8. In addition, the additional fishing time currently allowed each week would be used until August 15 instead of August 10. Furthermore, the fishery would not close when 1% of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai and East Foreland sections open July 8 for commercial fishing. The Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland sections close August 15 or when 1% of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31. Only regularly scheduled 12-hour Monday and Thursday commercial fishing periods are allowed from August 11 through August 15, unless the 1% rule mentioned above has closed the east side set gillnet fishery.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would lengthen the commercial salmon fishing season in the Kenai and East Forelands sections by opening up to seven days earlier. It would also allow additional fishing time between August 11 and August 15. Fishing earlier and later would result in additional harvests by an unknown amount and would be dependent on run timing of the various stocks. Allowing additional fishing time between August 11 and August 15 would increase the harvest of later-running sockeye and pink salmon in the east side set gillnet fishery, increase the harvest of coho salmon and later-running king salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** From 1978 until 1999, the commercial fishery in the Kasilof Section on the east side was managed from June 25 until August 15 to achieve sockeye salmon escapement goals in the Kasilof River, and secondarily to achieve Kenai and Kasilof River king salmon escapements, as well as Kenai River sockeye salmon escapements. During the same time period the Kenai and East Forelands sections were managed from July 1 until August 15 for Kenai River sockeye and king salmon escapement goals. Because of regulatory changes made in the 1999 board meeting and a petition filed prior to the 2000 field season, commercial salmon management was altered. These changes included a shortened season, reallocation of fish to inriver users, restrictions on additional commercial fishing time and areas, and institution of mandatory closed windows. In 2008, the board extended the set gillnet fishing season on the east side of Cook Inlet from August 11 to August 15 for regularly scheduled periods only unless the fishery was closed when 1% of the set gillnet harvest was harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31. Harvests for drift gillnet districtwide periods can be found in Table 322-1 and set gillnet harvests can be found in Table 322-2.

In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, was within the goal three times, and was below the goal once. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded in nine of 10 years, while the

optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded seven times and was within the goal three times, including in 2009 and 2010.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 322-1. Drift gillnet commercial salmon harvest after August 15, districtwide periods only, 1966–1995.

Year	King	Sockeye	Even year		Odd year		Total
			Coho	Pink	Pink	Chum	
1966		508	109			1	618
1967			541				541
1968		15	966	174		164	1,319
1969			530		130	4,356	5,016
1970		20	283	45		1,398	1,746
1971	7	27	170			977	1,181
1972			42	2		1,400	1,444
1973			141		5	929	1,075
1974	1		278	29		1,038	1,346
1975		8	1,221		3	2,360	3,592
1976	1	16	865	649		4,726	6,257
1977	1	9	1,314		15	31,617	32,956
1978		715	1,252	3,887		3,086	8,940
1979	9	428	4,640		32	39,223	44,332
1980	2	98	3,657	152		424	4,333
1981	3	68	5,650		63	2,703	8,487
1982	2	2,643	22,995	3,327		21,564	50,531
1983		49	1,703		7	615	2,374
1984	2	186	2,501	357		762	3,808
1985	5	609	13,569		66	2,933	17,182
1986	3	182	2,963	181		461	3,790
1987	1	369	2,136		20	1,955	4,481
1988 <sup>a</sup>	1	173	4,623	380		1,065	6,242
1990		604	4,398	4,968		596	10,566
1991	3	1,834	11,000		56	1,637	14,530
1992		854	5,398	665		881	7,798
1993	1	462	2,242		63	260	3,028
1994	2	343	6,312	117		571	7,345
1995		84	2,946		19	173	3,222
Average	2	355	3,602	515	17	4,409	8,899

<sup>a</sup> There was no drift gillnetting in 1989 because of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

Table 322-2. Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet salmon harvest after August 15, 1966–1983.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even year	Odd year	Chum	Total	Days Fished
				Pink	Pink			
1966	79	105	13,477	3,378		5	17,044	7
1967	44	63	14,082		48	8	14,245	3
1968	39	120	15,200	25,752		432	41,543	2
1969	59	118	6,546		41	17	6,781	17
1970	80	239	6,226	8,601		23	15,169	42
1971	124	125	7,583		3	81	7,916	21
1972	51	106	7,320	3,557		338	11,372	18
1973	64	100	6,860		8	53	7,085	14
1974	73	187	15,419	3,731		179	19,589	21
1975	108	195	23,130		24	101	23,558	22
1976	44	313	12,452	23,783		49	36,641	19
1977	42	129	6,238		22	211	6,642	15
1978	79	314	6,659	31,583		100	38,735	6
1983	6	1,523	71		5	3	1,608	1
Average	64	260	10,090	14,341	22	114	17,709	15

**PROPOSAL 321 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would increase the amount of commercial fishing time in the Cook Inlet east side set gillnet fishery to allow for additional harvest of pink salmon later in the season. The proposal specifically asks for additional fishing time between August 11 and August 15 by 1) allowing the additional fishing time currently allowed per week to be used until August 15 instead of August 10, 2) deletion of current language which closes the set gillnet commercial fishery after July 31 when 1% of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31, and 3) allows commercial fishing to continue after August 15 in even years until the fishery is closed by emergency order.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland sections close August 15 or when 1% of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31. Only regularly scheduled 12-hour Monday and Thursday commercial fishing periods are allowed from August 11 through August 15, unless the 1% rule mentioned above has closed the east side set gillnet fishery. Kenai River coho salmon stocks are managed to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Allowing additional fishing time between August 11 and August 15 would increase the harvest of later-running sockeye and pink salmon in the east side set gillnet fishery, increase the harvest of coho salmon and later-running king salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** The pink salmon management plan was formulated and put in regulation in 2002 to allow the harvest of abundant pink salmon stocks. These stocks were returning on even years, but were unharvested, in large part because of restrictions on fishing time and seasons in the two fisheries that are the primary harvesters of this stock: the drift fleet and east side set gillnet fishery. Most of these restrictions were put in place to conserve coho salmon bound for the Northern District and the Kenai River after two poor returns in 1997 and 1999. In 2008, the *Pink Salmon Management Plan* was repealed. Also in 2008, the east side set gillnet fishery was extended for regularly scheduled fishing periods only (Monday and Thursday) between August 11 and August 15.

In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the even year pink salmon harvest in the east side set gillnet fishery has averaged 137,054 fish, with the high being 214,771 (2002) and a low of 107,838 (2004). In 2010, 118,049 pink salmon were harvested. Set gillnet harvests between August 11 and 15 can be found in Table 321-1.

The current 1% regulation went into effect following the 2005 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting, prior to the 2005 season. In the previous six years (2005-2010), after the 1% rule was adopted prior to the 2005 season, the east side set gillnet fishery has been closed for the season twice: once in 2008 (except for the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area) due to the poor Kenai River

sockeye salmon run, and once in 2009 because the department determined that less than 1% of the season's total sockeye salmon set gillnet harvest had been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 321-1. Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial salmon harvest from August 11-15, 1980–2010.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even year	Odd year	Chum	Total	No.
				Pink	Pink			Days
1980	197	1,715	12,495	133,489		568	148,464	4
1981	46	450	1,547		31	199	2,273	1
1982	208	2,599	24,999	136,534		796	165,136	4
1983	102	4,047	2,545		43	115	6,852	2
1984	49	722	3,085	20,567		38	24,461	1
1985	136	14,175	4,896		157	486	19,850	1
1986	277	9,646	6,545	51,223		190	67,881	2
1987	101	3,866	3,360		19	43	7,389	1
1988	204	7,632	12,143	40,162		372	60,513	2
1989	118	14,473	13,642		261	386	28,880	2
1990	95	7,290	11,493	89,333		153	108,364	2
1991	42	7,885	4,994		29	674	13,624	1
1992	43	15,225	7,084	15,533		73	37,958	1
1993	25	2,390	3,033		103	70	5,621	1
1994	208	22,174	12,793	20,710		191	56,076	2
1995	201	27,377	7,585		73	324	35,560	2
1996	82	3,052	1,611	12,766		54	17,565	1
1997								
1998								
1999	90	5,670	1,263		17	4	7,044	1
2000								
2001								
2002								
2003								
2004								
2005								
2006								
2007								
2008								
2009								
2010	21	3,365	2,019	5,955		10	11,370	1
Average	118	8,092	7,217	52,627	81	250	43,415	2
Avg. (all yrs)	72	4,960	4,424	16,977	24	153	26,609	1

*Note: No fisheries occurred from August 11-15 in those years without harvest estimates.*

**PROPOSAL 323 - 5 AAC 21.310(C)(iii). Fishing seasons.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would remove language describing restrictions and possible closures during the August 11 to 15 time frame. This includes deleting the 1% of the harvest rule and specifying that this time frame is limited to regular fishing periods only.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands set gillnet commercial fishery will close August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order after July 31, if the department determines that less than 1% of the season's total sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods. From August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only (Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, "fishing period" means a time period open to commercial fishing without closure.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Allowing additional fishing time from August 11 to August 15 would increase the harvest of later-run sockeye and pink salmon in the east side set gillnet fishery, and increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River, as well as later-running king salmon returning to the Kasilof and Kenai rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** The current 1% regulation went into effect following the 2005 Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting, prior to the 2005 season. In the previous six years (2005-2010), after the 1% rule was adopted prior to the 2005 season, the east side set gillnet fishery has been closed for the season twice: once in 2008 (except for the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area) due to the poor Kenai River sockeye salmon run, and once in 2009 because the department determined that less than 1% of the season's total sockeye salmon set gillnet harvest had been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods. Set gillnet harvests from August 11 to 15 can be found in Table 323-1. In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, was within the goal three times, and was below the goal once.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 323-1. Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial salmon harvest from August 11–15, 1980–2010.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even year	Odd year	Chum	Total	No.
				Pink	Pink			Days
1980	197	1,715	12,495	133,489		568	148,464	4
1981	46	450	1,547		31	199	2,273	1
1982	208	2,599	24,999	136,534		796	165,136	4
1983	102	4,047	2,545		43	115	6,852	2
1984	49	722	3,085	20,567		38	24,461	1
1985	136	14,175	4,896		157	486	19,850	1
1986	277	9,646	6,545	51,223		190	67,881	2
1987	101	3,866	3,360		19	43	7,389	1
1988	204	7,632	12,143	40,162		372	60,513	2
1989	118	14,473	13,642		261	386	28,880	2
1990	95	7,290	11,493	89,333		153	108,364	2
1991	42	7,885	4,994		29	674	13,624	1
1992	43	15,225	7,084	15,533		73	37,958	1
1993	25	2,390	3,033		103	70	5,621	1
1994	208	22,174	12,793	20,710		191	56,076	2
1995	201	27,377	7,585		73	324	35,560	2
1996	82	3,052	1,611	12,766		54	17,565	1
1997								
1998								
1999	90	5,670	1,263		17	4	7,044	1
2000								
2001								
2002								
2003								
2004								
2005								
2006								
2007								
2008								
2009								
2010	21	3,365	2,019	5,955		10	11,370	1
Average	118	8,092	7,217	52,627	81	250	43,415	2
Avg. (all yrs)	72	4,960	4,424	16,977	24	153	26,609	1

*Note: No fisheries occurred from August 11-15 in those years without harvest estimates.*

**PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would increase the amount of commercial fishing time in the Cook Inlet east side set gillnet fishery to allow for additional harvest of salmon later in the season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland sections close August 15 or when 1% of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31. Only regularly scheduled 12-hour Monday and Thursday commercial fishing periods are allowed from August 11 through August 15, unless the 1% rule mentioned above has closed the east side set gillnet fishery. Kenai River coho salmon stocks are managed to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Allowing additional fishing time after August 10 would increase the harvest of later-running sockeye and pink salmon in the east side set gillnet fishery, and increase the harvest of coho salmon and later-running king salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** From 1978 until 1999, the commercial fishery in the Kasilof Section on the east side was managed from June 25 until August 15 to achieve sockeye salmon escapement goals in the Kasilof River, and secondarily to achieve Kenai and Kasilof River king salmon escapements, as well as Kenai River sockeye salmon escapements. During the same time period, the Kenai and East Forelands sections were managed from July 1 until August 15 for Kenai River sockeye and king salmon escapement goals. Because of a petition filed prior to the 2000 field season, coho salmon management was altered. These changes included a shortened season, reallocation of fish to inriver users, restrictions on additional commercial fishing time and areas, and institution of mandatory closed windows. In 2008, the board extended the set gillnet fishing season on the east side of Cook Inlet from August 11 to August 15 for regularly scheduled periods only, unless the fishery was closed when 1% of the set gillnet harvest was harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

The current 1% regulation went into effect following the 2005 Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting, prior to the 2005 season. In the previous six years (2005-2010), after the 1% rule was adopted prior to the 2005 season, the east side set gillnet fishery has been closed for the season twice: once in 2008 (except for the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area) due to the poor Kenai River sockeye salmon run, and once in 2009 because the department determined that less than 1% of the season's total sockeye salmon set gillnet harvest had been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods. Set gillnet harvests after August 15 can be found in Table 110-1.

In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, was within the goal three times, and was below the goal once.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 110-1. Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial salmon harvest after August 15, 1966–1983.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even year Pink	Odd year Pink	Chum	Total	Days Fished
1966	79	105	13,477	3,378		5	17,044	7
1967	44	63	14,082		48	8	14,245	3
1968	39	120	15,200	25,752		432	41,543	2
1969	59	118	6,546		41	17	6,781	17
1970	80	239	6,226	8,601		23	15,169	42
1971	124	125	7,583		3	81	7,916	21
1972	51	106	7,320	3,557		338	11,372	18
1973	64	100	6,860		8	53	7,085	14
1974	73	187	15,419	3,731		179	19,589	21
1975	108	195	23,130		24	101	23,558	22
1976	44	313	12,452	23,783		49	36,641	19
1977	42	129	6,238		22	211	6,642	15
1978	79	314	6,659	31,583		100	38,735	6
1983	6	1,523	71		5	3	1,608	1
<b>Average</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>10,090</b>	<b>14,341</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>17,709</b>	<b>15</b>

**PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.**

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would extend the current fishing period closure time by three hours, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Central District.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In the set gillnet fishery, salmon may be taken in the Central District from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED:** This proposal would increase regular commercial period fishing time from 24 to 30 hours per week, increasing the commercial harvest of king, sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon by an unknown amount.

**BACKGROUND:** The regular period schedule has been two 12-hour periods per week since 1970. From 1970 to 1999, regular periods were on Mondays and Fridays and from 2000 to present they have been on Mondays and Thursdays. Two periods per week has traditionally been the regular period schedule that needed the fewest emergency order adjustments during the season. Additional fishing time is often added to the regular 12-hour fishing periods so that fishermen may set and remove fishing gear during slack portions of the tide, and to allow additional fishing during the tide.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would increase commercial fishing time by one period (12 hours), by going from two periods (24 hours total) to three periods (36 hours total) per week after August 10 until closed by emergency order.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland sections close August 15 or when 1% of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31. Only regularly scheduled 12-hour Monday and Thursday commercial fishing periods are allowed from August 11 through August 15 unless the 1% rule mentioned above has closed the east side set gillnet fishery. Kenai River coho salmon stocks are managed to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the harvest of later-running sockeye salmon in the Kenai and East Forelands sections by an unknown amount and would likely increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River. Allowing additional fishing time between August 11 and August 15 would increase the harvest of later-running sockeye and pink salmon in the east side set gillnet fishery, and increase the harvest of coho salmon and later-running king salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** At statehood, the fishing schedule was often set at three to five days per week, generally in the latter half of July. Since 1971, the Upper Cook Inlet fishing schedule has consisted of two weekly fishing periods, with adjustments made by emergency order dependent on run strength.

From 1978 until 1999, the commercial fishery in the Kasilof Section on the east side was managed from June 25 until August 15 to achieve sockeye salmon escapement goals in the Kasilof River, and secondarily to achieve Kenai and Kasilof River king salmon escapements, as well as Kenai River sockeye salmon escapements. During the same time period, the Kenai and East Forelands sections were managed from July 1 until August 15 for Kenai River sockeye and king salmon escapement goals. Because of a petition filed prior to the 2000 field season, coho salmon management was altered. These changes included a shortened season, reallocation of fish to inriver users, restrictions on additional commercial fishing time and areas, and institution of mandatory closed windows. In 2008, the board extended the set gillnet fishing season on the east side of Cook Inlet from August 11 to August 15, for regularly scheduled periods only, unless the fishery was closed when 1% of the set gillnet harvest was harvested during two consecutive fishing periods after July 31. Set gillnet harvests between August 11 and 15 can be found in Table 112-1 and drift gillnet harvests after August 10 can be found in Table 112-2.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 112-1. Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial salmon harvest from August 11–15, 1980–2010.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even year	Odd year	Chum	Total	No.
				Pink	Pink			Days
1980	197	1,715	12,495	133,489		568	148,464	4
1981	46	450	1,547		31	199	2,273	1
1982	208	2,599	24,999	136,534		796	165,136	4
1983	102	4,047	2,545		43	115	6,852	2
1984	49	722	3,085	20,567		38	24,461	1
1985	136	14,175	4,896		157	486	19,850	1
1986	277	9,646	6,545	51,223		190	67,881	2
1987	101	3,866	3,360		19	43	7,389	1
1988	204	7,632	12,143	40,162		372	60,513	2
1989	118	14,473	13,642		261	386	28,880	2
1990	95	7,290	11,493	89,333		153	108,364	2
1991	42	7,885	4,994		29	674	13,624	1
1992	43	15,225	7,084	15,533		73	37,958	1
1993	25	2,390	3,033		103	70	5,621	1
1994	208	22,174	12,793	20,710		191	56,076	2
1995	201	27,377	7,585		73	324	35,560	2
1996	82	3,052	1,611	12,766		54	17,565	1
1997								
1998								
1999	90	5,670	1,263		17	4	7,044	1
2000								
2001								
2002								
2003								
2004								
2005								
2006								
2007								
2008								
2009								
2010	21	3,365	2,019	5,955		10	11,370	1
Average	118	8,092	7,217	52,627	81	250	43,415	2
Avg. (all yrs)	72	4,960	4,424	16,977	24	153	26,609	1

Note: No fisheries occurred from August 11-15 in those years without harvest estimates.



Table 112-2.—Drift gillnet commercial salmon harvest during inletwide fishing periods after August 10, 1966–1995.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even year	Odd year	Chum	Total
				Pink	Pink		
1966		1,380	321	830		1,552	4,083
1967	2		653		7		662
1968	2	424	1,417	8,065		445	10,353
1969		9	671		212	7,304	8,196
1970		227	1,061	926		6,862	9,076
1971	9	74	255		2	3,618	3,958
1972	1	42	296	969		36,073	37,381
1973		6	269		13	3,288	3,576
1974	3	19	803	1,183		4,137	6,145
1975	2	41	1,643		27	10,909	12,622
1976	1	50	1,113	8,671		8,958	18,793
1977	3	161	2,442		195	93,198	95,999
1978	15	856	4,052	40,589		14,235	59,747
1979	9	428	4,640		32	39,223	44,332
1980	10	209	4,889	9,748		679	15,535
1981	7	238	11,601		209	19,033	31,088
1982	2	2,988	37,147	23,571		66,392	130,100
1983	14	648	4,050		25	6,411	11,148
1984	6	428	6,453	5,205		34,678	46,770
1985	18	1,803	14,816		88	5,459	22,184
1986	13	4,927	12,284	26,807		16,327	60,358
1987	1	468	2,811		23	2,945	6,248
1988 <sup>a</sup>	10	4,555	12,971	24,889		7,929	50,354
1990	5	3,817	18,739	40,137		3,653	66,351
1991	7	4,622	23,833		122	15,025	43,609
1992	3	2,069	8,207	2,395		1,282	13,956
1993	1	519	2,561		64	297	3,442
1994	3	7,654	17,640	4,021		7,974	37,292
1995	3	7,011	8,695		304	9,140	25,153
Average	5	1,575	7,115	13,200	94	14,725	30,293

<sup>a</sup> There was no drift gillnetting in 1989 because of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

**PROPOSAL 113 and 114 - 5 AAC 21.3XX. New Section and 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.**

**PROPOSED BY:** A.E. Stephan.

**WHAT WOULD THESE PROPOSALS DO?** These proposals would require removal of commercial fishing gear between Friday's closure and Monday's opening hours, with no commercial fishing on Saturdays or Sundays.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In the Kasilof Section, the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section shall be managed with two regular weekly fishing periods from the beginning of the fishing season through July 7. In addition, there are 48 hours of additional fishing time per week allowed. The fishery shall remain closed for at least one continuous 36-hour period per week, to begin between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section will be managed in concert with the Kenai and East Forelands sections. At run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, the department shall fish regular weekly fishing periods and allow additional fishing of no more than 24 hours per week. At this run strength, there are no mandatory commercial window closures. At run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall allow additional fishing of no more than 51 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for an additional 24-hour period during the same week. At run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar project and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THESE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** These proposals would reduce the amount of available fishing time and restrict commercial fishing to Mondays through Thursdays only. Significant passage rates of sockeye salmon may happen at any time, and reducing the flexibility of management could lead to escapements above sustainable and biological escapement goals. Exceeding these goals would likely lead to reduced future production. Although inriver harvests would increase for a few years, reduced production would likely lead to reduced fishing opportunities for all users in the future.

**BACKGROUND:** The first restrictions on additional time in the Upper Subdistrict were put in place in 1999. At that time, there was a mandatory 24-hour closed period on Fridays, often called a "window". In addition, there was a second 24-hour window if the inriver king salmon sport fishery was restricted. In 1996, a limit on additional fishing time of no more than one single extra period per week was put in place in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in the *Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. Also in 1996, restrictions were implemented in the Northern District set gillnet fishery: additional time, other than regular periods, was prohibited after August 15, and two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. A third regular drift gillnet period after July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections.

In 2002, additional fishing time in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery was limited to either 36, 48, or 60 hours of additional time per week and a mandatory closed period of 24, 36, or 48 hours depending on run strength was implemented. For runs of less than two million sockeye salmon, the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between two and four million sockeye salmon, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 36 hours per week and there is a mandatory closed period of 48 hours per week. For runs of over four million sockeye salmon, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 60 hours per week and a mandatory closed period of 36 hours per week. Substantial changes (outlined above) were again adopted at the 2005 board meeting.

In 2008, two significant changes were made. In the Kasilof Section, the mandatory closed window was reduced from 48 hours to 36 hours. However, the window was fixed in time to begin between 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays and 7:00 a.m. on Fridays. The board also clarified that managing to meet established escapement goals is the department's primary objective.

In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, been within the goal three times, and below the goal once. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded nine of 10 years, while the optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded seven times and within the goal three times, including 2009 and 2010.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on these allocative proposals. However, these proposals may require the department to deviate from the management plan by emergency order to achieve established escapement goals as directed under 5 AAC 21.363(e).

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

**PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would disallow the use of monofilament mesh web in Upper Cook Inlet.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In the Cook Inlet Area, fishermen may use monofilament mesh web in a drift gillnet or in a set gillnet.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would return legal gear to multifilament gear only. It is unclear what the differences in harvest between multifilament and monofilament have been since monofilament was allowed beginning in 2005.

**BACKGROUND:** Monofilament gillnets are used to harvest salmon in Puget Sound, the Columbia River, and California. Neither Alaska nor British Columbia allow monofilament gillnets to be used to harvest salmon, except for this area in Cook Inlet. Monofilament web is also used in the Alaska herring gillnet fisheries. There were several discussion topics when the first proposal was discussed at the 2005 board meeting. The cost of monofilament is approximately 30–40% cheaper than currently-legal multifilament web. As far as catch efficiency, a study completed in Southeast Alaska by the department showed there was a general increase in catch efficiency for pink salmon associated with a decrease in the number of filaments. It also showed that six strand and monofilament web increased the harvest of chum and coho salmon taken in clear water, but not in turbid water. Finally, no significant differences were found for sockeye salmon. Opinions of gillnet suppliers in 2005 were that the difference in efficiency between monofilament and the current legal multifilament would be relatively insignificant.

Two other concerns have been raised by fishermen in regards to “dropouts” and biodegradability. Dropouts are salmon that escape, either alive or dead, from gillnets after having been entangled. It was the personal views of the gear suppliers that monofilament gear can be expected to have a higher dropout rate, especially in rough weather, than multifilament gear. No studies could be found comparing the rate of dropout from monofilament gillnet web compared to the current Alaska legal multifilament web. As to biodegradability, multifilament nets used in Alaska are manufactured with the same material as used in monofilament nets, and the rate of decay of monofilament nets is not significantly different.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Fishermen who have invested in monofilament gillnets may have to purchase multifilament gillnets.

## **PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require set gillnet fishermen in the Kenai area to replace their 45-mesh nets with shallower 29-mesh nets, reducing net depth by 35%, or eight feet.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** A set gillnet may not be more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth, with a maximum mesh size of six inches.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reduce the harvest of sockeye and king salmon by an unknown amount. This proposal would also reallocate fish from the outer nets to the nets closer to shore. Lowered catch rates because of shallower nets may lead to significant passage rates of sockeye salmon, reduce the ability to manage large pulses of salmon, and could lead to escapements above sustainable and biological escapement goals. Although inriver harvests may increase for a few years, reduced production would likely lead to reduced fishing opportunities for all users in the future.

**BACKGROUND:** The current depth restriction of 45 meshes has been in effect since at least statehood. The department has attempted to study the effects of net depth on catch by species. A preliminary study to look into vertical distribution of the catch by species was conducted in 1996. The report generated from this study concludes “Results from this study were to provide the basis for recommending and designing future studies. It was not designed to directly suggest potential management or regulatory actions.” The main limitation of this study is the way the catch was recorded into either the upper two-thirds or the lower one-third of the net. Had the study recorded which one-third or smaller increment of the net each fish was caught in, it would likely have resulted in a conclusion that both the lower and upper one-thirds of the net catch fewer fish and that most fish are caught near the middle, both vertically and horizontally. This would have occurred no matter how many meshes were used due to the net bending (bagging) with the current. The difference in harvest rates between sockeye and king salmon caught in the lower one-third was 25% for sockeye and 36% for king salmon. The range, however, was from 11% to 52% for sockeye salmon, and from 7% to 65% for king salmon. Another limitation of the study was that roughly 80% of the “sets” did not capture a king salmon; applying the average could have the opposite effect from what is desired. Finally, all study sets were restricted to approximately four to five miles on either side of the Kenai River. The Kasilof Section may have vastly different results from a restriction of this nature. Due to that study’s high level of measurement error, limited sampling, low number of king salmon observed, limited area of study, and use of voluntary sites, there is a high level of uncertainty in the outcome of setting a maximum depth at 29 meshes, especially outside the study area.

In the previous 10 years (2001-2010), the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, within the goal three times, and below the goal once. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded nine of 10 years, while the optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded seven times and within the goal three times, including 2009 and 2010 (Table 116-1).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, this proposal may require the department to deviate from the management plan by emergency order to achieve established escapement goals as directed under 5 AAC 21.363(e).

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Resources would have to be spent on either changing current nets or purchasing new nets.

Table 116-1. Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial harvest of king and sockeye salmon, and Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapements, 1988–2010.

Year	Commercial Harvest <sup>a</sup>		Kenai River Sockeye		Kasilof River Sockeye <sup>b</sup>	
	Sockeye	King	Inriver Goal	Passage	Goal	Passage
1988	2,428,385	12,859	400,000-700,000	1,021,469	150,000-250,000	204,000
1989 <sup>c</sup>	4,543,492	10,914	400,000-700,000	1,599,959	150,000-250,000	158,206
1990	1,117,581	4,139	400,000-700,000	659,520	150,000-250,000	144,289
1991	844,156	4,893	400,000-700,000	647,597	150,000-250,000	238,269
1992	2,838,076	10,718	400,000-700,000	994,798	150,000-250,000	184,178
1993	1,941,783	14,079	400,000-700,000	813,617	150,000-250,000	149,939
1994	1,458,162	15,575	400,000-700,000	1,003,446	150,000-250,000	205,117
1995	961,216	12,068	450,000-700,000	630,447	150,000-250,000	204,935
1996	1,483,008	11,564	550,000-800,000	797,847	150,000-250,000	249,944
1997	1,832,824	11,325	550,000-825,000	1,064,818	150,000-250,000	266,025
1998	512,225	5,087	550,000-850,000	767,558	150,000-250,000	273,213
1999	1,092,946	9,463	750,000-950,000	803,379	150,000-250,000	312,587
2000	529,747	3,684	600,000-850,000	624,578	150,000-250,000	256,053
2001	870,019	6,009	600,000-850,000	650,036	150,000-250,000	307,570
2002	1,303,158	9,478	750,000-950,000	957,924	150,000-250,000	226,682
2003	1,746,841	14,810	750,000-950,000	1,181,309	150,000-250,000	359,633
2004	2,235,810	21,693	850,000-1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000-250,000	577,581
2005	2,533,841	22,101	850,000-1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000-250,000	348,012
2006	1,301,275	9,956	750,000-950,000	1,499,692	150,000-250,000	368,092
2007	1,353,407	12,292	750,000-950,000	867,572	150,000-250,000	336,866
2008	1,303,236	7,573	650,000-850,000	614,946	150,000-250,000	301,469
2009	905,853	5,588	650,000-850,000	745,170	150,000-250,000	297,125
2010	1,085,789	7,059	750,000-950,000	970,662	150,000-250,000	267,013
1988–2010 Avg. <sup>a,b</sup>	1,439,970	10,562		942,556		271,165
2001–2010 Avg. <sup>b</sup>	1,463,923	11,656		1,024,974		339,004
2006–2010 Avg. <sup>b</sup>	1,189,912	8,494		939,608		314,113

<sup>a</sup> Harvest data prior to 2010 reflect minor adjustments to the historical catch database.

<sup>b</sup> An optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 was set in 2001.

<sup>c</sup> 1989 not used in average because the drift fleet did not fish due to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, affecting other fisheries.

**PROPOSALS 117, 118, and 324 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Deiman (Proposal 117).  
South K-Beach Independent Fishermen (Proposal 118).  
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (Proposal 324).

**WHAT WOULD THESE PROPOSALS DO?** These proposals would allow an individual who owns two Cook Inlet set gillnet permits to operate up to two legal units of set gillnet gear, with no more than 210 fathoms of set gillnet gear in the aggregate, and with the provision that no single set gillnet may be more than 35 fathoms in length. Both of the permit holders' five-digit CFEC permit serial numbers, followed by the letter "D" to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet, must be located on the identification buoy required by 5 AAC 39.280.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations allow the ownership of more than one set gillnet permit in the same area and fishery, but they cannot be fished concurrently. A set gillnet permit may be operated by an individual who has no more than 105 fathoms of gear and four setnets, except that on Fire Island, a person may operate more than four set gillnets, but the aggregate length of the nets may not exceed 105 fathoms.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THESE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** It is not known what the effect these proposal would have. The overall effect would depend on how many permit holders took advantage of the proposed regulation. The increase in gear used may increase the commercial harvest of salmon by an unknown amount. Any change in the harvest would also depend on run strength and management actions.

**BACKGROUND:** Since 1974, when limited entry went into effect, a single permit per person was all that was allowed. Currently there are 742 set gillnet permits in Cook Inlet, of which approximately 15 are fished in Lower Cook Inlet. Past practice in the set gillnet fishery has been to have several permits fished by a family group, with permits owned by children or other relatives; all permits are generally fished as a unit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on these proposals.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of these proposals may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Additional gear may be necessary for those harvesters who acquire two permits, but only have gear to fish one permit.



**PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow an individual who owns two Cook Inlet drift gillnet permits to operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a single vessel.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations allow the ownership of more than one drift gillnet permit in the same area and fishery, but they cannot be fished concurrently. Two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, except in specified areas.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, it is not known what the effect this proposal would have. The overall effect would depend on how many permit holders took advantage of the regulation. The increase in gear used may increase the commercial harvest of salmon by an unknown amount. Any change in the harvest would also depend on run strength and management actions.

**BACKGROUND:** Legal gear for drifting has been 150 fathoms per permit since this gear type was introduced into Cook Inlet. A regulation was passed in 2008 that allowed two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders to fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, except in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict, Kenai Section, Kasilof Section, or the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. Joint ventures under this regulation must register with the department and the vessel must be specifically marked ("D") when fishing dual permits. A vessel with two registered CFEC permit holders and 200 fathoms of gear on board may transit through any area where the legal limit of gillnet gear is less than 200 fathoms if no portion of the gear is deployed into the water. When fishing on a vessel with two registered CFEC permit holders on board in areas where the operation of gear is restricted to less than 200 fathoms of gillnet, the gillnet in excess of the legal limit must be removed from the reel and securely bagged or sacked. Table 119-1 describes the drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest and catch rates from non-D-boats vs. D-boats, 2010.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Additional gear may be necessary for those harvesters who acquire two permits, but only have gear to fish one permit.

Table 119-1. Drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest and catch rates from non-D-boats vs. D-boats, 2010.

Date	NON-D BOATS			D BOATS			D BOAT CPUE
	Harvest	Permits	CPUE	Harvest	Permits	CPUE	Difference
6/21	2,891	63	46	319	6	53	16%
6/24	4,548	79	58	904	11	82	43%
6/28	10,446	143	73	1,930	18	107	47%
7/1	35,384	194	182	8,787	28	314	72%
7/5	91,978	235	391	18,785	37	508	30%
7/8	196,002	264	742	47,889	40	1,197	61%
7/12	292,168	231	1,265	41,135	22	1,870	48%
7/15	196,264	261	752	50,709	41	1,237	64%
7/19	151,490	331	458	29,620	37	801	75%
7/22	105,783	296	357	18,873	37	510	43%
7/26	76,580	274	279	13,055	37	353	26%
7/29	64,635	264	245	11,583	34	341	39%
8/2	21,799	186	117	2,986	16	187	59%
8/5	11,081	158	70	2,306	21	110	57%
8/9	574	22	26	274	9	30	17%
Totals	1,261,623	3,001	420	249,155	394	632	50%

**PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow a single vessel with two permit holders on board to fish with up to four shackles of gear (200 fathoms) to fish in all areas of Cook Inlet, except the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area or Chinitna Bay.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, except in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict, Kenai Section, Kasilof Section, or the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. Joint ventures under this regulation must register with the department. The vessel must be specifically marked when fishing dual permits. A vessel with two registered CFEC permit holders and 200 fathoms of gear on board may transit through any area where the legal limit of gillnet gear is less than 200 fathoms if no portion of the gear is deployed into the water. When fishing on a vessel with two registered CFEC permit holders on board in areas where the operation of gear is restricted to less than 200 fathoms of gillnet, the gillnet in excess of the legal limit must be removed from the reel and securely bagged or sacked.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** It is not known what the effect of this proposal would be. The overall effect would depend on how many permit holders took advantage of the proposed regulation. The increase in gear used in the Kasilof and Kenai sections may increase the commercial harvest of salmon in that area by an unknown amount.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2008, regulations were adopted so that two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear. However, stacking of permits is not allowed in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict, Kenai Section, Kasilof Section, or the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.** *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 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:** Bruce Knowles.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Although not clear, it is presumed that this proposal would prohibit commercial set gillnetting from fishing within five miles of the Theodore, Chuitna, and Lewis rivers. If that is the intent, the proposed solution would not accomplish the goal of closing commercial fisheries within a five-mile radius of the Theodore, Chuitna, and Lewis rivers since a commercial fishing vessel is not a requirement for commercial set gillnetting in these areas.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Closed waters in the Northern District are defined as within one statute mile of the terminus of Swanson River, Bishop Creek, Three-mile Creek, Chuit River, Nikolai Creek, and McArthur River. All other salmon streams have a 500-yard closure from any portion of the stream at any stage of the tide.

The Northern District commercial king salmon fishery is open for set gillnets only beginning on the first Monday on or after May 25 and continues through June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and the harvest may not exceed 12,500 king salmon. Set gillnets may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh size, and no set gillnet may be set or operated within 1,200 feet of another set gillnet. The area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing the second regular Monday period only.

If the Theodore, Lewis, or Ivan rivers are closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Chuitna River is closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River is closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District is closed for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would close the majority of commercial fishing for king and sockeye salmon on the west side of Cook Inlet in that area from five miles south of the Chuitna River to the mouth of the Susitna River. Drift fishing in this area is not allowed; therefore, there would be no effect on that fishery. The commercial harvest may be reduced by roughly half of the 2,300 average total harvest. Pertaining to the named stocks to be a stock of concern, the department has already recommended these stocks be designated as stocks of management concern.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted in 1986 and has been changed at various board meetings. Prior to 2005, six-hour fishing periods were allowed on Mondays between May 25 and June 24. At the 2005 board meeting, the

number of commercial fishing periods was reduced from four or five, to three per year, but the hours per period were increased from six to 12. At the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting, the Northern District commercial king salmon openings were extended from three openings to four or five per season, depending on the year. The harvest cap of 12,500 has not been achieved since 1986; current harvests average fewer than 3,000 fish. Recent downturns in production are similar to those experienced in the early 1990s.

Prior to the 2009 season, the board reduced the first two commercial fishing periods from 12 hours to six hours, and during the season the department closed the last two commercial periods on June 15 and June 22. In 2010, commercial king salmon fishing was closed for the season in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River for all of the fishing periods scheduled for the 2010 king salmon fishing season. For the remainder of the Northern District, the June 14 period in 2010 was reduced from 12 hours to six hours. Sport fishermen were not allowed to use bait in the Deshka River from June 14 to June 19.

The previous 10-year (2001–2010) average harvest of the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery is 2,300 (Table 121-1 and Figure 121-1). The average harvest of king salmon sport fisheries in the Northern District is approximately 33,600 king salmon. In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Deshka River weir goal has been exceeded six times, was within the goal twice, and below the goal twice. Since 2001, of the aerial survey goals on the west side streams combined (Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna), three were above the goal, 13, were within the goal, and 14 were below the escapement goal (Figure 121-2).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 121-1 Northern District set gillnet commercial harvest during the directed king salmon fishery, 1986–2010.

Year	King	Permits
1986	13,771	135
1987	11,541	129
1988	11,122	142
1989	11,068	137
1990	8,072	130
1991	6,305	140
1992	3,918	137
1993	3,072	80
1994	3,014	73
1995	3,837	65
1996	1,690	45
1997	894	51
1998	2,240	56
1999	2,259	51
2000	2,046	47
2001	1,616	43
2002	1,747	36
2003	1,172	29
2004	1,819	44
2005	3,150	52
2006	3,887	59
2007	3,132	62
2008	3,855	74
2009	1,266	55
2010	1,674	51
5 yr. Avg. (2006–2010)	2,763	60
10 yr. Avg. (2001–2010)	2,332	51
Historical Avg.	4,327	77

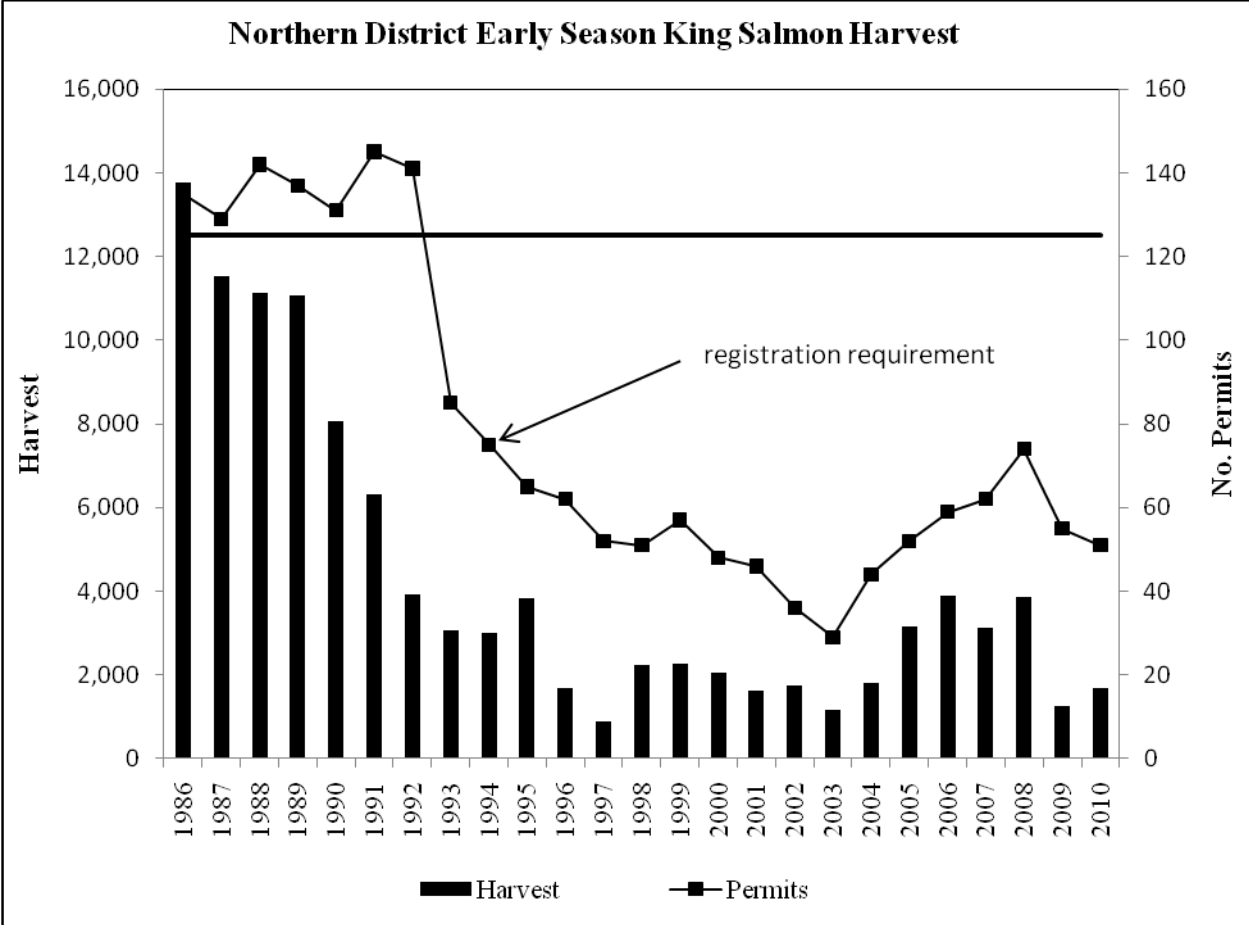


Figure 121-1. Commercial king salmon harvest and number of permits participating during the Northern District directed king salmon fishery.

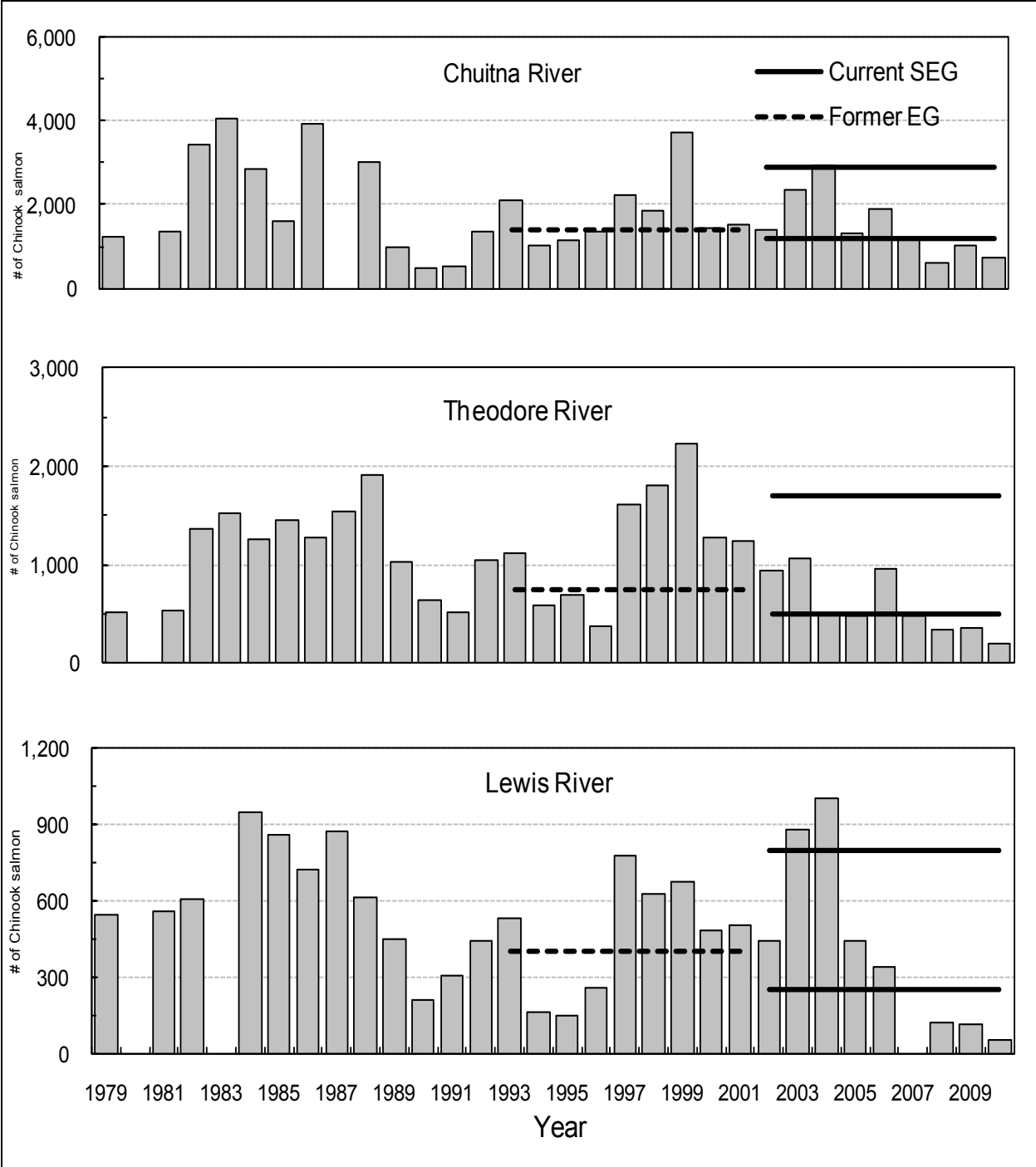


Figure 121-2. West Cook Inlet king salmon escapement index counts, 1979–2010.



**COMMITTEE B – DRIFT AND NORTHERN DISTRICT SALMON MANAGEMENT  
PLANS, COMMERCIAL FISHING (23 PROPOSALS)**

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**COMMITTEE B: Upper Cook Inlet drift, pink salmon, and Northern District (total proposals: 23)**

*Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan – 6*

Pink Salmon – 2

*Northern District Salmon Management Plan – 11*

Northern District King Salmon Management – 4

**PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 21.353(a)(2)(B)(i-iii). Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Board of Fisheries.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would close statistical area 245-70 to drift gillnet fishing during districtwide drift gillnet periods.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Drift gillnet fishing begins on the third Monday in June or June 19. Fishing periods are Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. From July 9 through July 15, the two regular fishing periods are restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1 (Figure 122-1). At run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Kenai and Kasilof sections (Figure 122-2) of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1 may be allowed. From July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1. At run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and drift gillnet areas 1 and 2. At run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there are no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods. From August 11 through August 15, there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular periods, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed because of the 1% rule, regular fishing periods will be restricted to drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 (Figure 122-3). From August 16 until closed by emergency order, drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would close the upper northwest statistical area in the Central District. Closing this area may reduce the harvest of northern-bound salmon and other unknown salmon stocks by an unknown amount. The harvest reduction would be dependent on migration timing and migratory patterns of salmon in that area. Statistical area 245-70 (Figure 122-4) is not defined in regulation and would need to be in order to enforce this closure.

**BACKGROUND:** In July 2008, Kenai River Sportfishing Association wrote a letter to the department concerning clarification of inseason conservation corridor closures for Northern District stocks because of actions taken at the 2005 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting. In 2005, the board used a matrix from RC 140 to work through the *Upper Cook Inlet Drift Gillnet Management Plan*. That matrix detailed several options for the board to choose from in its deliberations. One of the options to choose from was to close 245-70 for two of the periods

between July 16 to July 31 (originally to August 10) and one to close 245-70 for all the regular periods from July 16 to August 10. The department, in concert with the Department of Law, conducted a substantial review, evaluating pertinent documents and reviewing board recordings concerning the issues raised in the letter.

After reviewing the regulation, recordings, and documentation from the 2005 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting, as well as materials considered by the board in 2008, it was determined that the interpretation (from the 2005 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting) previously adopted by the department was the only reasonable interpretation of the board's action since the board's action pertaining to drift gillnet areas 1 and 2 would have little, if any, meaning if the intent was to exclude statistical area 245-70 from areawide openings rather than just from area 1 and 2 openings. The two restrictions between July 16 and July 31 in the regulatory language came directly from the pre-2005 regulations, when the drift fishing regulations were under the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. The department did agree that the regulatory language was misleading, and under a standing delegation of authority from the board, the department filed a technical correction to more clearly reflect the board's intent that only two openings during the July 16–31 time period will normally be restricted.

Although the root of the perceived conflict arose from the board's action on Proposal 144 during the 2005 UCI board meeting, additional supporting documents were also found in the record of the 2008 UCI board meeting. In the board's action on Proposal 83 at the 2008 UCI board meeting, the board took up and adopted RC 187, which set out the full text of 5 AAC 21.353 and made several amendments to it. During the course of the proposal deliberations, despite the focus primarily on coho salmon, there were discussions of impacts on sockeye salmon harvests and that the board was clearly on notice as to how the regulation had been interpreted and implemented. The board's adoption of this proposal without changing the regulatory language relating to the July 16–31 restrictions indicates that the board agreed with the regulatory language reflecting the decisions made at the 2005 meeting.

It was determined by the Department of Law that commercial fisheries management has properly followed regulations, and that allowing commercial drift gillnet fishing districtwide in all but two drift fishing periods between July 16 and July 31 is not contrary to prior board action.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. This proposal may require the department to deviate from the management plan by emergency order to achieve established escapement goals as directed under 5 AAC 21.363(e).

**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 122-1. Management actions in the Central District drift fishery to conserve Susitna sockeye salmon, 1992–2010.

Year	EO	Action	Date
1990	5	Closed	13-Jul
	10	Restrict to S. of south end of Kalgin Island	23-Jul
1991	5	Restricted to full corridor	12-Jul
1992	13	Restricted to 8 mile corridor	24-Jul
	16	Restricted to 8 mile corridor	27-Jul
1993	3	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	9-Jul
	6	Restrict drifting to S. of Clam Gulch Tower	16-Jul
	12	Restricted to S. of north tip of Kalgin Island	23-Jul
1994	3	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	11-Jul
	7	Restrict drift to S. of south tip of Kalgin Island	18-Aug
	11	Closed	22-Jul
1995	4	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	14-Jul
	8	Restricted drifting S. of Kalgin Island	24-Jul
1996	7	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	12-Jul
	13	Restricted drifting to S. of 60 <sup>0</sup> 17'	22-Jul
1997	9	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	11-Jul
	13	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	18-Jul
	16	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	21-Jul
1998	7	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	13-Jul
	10	Closed	20-Jul
	14	Closed	27-Jul
	15	Closed	31-Jul
1999	6	Closed	12-Jul
	12	Closed	22-Jul
	18	Restricted N. of north end of Kalgin	29-Jul
2000	5	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	10-Jul
	7	Restricted drifting to S. of south end of Kalgin	13-Jul
2001	10	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	9-Jul
	16	Closed	23-Jul
	19	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	26-Jul
2002	10	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	11-Jul
	14	Drifting restricted to S. of Colliers	22-Jul
	16	Restrict drifting to Area 1	25-Jul
	20	Restrict drifting to Area 1	29-Jul
2003	8	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	10-Jul
	10	Restricted drifting to S. of Blanchard line	14-Jul
	21	Restrict drifting to Areas 1 and 2	24-Jul
	24	Restrict drifting to Areas 1 and 2	28-Jul

continued

Table 122-1. Page 2 of 2.

Year	EO	Action	Date
2004	15	Restrict drifting to S. of Kalgin Buoy	12-Jul
	18	Restrict drifting to Area 1	15-Jul
	24	Restrict drifting to Area 1	21-Jul
	36	Drifting restricted to S. of line from Colliers to Kalgin Island	26-Jul
	41	Drifting restricted to S. of line from Colliers to Kalgin Island	29-Jul
2005	?	Restrict drifting to Area 1	?
	29	Restrict drifting to Areas 1 and 2	18-Jul
	33	Restrict drifting to S. of Kalgin buoy	20-Jul
	38	Restrict drifting to S. of Blanchard Line	25-Jul
	43	Restrict drifting to S. of line from Colliers to Kalgin Island	28-Jul
2006	9	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	10-Jul
	12	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	13-Jul
	16	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	17-Jul
	20	Closed	20-Jul
	27	Closed	24-Jul
	28	Closed	27-Jul
	31	Restricted drifting to south of Blanchard Line and Ken/Kas section	31-Jul
	34	Restricted to S. of NW point on Kalgin Island and Ken/Kas section	2-Aug
2007	na	Restrict drifting to Area 1	7/9 & 7/12
	9	Restrict drifting to Area 1	16-Jul
	12	Restrict drifting to Area 1	19-Jul
	17	Restrict drifting south of Blanchard	23-Jul
	20	Restrict drifting south of Blanchard	26-Jul
	25	Restrict drifting south of N. Kalgin	30-Jul
	29	Restrict drifting south of Colliers dock to Kalgin	2-Aug
	34	Restrict drifting south of Colliers dock to Kalgin	6-Aug
2008	12	Restricted drifting to Kenai and Kasilof sections	10-Jul
	16	Restrict drifting to Area 1	14-Jul
	21	Restrict drifting to Areas 1 and 2	17-Jul
	27	Restrict drifting to Areas 1 and 2	21-Jul
	35	Closed	28-Jul
	40	Closed	31-Jul
	46	Restricted to western half of Central District	4-Aug
	52	Restricted to western half of Central District	7-Aug
	54	Restricted to western half of Central District	11-Aug
55	Restricted to western half of Central District	14-Aug	
2009	na	Restrict drifting to Area 1	9-Jul
	na	Restrict drifting to Area 1	13-Jul
	16	Restrict drifting to Areas 1 and 2	16-Jul
	20	Restrict drifting to Areas 1 and 2	20-Jul
	24	closed	27-Jul
	26	closed	30-Jul

continued

Table 122-1. Page 3 of 3.

2010	na	Restrict drifting to Area 1	12-Jul
	na	Restrict drifting to Area 1	15-Jul
	17	Restrict drifting to Area 1	19-Jul
	25	Restrict drifting to Areas 1 and 2	29-Jul

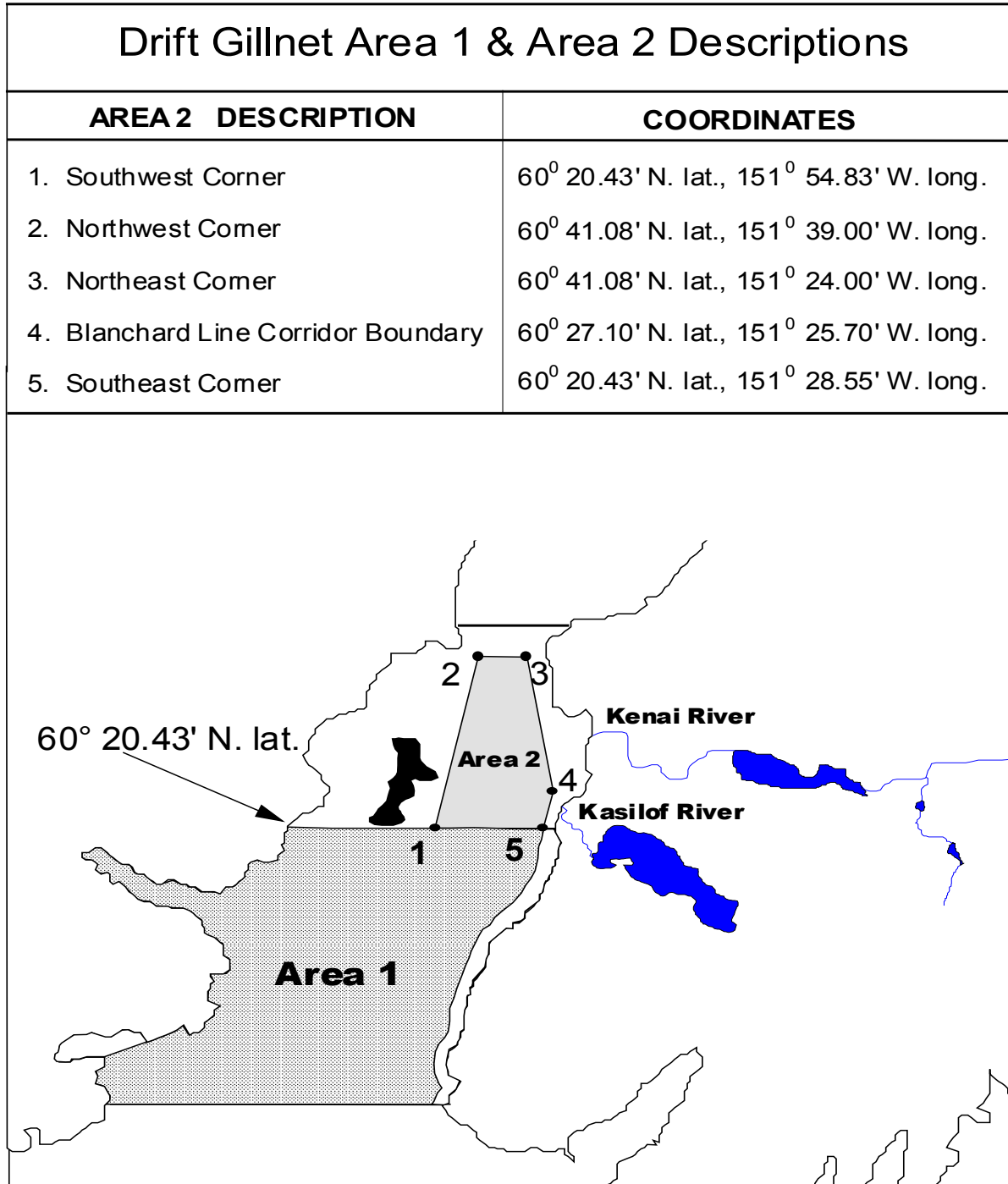


Figure 122-1. Map of drift gillnet fishing areas 1 and 2.

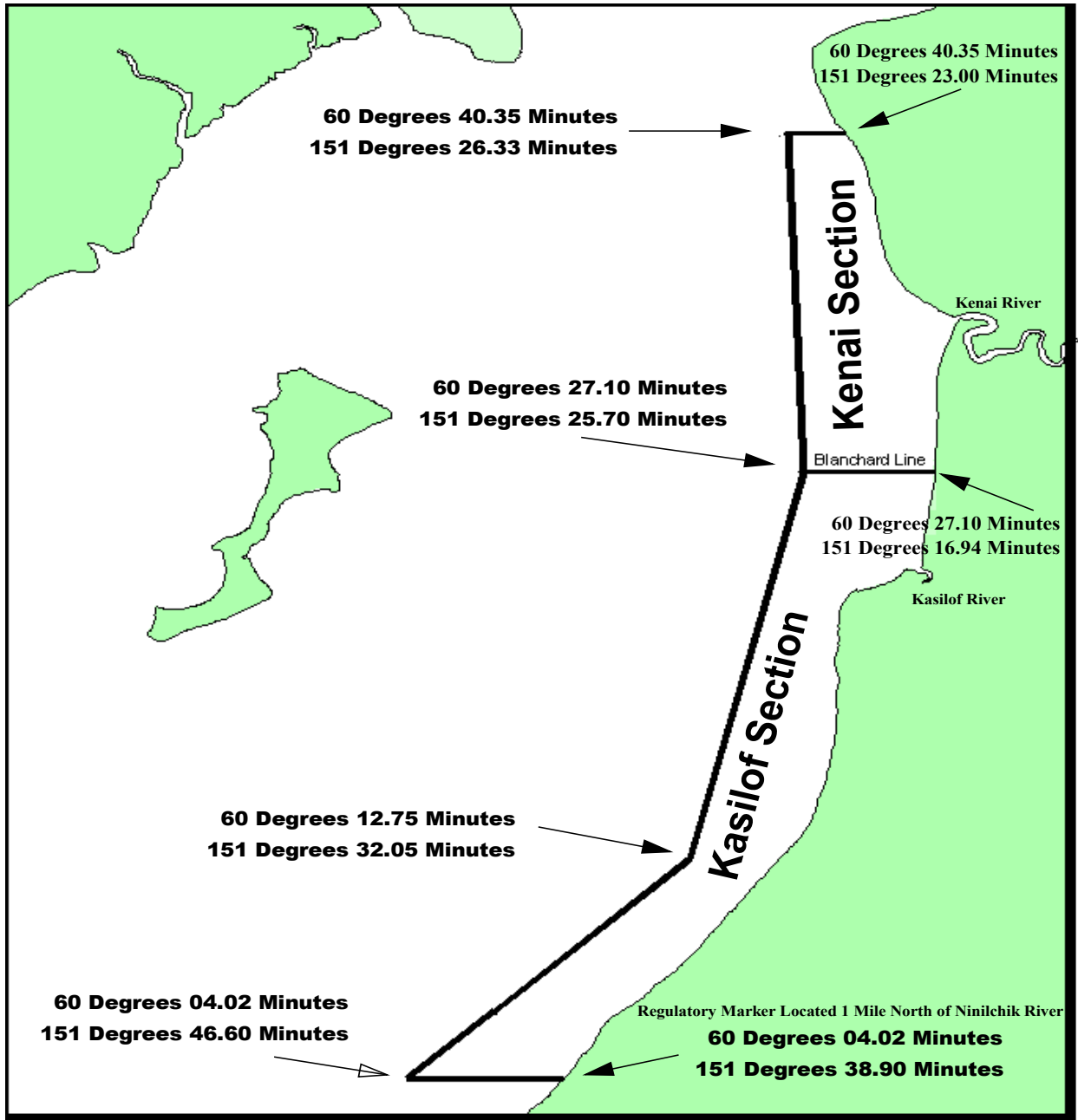


Figure 122-2. Map of the Kenai and Kasilof sections, with waypoint descriptions. Note: latitude and longitude are based on the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) which is equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84).



AREA 4 LOCATION	COORDINATES
A. Southwest Corner	59° 46.15' N. lat., 153° 00.20' W. long.
B. Northwest Corner	60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 34.74' W. long.
C. Northeast Corner (Kalgin Buoy)	60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 09.80' W. long.
D. Southeast Corner	59° 46.15' N. lat., 152° 18.62' W. long.

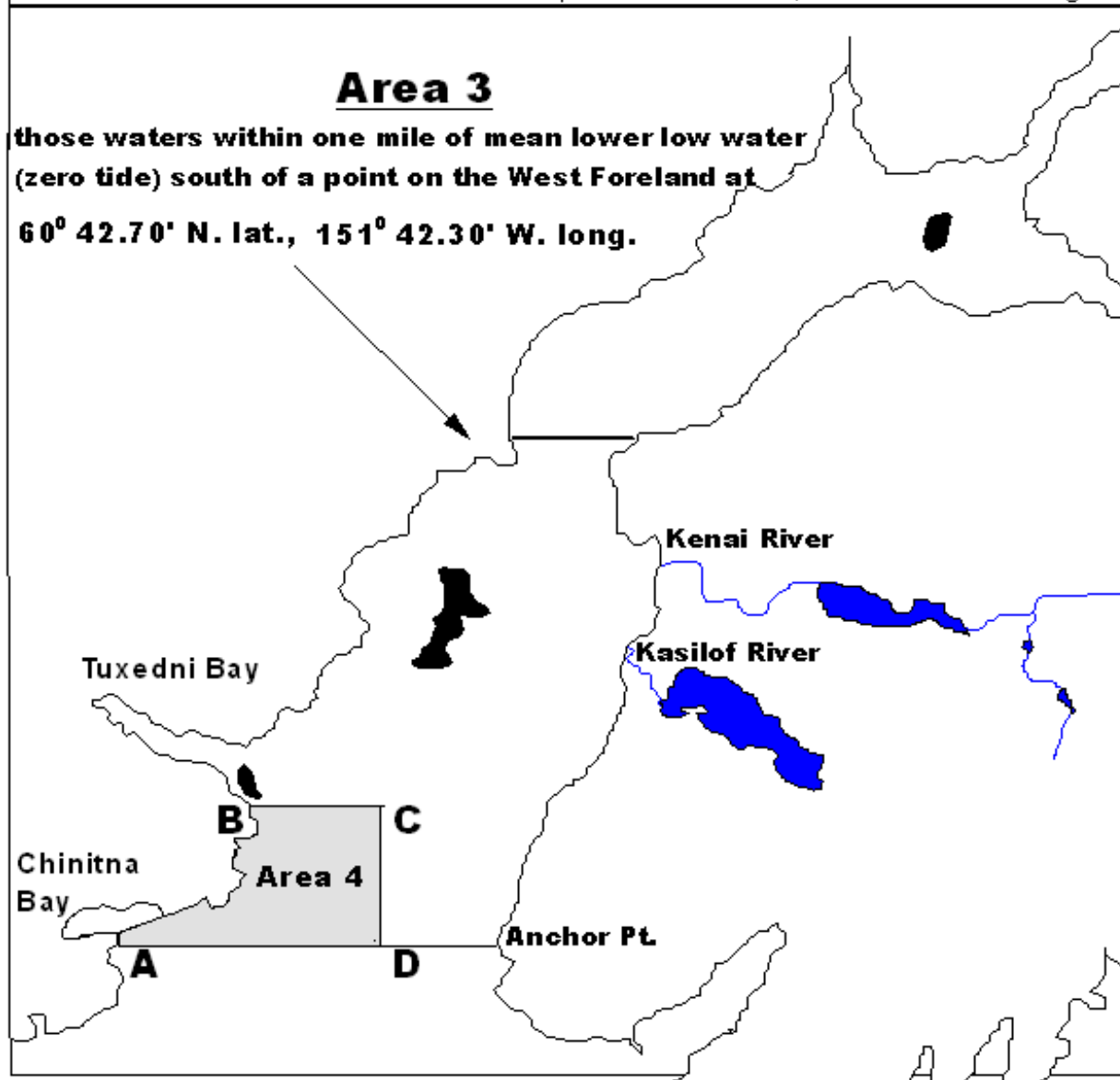


Figure 122-3. Map of the drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 that are open beginning August 16.

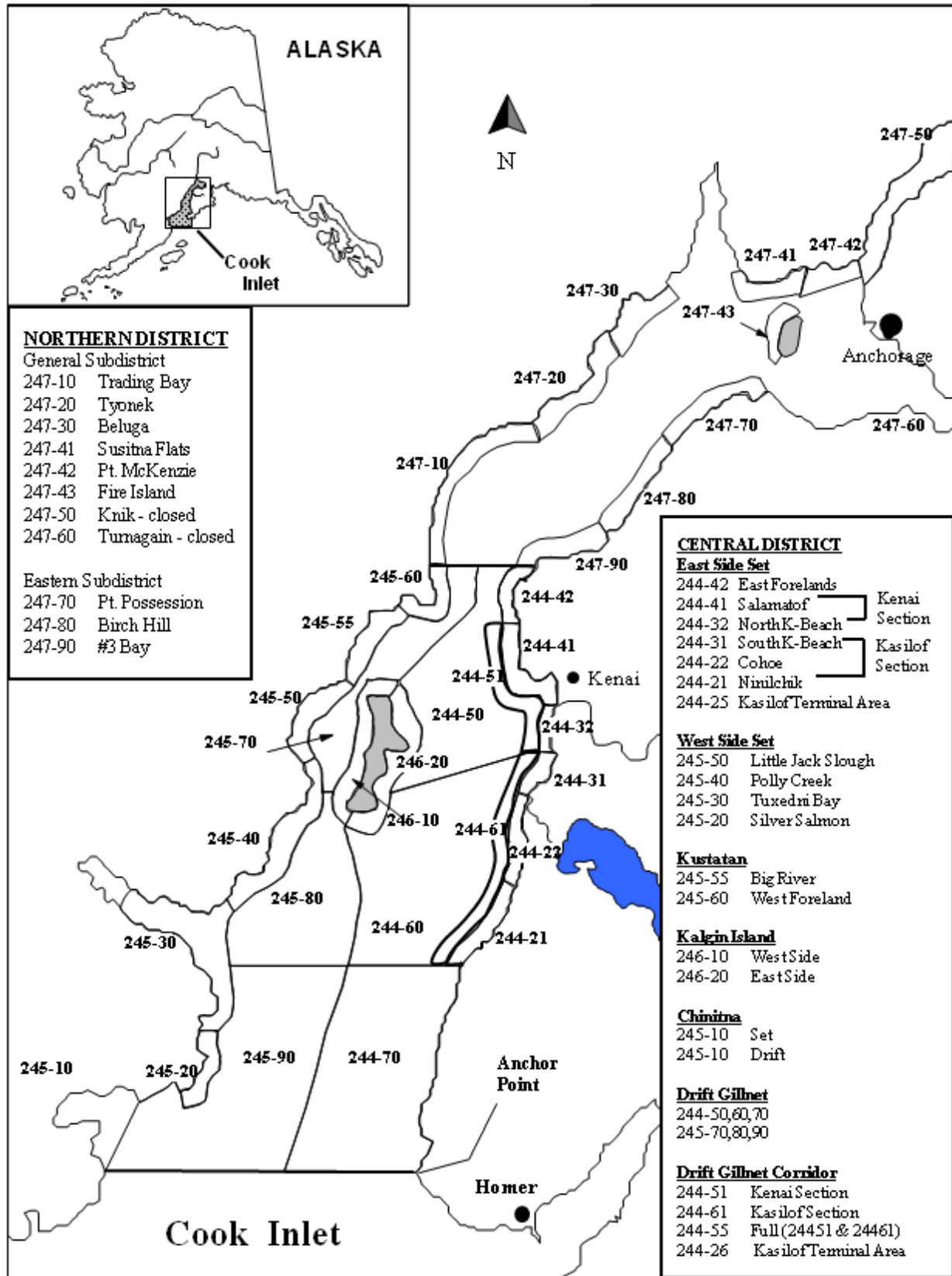


Figure 122-4. Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries statistical areas.

**PROPOSALS 123 and 124 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (Proposal 123).  
Anchorage Advisory Committee (Proposal 124).

**WHAT WOULD THESE PROPOSALS DO?** These proposals would create a new conservation corridor, which is already encompassed in Area 1, and which is to be fished concurrently. They would also close much of the Central District, specifically the upper 25 miles, to drift gillnets from July 9 to August 15. In addition, they would eliminate much of the Kasilof Section and completely eliminate the Kenai Section for drift gillnets. The proposed conservation corridor could only be fished one day per week from July 9–August 15. All additional drift gillnet time would be restricted to a much reduced Kasilof Section and Drift Gillnet Area 3 on the west side.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Drift gillnet fishing begins on the third Monday in June or June 19. Fishing periods are Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. From July 9 through July 15, the two regular fishing periods are restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1 (Figure 123-1 and 123-2). At run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1 may be allowed. From July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1. At run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and drift gillnet areas 1 and 2. At run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there are no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods. From August 11 through August 15, there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular periods, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed because of the one percent rule, regular fishing periods will be restricted to drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 (Figure 123-3). From August 16 until closed by emergency order, drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THESE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** These proposals would reduce the drift gillnet harvest of all stocks by an unknown, but likely significant, amount. It would also greatly limit the time and area available to commercial drift fishermen, possibly leading to sockeye salmon escapements above sustainable and biological escapement goals. Additional set gillnet fishing time would likely be necessary to attempt to achieve escapement goals in all areas of Cook Inlet, which may also result in an increased harvest of king salmon. Although inriver harvests may increase to some degree, it is unlikely enough additional set gillnet harvest would occur to harvest the available surplus which would lead to reduced future production and likely lead to reduced fishing opportunities in the future.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2005, the board established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*. In this plan, the

board provided for earlier opening dates, largely in response to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs during the past nine years (Table 123-2).

In January 2009, the department determined that the existing Yentna River sockeye salmon escapement estimates and escapement goal were inappropriate given the uncertainties associated with the sonar species allocation program. Because of the apparent declining productivity of the Susitna River sockeye salmon stock, the board designated this stock as stock of yield concern at the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting. Because of the considerable uncertainty, the previous Yentna River sockeye salmon escapement goal (90,000–160,000) was eliminated in favor of weir-based goals. Sockeye salmon escapement information for the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage were used to determine three sustainable escapement goals for these rivers, Chelatna (20,000 to 65,000), Judd (25,000 to 55,000), and Larson Lake (15,000 to 50,000) on the Susitna River mainstem. Since the new goals were implemented, escapement goals have been met four out of six times (Table 123-1).

In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, within the goal three times, and below the goal once. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 9 of 10 years, while the optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded seven times and within the goal three times, including 2009 and 2010.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on these allocative proposals. However, these proposals may require the department to deviate from the management plan by emergency order to achieve established escapement goals as directed under 5 AAC 21.363(e).

**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 123-1. Susitna River sockeye salmon lake weir escapement goals and escapements, 2006–2010.

Weir Data	Sustainable Esc. Goals	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Chelatna Lake	20,000-65,000	18,433	41,290	73,469	17,865	37,784
Judd Lake	25,000-55,000	40,633	58,134	54,304	43,153	18,361
Larson Lake	15,000-55,000	57,411	47,736	35,040	41,929	20,324
Weir Totals		116,477	147,160	162,813	102,947	76,469

Note: Weir goals were developed in 2009.

Table 123-2. Kenai and Kasilof Rivers sockeye salmon escapements, 1988–2010.

Year	Kenai River Sockeye		Kasilof River Sockeye <sup>a</sup>	
	Inriver Goal	Passage	Goal	Escapement
1988	400,000-700,000	1,021,469	150,000-250,000	204,000
1989 <sup>b</sup>	400,000-700,000	1,599,959	150,000-250,000	158,206
1990	400,000-700,000	659,520	150,000-250,000	144,289
1991	400,000-700,000	647,597	150,000-250,000	238,269
1992	400,000-700,000	994,798	150,000-250,000	184,178
1993	400,000-700,000	813,617	150,000-250,000	149,939
1994	400,000-700,000	1,003,446	150,000-250,000	205,117
1995	450,000-700,000	630,447	150,000-250,000	204,935
1996	550,000-800,000	797,847	150,000-250,000	249,944
1997	550,000-825,000	1,064,818	150,000-250,000	266,025
1998	550,000-850,000	767,558	150,000-250,000	273,213
1999	750,000-950,000	803,379	150,000-250,000	312,587
2000	600,000-850,000	624,578	150,000-250,000	256,053
2001	600,000-850,000	650,036	150,000-250,000	307,570
2002	750,000-950,000	957,924	150,000-250,000	226,682
2003	750,000-950,000	1,181,309	150,000-250,000	359,633
2004	850,000-1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000-250,000	577,581
2005	850,000-1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000-250,000	348,012
2006	750,000-950,000	1,499,692	150,000-250,000	368,092
2007	750,000-950,000	867,572	150,000-250,000	336,866
2008	650,000-850,000	614,946	150,000-250,000	301,469
2009	650,000-850,000	745,170	150,000-250,000	297,125
2010	750,000-950,000	970,662	150,000-250,000	267,013
1988-2010 Avg.		942,556		271,165
2001-2010 Avg.		1,024,974		339,004
2006-2010 Avg.		939,608		314,113

<sup>a</sup> An optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 was set in 2001.

<sup>b</sup> 1989 not used in average as the drift fleet did not fish due to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, affecting other fisheries.

Table 123-3. Drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest during July 9–15 regular periods.

Date	2000			2001			2002			2003			
	Day	Daily	Area	Day	Daily	Area	Day	Daily	Area	Day	Daily	Area	
9-Jul				Mon	6,042	Ken/Kas							
10-Jul	Mon	8,606	Ken/Kas							Thu	135,718	Ken/Kas	
11-Jul													
12-Jul				Thu	206,005	DW							
13-Jul	Thu	229,032	Area 1										
14-Jul												S. of	
15-Jul							Mon	214,932	District wide				Blanchard
Date	2004			2005			2006			2007			
	Day	Daily	Area	Day	Daily	Area	Day	Daily	Area	Day	Daily	Area	
9-Jul										Mon	104,709	Area 1	
10-Jul							Mon	1,650	Ken/Kas				
11-Jul				Mon	244,130	Area 1							
12-Jul	Mon	222,717	S. of Kalgin Buoy							Thu	190,505	Area 1	
13-Jul							Thu	1,544	Ken/Kas				
14-Jul				Thu	176,127	Area 1							
15-Jul	Thu	273,799	S. of N. Kalgin										
Date	2008			2009			2010						
	Day	Daily	Area	Day	Daily	Area	Day	Daily	Area				
9-Jul				Thu	137,338	Area 1							
10-Jul	Thu	2,550	Ken/Kas										
11-Jul													
12-Jul							Mon	333,303	Area 1				
13-Jul				Mon	143,674	Area 1							
14-Jul	Mon	208,918	Area 1										
15-Jul							Thu	246,973	Area 1				

AVERAGE HARVEST

		(n =
Area 1	201,471	10)
Kenai/Kasilof	24,976	(n = 7)
Other	261,582	(n = 5)

## Drift Gillnet Area 1 & Area 2 Descriptions

AREA 2 DESCRIPTION	COORDINATES
1. Southwest Corner	60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 54.83' W. long.
2. Northwest Corner	60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 39.00' W. long.
3. Northeast Corner	60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 24.00' W. long.
4. Blanchard Line Corridor Boundary	60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 25.70' W. long.
5. Southeast Corner	60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 28.55' W. long.

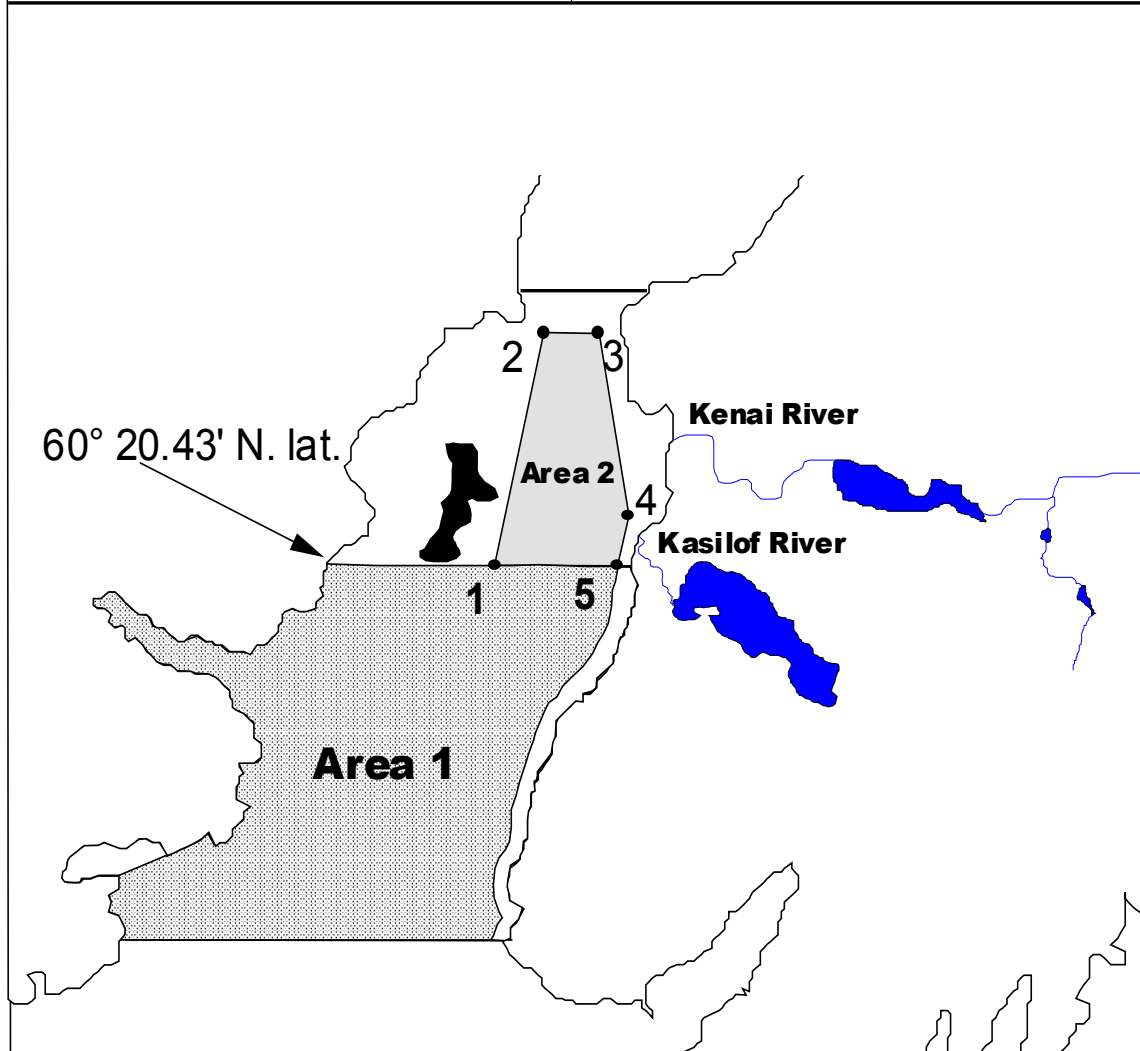


Figure 123-1. Map of drift gillnet fishing areas 1 and 2.

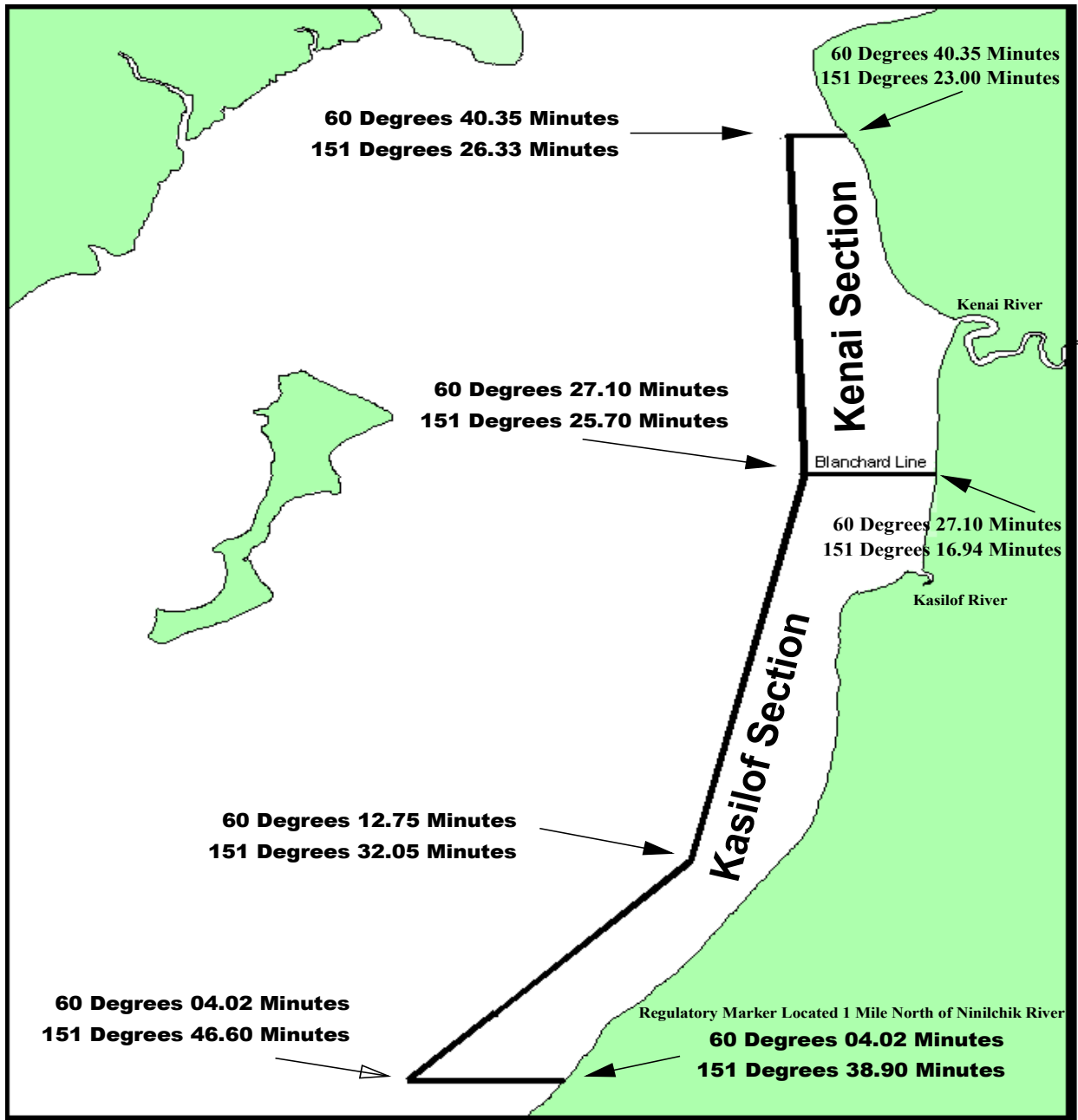


Figure 123-2. Map of the Kenai and Kasilof sections, with waypoint descriptions. Note: latitude and longitude are based on the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) which is equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84).



AREA 4 LOCATION	COORDINATES
A. Southwest Corner	59° 46.15' N. lat., 153° 00.20' W. long.
B. Northwest Corner	60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 34.74' W. long.
C. Northeast Corner (Kalgin Buoy)	60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 09.90' W. long.
D. Southeast Corner	59° 46.15' N. lat., 152° 18.62' W. long.

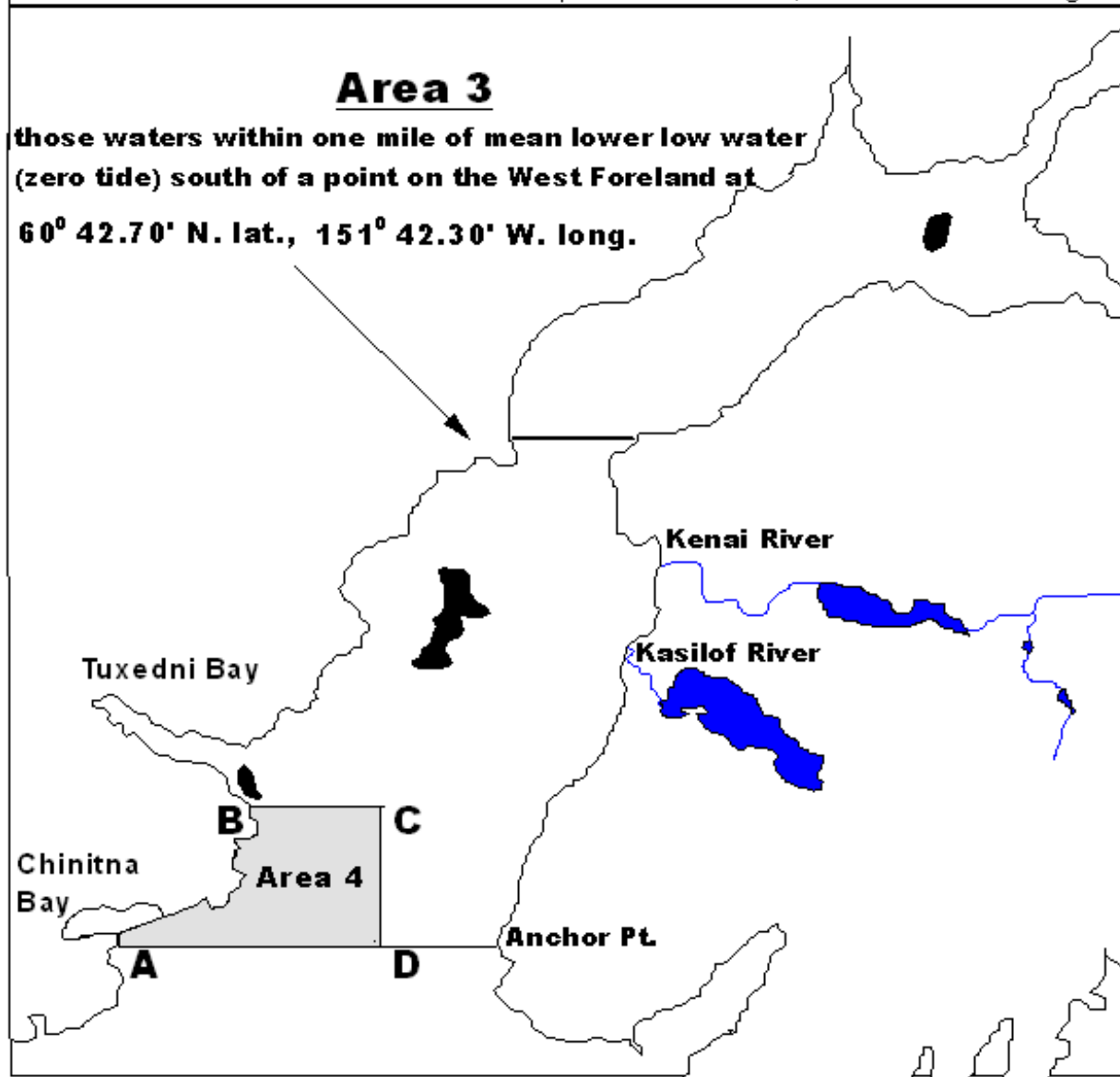


Figure 123-3. Map of the drift gillnet areas open beginning August 16.

**PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would eliminate any reference to areas 1, 2, 3, and 4, and delete all portions of the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*, except for that language describing fishing seasons and fishing periods, as well as the section stating the commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan in order to meet the established goals.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Drift gillnet fishing begins on the third Monday in June or June 19. Fishing periods are Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. From July 9 through July 15, the two regular fishing periods are restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1. At run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1 may be allowed. From July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1. At run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and drift gillnet areas 1 and 2. At run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there are no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods. From August 11 through August 15, there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular periods, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed because of the 1% rule, regular fishing periods will be restricted to drift gillnet areas 3 and 4. From August 16 until closed by emergency order, drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would eliminate all restrictions currently in regulation during the July 9–15 and July 16–31 time frames. Elimination of these restrictions would likely lead to additional harvest of all Upper Cook Inlet stocks. Drift gillnet area restrictions were initially put in place to reduce the harvest of Susitna River sockeye salmon and later to reduce the harvest of Northern District coho salmon. This proposal may lead to closures and/or restrictions by emergency order if the escapements to Larson, Chelatna and Judd lakes falter. If coho salmon runs are weak, additional emergency order restrictions may be necessary to meet escapement goals. By eliminating areas three and four after August 16, the drift fishery would be allowed to fish districtwide during regular periods, except in the area within five miles of the eastern shore. Harvests during this time frame are relatively small.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1996, two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. The first restriction to the Kenai and Kasilof sections was to occur during a regular period from July 9–15, and a second restriction was added immediately after July 25. A third drift gillnet regular period on or before July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In 2002, this was changed to two consecutive periods between July 16 and July 31, restricted to the Kenai and

Kasilof sections or under certain conditions, to a portion of the Central District below Kalgin Island. In 2005, the regular period restriction to the Kenai and Kasilof sections from July 9–15 was changed to two restrictions during the same time period to Drift Gillnet Area 1 and the Kenai and Kasilof sections. The restrictions between July 9 and July 15 were put in place because of the problem of achieving the minimum escapement goal to the Yentna River. In addition, the second two restrictions were put in place to pass coho salmon to Northern District and Knik Arm streams to achieve escapement goals.

In 2005, the board eliminated all specific references to the drift gillnet fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* and established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*. In this plan, the board provided for earlier opening dates, largely in response to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs during the past nine years.

In 2008, the *Pink Salmon Management Plan* was repealed and the drift gillnet fishery was extended for regularly scheduled fishing periods only (Monday and Thursday) from between August 11 and August 15 in areas 1 and 2. Previously, drift gillnet fishermen were restricted to areas 3 and 4 after August 10.

In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, within the goal three times, and below the goal once. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 9 of 10 years, while the optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded seven times and within the goal three times, including 2009 and 2010. Since the new sockeye salmon escapement goals were established for the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage in 2009, escapement goals have been met four out of six times (Tables 125-1 and 125-2).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 125-1. Susitna River sockeye salmon lake weir escapement goals and escapements, 2006–2010.

Weir Data	Sustainable Esc. Goals	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Chelatna	20,000-65,000	18,433	41,290	73,469	17,865	37,784
Judd	25,000-55,000	40,633	58,134	54,304	43,153	18,361
Larson	15,000-55,000	57,411	47,736	35,040	41,929	20,324
<b>Weir Totals</b>		<b>116,477</b>	<b>147,160</b>	<b>162,813</b>	<b>102,947</b>	<b>76,469</b>

Note: Weir goals were developed in 2009.

Table 125-2. Kasilof and Kenai river sockeye salmon escapements, 1988–2010.

Year	Kenai River Sockeye		Kasilof River Sockeye <sup>a</sup>	
	Inriver Goal	Passage		Escapement
1988	400,000-700,000	1,021,469	150,000-250,000	204,000
1989 <sup>b</sup>	400,000-700,000	1,599,959	150,000-250,000	158,206
1990	400,000-700,000	659,520	150,000-250,000	144,289
1991	400,000-700,000	647,597	150,000-250,000	238,269
1992	400,000-700,000	994,798	150,000-250,000	184,178
1993	400,000-700,000	813,617	150,000-250,000	149,939
1994	400,000-700,000	1,003,446	150,000-250,000	205,117
1995	450,000-700,000	630,447	150,000-250,000	204,935
1996	550,000-800,000	797,847	150,000-250,000	249,944
1997	550,000-825,000	1,064,818	150,000-250,000	266,025
1998	550,000-850,000	767,558	150,000-250,000	273,213
1999	750,000-950,000	803,379	150,000-250,000	312,587
2000	600,000-850,000	624,578	150,000-250,000	256,053
2001	600,000-850,000	650,036	150,000-250,000	307,570
2002	750,000-950,000	957,924	150,000-250,000	226,682
2003	750,000-950,000	1,181,309	150,000-250,000	359,633
2004	850,000-1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000-250,000	577,581
2005	850,000-1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000-250,000	348,012
2006	750,000-950,000	1,499,692	150,000-250,000	368,092
2007	750,000-950,000	867,572	150,000-250,000	336,866
2008	650,000-850,000	614,946	150,000-250,000	301,469
2009	650,000-850,000	745,170	150,000-250,000	297,125
2010	750,000-950,000	970,662	150,000-250,000	267,013
1988-2010 Avg.		942,556		271,165
2001-2010 Avg.		1,024,974		339,004
2006-2010 Avg.		939,608		314,113

<sup>a</sup> An optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 was set in 2001.

<sup>b</sup> 1989 not used in average as the drift fleet did not fish due to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, affecting other fisheries.

## **PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks a suite of regulatory changes in the Upper Cook Inlet drift gillnet fishery. Proposed changes include adding a purpose statement, adding additional drift gillnet area restrictions, reducing fishing periods from two to one during a portion of the season, adding unspecified fishing time to the Kenai and Kasilof sections, and closing the drift gillnet commercial fishing season in the all areas of the Central District, except in drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 one week earlier, and allowing the department to vary from the proposed changes if it is projected that escapement goals will be exceeded.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Drift gillnet fishing begins on the third Monday in June or June 19. Fishing periods are Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. From July 9 through July 15, the two regular fishing periods are restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1. At run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1 may be allowed. From July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1. At run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and drift gillnet areas 1 and 2. At run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there are no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods. From August 11 through August 15, there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular periods, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed because of the 1% percent rule, regular fishing periods will be restricted to drift gillnet areas 3 and 4. From August 16 until closed by emergency order, drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reduce drift fishing in the Upper Cook Inlet general fishing area and likely increase the number of salmon migrating to all streams and rivers. This proposal would also increase fishing time in the Kasilof and Kenai sections in order to manage for escapements into those rivers. This additional fishing pressure would increase harvest of sockeye salmon, as well as increase the harvest of king salmon bound for the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** Purpose statements found at the beginning of most Upper Cook Inlet management plans provides direction to future boards, stake holders, and the department on the long-term management objectives of the board. Purpose statements first appeared in the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan in 1981. These statements have changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

In 1996, two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. The first restriction to the Kenai and Kasilof sections was to occur during a regular period from July 9–15 and a second restriction was added immediately after July 25. A third drift gillnet regular period on or before July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In 2002, this was changed to two consecutive periods between July 16 and July 31 restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections, or under certain conditions, to a portion of the Central District below Kalgin Island. In 2005, the regular period restriction to the Kenai and Kasilof sections from July 9–15 was changed to two restrictions during the same time period to Drift Gillnet Area 1 and the Kenai and Kasilof sections. The restrictions between July 9 and July 15 were put in place because of the problem of achieving the minimum escapement goal to the Yentna River. In addition, the second two restrictions were put in place to pass coho salmon to Northern District and Knik Arm streams to achieve escapement goals.

In 2005, the board eliminated all specific references to the drift gillnet fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* and established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*. In this plan, the board provided for earlier opening dates, largely in response to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs during the past nine years. In that same meeting, the closing date was moderately relaxed due to the recent strong coho salmon runs and restrictions to additional time for chum salmon were eliminated.

In 2008, the *Pink Salmon Management Plan* was repealed. Also in 2008, the drift gillnet fishery was extended for regularly scheduled fishing periods only (Monday and Thursday) from between August 11 and August 15 in areas 1 and 2. Previously, drift gillnet fishermen were restricted to areas 3 and 4 after August 10.

In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, within the goal three times, and below the goal once. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 9 of 10 years, while the optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded seven times and within the goal three times, including 2009 and 2010. Since the new sockeye salmon escapement goals were established for the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage in 2009, escapement goals have been met four out of six times (Tables 126-1 and 126-2).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, this proposal may require the department to deviate from the management plan by emergency order to achieve established escapement goals as directed under 5 AAC 21.363(e).

**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 126-1. Susitna River sockeye salmon lake weir escapement goals and escapements, 2006–2010.

Weir Data	Sustainable Esc. Goals	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Chelatna	20,000-65,000	18,433	41,290	73,469	17,865	37,784
Judd	25,000-55,000	40,633	58,134	54,304	43,153	18,361
Larson	15,000-55,000	57,411	47,736	35,040	41,929	20,324
Weir Totals		116,477	147,160	162,813	102,947	76,469

Note: Weir goals were developed in 2009.

Table 126-2. Kasilof and Kenai river sockeye salmon escapements, 1988–2010.

Year	Kenai River Sockeye		Kasilof River Sockeye <sup>a</sup>	
	Inriver Goal	Passage	Goal	Escapement
1988	400,000-700,000	1,021,469	150,000-250,000	204,000
1989 <sup>b</sup>	400,000-700,000	1,599,959	150,000-250,000	158,206
1990	400,000-700,000	659,520	150,000-250,000	144,289
1991	400,000-700,000	647,597	150,000-250,000	238,269
1992	400,000-700,000	994,798	150,000-250,000	184,178
1993	400,000-700,000	813,617	150,000-250,000	149,939
1994	400,000-700,000	1,003,446	150,000-250,000	205,117
1995	450,000-700,000	630,447	150,000-250,000	204,935
1996	550,000-800,000	797,847	150,000-250,000	249,944
1997	550,000-825,000	1,064,818	150,000-250,000	266,025
1998	550,000-850,000	767,558	150,000-250,000	273,213
1999	750,000-950,000	803,379	150,000-250,000	312,587
2000	600,000-850,000	624,578	150,000-250,000	256,053
2001	600,000-850,000	650,036	150,000-250,000	307,570
2002	750,000-950,000	957,924	150,000-250,000	226,682
2003	750,000-950,000	1,181,309	150,000-250,000	359,633
2004	850,000-1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000-250,000	577,581
2005	850,000-1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000-250,000	348,012
2006	750,000-950,000	1,499,692	150,000-250,000	368,092
2007	750,000-950,000	867,572	150,000-250,000	336,866
2008	650,000-850,000	614,946	150,000-250,000	301,469
2009	650,000-850,000	745,170	150,000-250,000	297,125
2010	750,000-950,000	970,662	150,000-250,000	267,013
1988-2010 Avg.		942,556		271,165
2001-2010 Avg.		1,024,974		339,004
2006-2010 Avg.		939,608		314,113

<sup>a</sup> An optimal escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000 was set in 2001.

<sup>b</sup> 1989 not used in average as the drift fleet did not fish due to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, affecting other fisheries.



**PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 21.353(a)(2)(C). Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.** *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons.)*

**PROPOSED BY:** David Coray.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would restrict commercial drift gillnetting in the Western Subdistrict of Cook Inlet after August 9 by an unspecified amount.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 are open from August 16 until closed by emergency order for fishing during regular fishing periods. Regular periods are Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reduce the commercial harvest of coho salmon migrating to various streams in Cook Inlet after August 9 by an unknown amount.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 1996, the drift fishery closed by emergency order on December 31. From 1996 through 2004, the drift season ended on August 9. In 2005, the drift season ending date was returned to December 31, but in areas 3 and 4 only. There are no escapement goals for coho salmon in any stream in the Western Subdistrict of Cook Inlet. Both sport and commercial harvests of coho salmon have remained stable and sustainable in this area. The commercial drift gillnet harvest from all of Cook Inlet after August 9 has ranged from 8,000 to 21,000, and has averaged 14,000 coho salmon. This harvest is from districtwide and drift gillnet areas 3 and 4, not just the Western Subdistrict (Table 127-1).

Silver Salmon Creek is fished primarily for coho salmon in August and early September. An average (1983–2006) of 1,000 angler days were spent catching approximately 3,200 coho salmon, of which approximately 1,000 were kept annually. In recent years (2007–2009), the coho salmon annual harvest has averaged 850 fish and the catch has averaged 1,900 fish. Harvest and catch are variable, but stable, in Silver Salmon Creek—there is no increasing or decreasing trend.

Silver Salmon Creek coho salmon abundance was indexed opportunistically during aerial fixed-wing surveys for chum salmon in late August during 2000–2005 and 2010. The estimates were minimums since the surveys occurred before the peak of coho salmon migration. The average count was roughly 3,000 coho salmon, with a range of 350 in 2010 to 6,900 in 2000.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 127-1. Drift gillnet commercial salmon harvest in all areas after August 9 (does not include harvests in Chinitna Bay).

2005 Date	KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
10-Aug	1	1	2,938	2,938	102	102	2	2	29	29	3,072	3,072
11-Aug	2	3	4,542	7,480	3,951	4,053	30	32	258	287	8,783	11,855
15-Aug	2	5	2,042	9,522	3,160	7,213	6	38	103	390	5,313	17,168
18-Aug		5	313	9,835	1,674	8,887	4	42	1	391	1,992	19,160
22-Aug		5	166	10,001	797	9,684		42	1	392	964	20,124
25-Aug		5	190	10,191	752	10,436		42	3	395	945	21,069
29-Aug		5	9	10,200	32	10,468		42		395	41	21,110
5-Sep		5		10,200	586	11,054		42		395	586	21,696

2006 Date	KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
10-Aug	1	1	13,928	13,928	4,665	4,665	27,890	27,890	1,479	1,479	47,963	47,963
11-Aug	2	3	5,550	19,478	860	5,525	7,949	35,839	824	2,303	15,185	63,148
14-Aug	1	4	1,610	21,088	1,205	6,730	3,068	38,907	203	2,506	6,087	69,235
16-Aug	1	5	3,355	24,443	1,229	7,959	6,131	45,038	396	2,902	11,112	80,347
17-Aug		5	806	25,249	2,885	10,844	771	45,809	194	3,096	4,656	85,003
21-Aug		5	308	25,557	3,429	14,273	158	45,967	81	3,177	3,976	88,979
24-Aug		5	94	25,651	1,120	15,393	28	45,995	30	3,207	1,272	90,251
28-Aug		5	128	25,779	617	16,010	332	46,327	19	3,226	1,096	91,347
31-Aug		5	15	25,794	518	16,528	4	46,331	23	3,249	560	91,907
4-Sep		5		25,794	504	17,032	1	46,332	15	3,264	520	92,427
7-Sep		5	2	25,796	188	17,220		46,332		3,264	190	92,617
11-Sep		5	2	25,798	195	17,415		46,332		3,264	197	92,814

continued

Table 127-1. Page 2 of 3.

2007	KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL		
	Date	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
	10-Aug	1	1	359	359	18	18	6	6	3	3	387	387
	13-Aug	5	6	756	1,115	2,180	2,198	38	44	140	143	3,119	3,506
	16-Aug	2	8	840	1,955	1,391	3,589	31	75	157	300	2,421	5,927
	20-Aug	1	9	240	2,195	1,215	4,804	4	79	29	329	1,489	7,416
	23-Aug		9	79	2,274	621	5,425	1	80	12	341	713	8,129
	27-Aug		9	180	2,454	1,077	6,502	5	85	11	352	1,273	9,402
	30-Aug	2	11	77	2,531	1,131	7,633		85	21	373	1,231	10,633
	3-Sep		11	4	2,535	69	7,702		85	9	382	82	10,715
	6-Sep		11	4	2,539	296	7,998		85		382	300	11,015
	10-Sep		11	4	2,543	131	8,129		85		382	135	11,150

2008	KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL		
	Date	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
	11-Aug			472	472	4,539	4,539	1,115	1,115	673	673	6,799	6,799
	14-Aug	1	1	67	539	2,277	6,816	51	1,166	79	752	2,475	9,274
	18-Aug		1	53	592	1,754	8,570	74	1,240	60	812	1,941	11,215
	21-Aug	1	2	57	649	2,838	11,408	63	1,303	116	928	3,075	14,290
	25-Aug		2	18	667	2,883	14,291	8	1,311	105	1,033	3,014	17,304
	28-Aug		2	3	670	2,405	16,696	2	1,313	26	1,059	2,436	19,740
	4-Sep		2	1	671	1,575	18,271	2	1,315	34	1,093	1,612	21,352
	8-Sep		2		671	94	18,365		1,315		1,093	94	21,446
	11-Sep		2	1	672	209	18,574		1,315	25	1,118	235	21,681

continued

Table 127-1. Page 3 of 3.

2009	KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL		
	Date	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
	10-Aug	6	6	714	714	3,142	3,142	136	136	544	544	4,542	4,542
	13-Aug	1	7	182	896	1,123	4,265	21	157	189	733	1,516	6,058
	17-Aug	2	9	98	994	1,976	6,241	18	175	166	899	2,260	8,318
	20-Aug	1	10	54	1,048	1,490	7,731	8	183	64	963	1,617	9,935
	24-Aug		10	63	1,111	1,968	9,699	5	188	20	983	2,056	11,991
	31-Aug		10	16	1,127	1,570	11,269	2	190	10	993	1,598	13,589
	3-Sep		10	5	1,132	280	11,549		190	1	994	286	13,875
	7-Sep		10	4	1,136	929	12,478		190	4	998	937	14,812
	14-Sep		10	2	1,138	288	12,766		190	1	999	291	15,103

2010	KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL		
	Date	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
	10-Aug	2	2	39	39	29	29	120	120	29	29	219	219
	12-Aug		2	580	619	829	858	229	349	246	275	1,884	2,103
	16-Aug		2	29	648	443	1,301	7	356	123	398	602	2,705
	19-Aug		2	45	693	607	1,908	21	377	78	476	751	3,456
	23-Aug	1	3	76	769	1,899	3,807	24	401	53	529	2,053	5,509
	26-Aug		3	25	794	1,560	5,367	15	416	775	1,304	2,375	7,884
	30-Aug		3	22	816	949	6,316	5	421	30	1,334	1,006	8,890
	2-Sep		3	2	818	972	7,288	3	424	4	1,338	981	9,871
	6-Sep		3	6	824	176	7,464	2	426	2	1,340	186	10,057
	9-Sep		3	1	825	66	7,530		426	4	1,344	71	10,128

**PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 21.365. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Although no specific regulatory language is provided, this proposal asks for a set gillnet pink salmon management plan to be developed for east side set gillnets in Upper Cook Inlet.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are no set gillnet regulations specific for pink salmon management in Upper Cook Inlet, other than the harvests that occur during the regular season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the harvest rate of pink salmon in even-numbered years. It would also increase the harvest of sockeye, coho, and chum salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** A drift gillnet pink salmon management plan was formulated and put in regulation in 2002 to allow the harvest of abundant pink salmon stocks. These stocks were returning on even years, but were unharvested, in large part, because of restrictions on fishing time and seasons in the two fisheries that are the primary harvesters of this stock, the drift fleet and eastside set gillnet fishery. Most of these restrictions were put in place to conserve coho salmon bound for the Northern District and the Kenai River after two poor returns in 1997 and 1999 (Table 129-1). In 2008, the drift gillnet *Pink Salmon Management Plan* was deleted from regulation. The board extended both the set (on the east side of Cook Inlet) and drift gillnet fishing seasons from August 10 to August 15.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 129-1. Commercial salmon harvest in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery after August 15, 1966-1983.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even year	Odd year	Chum	Total	Days
				Pink	Pink			Fished
1966	79	105	13,477	3,378		5	17,044	7
1967	44	63	14,082		48	8	14,245	3
1968	39	120	15,200	25,752		432	41,543	2
1969	59	118	6,546		41	17	6,781	17
1970	80	239	6,226	8,601		23	15,169	42
1971	124	125	7,583		3	81	7,916	21
1972	51	106	7,320	3,557		338	11,372	18
1973	64	100	6,860		8	53	7,085	14
1974	73	187	15,419	3,731		179	19,589	21
1975	108	195	23,130		24	101	23,558	22
1976	44	313	12,452	23,783		49	36,641	19
1977	42	129	6,238		22	211	6,642	15
1978	79	314	6,659	31,583		100	38,735	6
1983	6	1,523	71		5	3	1,608	1
Avg.	64	260	10,090	14,341	22	114	17,709	15

**PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal asks to reinstate 5 AAC 21.356 for the drift gillnet fishery. Although not specifically stated, the department believes this proposal also asks for a set gillnet pink salmon management plan to be developed for eastside set gillnets in Upper Cook Inlet as well.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are no set or drift gillnet regulations specific for pink salmon management in Upper Cook Inlet, other than the harvests that occur during the regular season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the harvest rate of pink salmon in even-numbered years. It would also increase the harvest of sockeye, coho, and chum salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** A drift gillnet pink salmon management plan was formulated and put in regulation in 2002 to allow the harvest of abundant pink salmon stocks. These stocks were returning on even years, but were unharvested, in large part, because of restrictions on fishing time and seasons in the two fisheries that are the primary harvesters of this stock, the drift fleet and eastside set gillnet fishery (Tables 130-1 and 130-2). Most of these restrictions were put in place to conserve coho salmon bound for the Northern District and the Kenai River after two poor returns in 1997 and 1999. In 2008, the drift gillnet *Pink Salmon Management Plan* was deleted from regulation. The board extended both the set (on the east side of Cook Inlet) and drift gillnet fishing seasons from August 10 to August 15.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 130-1. Drift gillnet commercial salmon harvest after August 15 in even-numbered years, 1966-1994.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1966		508	109		1	618
1968		15	966	174	164	1,319
1970		20	283	45	1,398	1,746
1972			42	2	1,400	1,444
1974	1		278	29	1,038	1,346
1976	1	16	865	649	4,726	6,257
1978		715	1,252	3,887	3,086	8,940
1980	2	98	3,657	152	424	4,333
1982	2	2,643	22,995	3,327	21,564	50,531
1984	2	186	2,501	357	762	3,808
1986	3	182	2,963	181	461	3,790
1988	1	173	4,623	380	1,065	6,242
1990		604	4,398	4,968	596	10,566
1992		854	5,398	665	881	7,798
1994	2	343	6,312	117	571	7,345
Avg.	1	424	3,776	996	2,542	7,739



Table 130-2. Commercial salmon harvest in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery after August 15, 1966-1983.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even Year	Odd Year	Chum	Total	Days Fished
				Pink	Pink			
1966	79	105	13,477	3,378		5	17,044	7
1967	44	63	14,082		48	8	14,245	3
1968	39	120	15,200	25,752		432	41,543	2
1969	59	118	6,546		41	17	6,781	17
1970	80	239	6,226	8,601		23	15,169	42
1971	124	125	7,583		3	81	7,916	21
1972	51	106	7,320	3,557		338	11,372	18
1973	64	100	6,860		8	53	7,085	14
1974	73	187	15,419	3,731		179	19,589	21
1975	108	195	23,130		24	101	23,558	22
1976	44	313	12,452	23,783		49	36,641	19
1977	42	129	6,238		22	211	6,642	15
1978	79	314	6,659	31,583		100	38,735	6
1983	6	1,523	71		5	3	1,608	1
Avg.	64	260	10,090	14,341	22	114	17,709	15

**PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would delete language in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* that directs the department to minimize the harvest of coho salmon while managing for sockeye, pink, and chum salmon. In addition, it would delete section (b) and the optimal escapement goal, as well as section (d) dealing with the direction to minimize coho harvests in the Northern District set gillnet fishery.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The purposes of this management plan are to minimize the harvest of coho salmon bound for the Northern District of upper Cook Inlet and to provide the department direction for management of salmon stocks. The department shall manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide commercial fisherman with an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho salmon, to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions, or as specified in this section and other regulations.

(b) Northern District commercial salmon fisheries are based on the abundance of Yentna River sockeye salmon, the Yentna River escapement goal, or other salmon abundance. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River inriver run goal. When sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million fish or greater, there is an optimal escapement goal of 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

(d) The department shall manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries to minimize the incidental take of coho salmon stocks bound for the Northern District by not allowing additional fishing periods, other than the weekly fishing periods described in 5 AAC 21.320(a) (1), if coho salmon are expected to be the most abundant species harvested during that period. After August 15, only weekly fishing periods may be fished.

From the beginning of the regular commercial salmon fishing season, which occurs on or after June 25, through July 19, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish no more than two regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods per week. From July 20 through August 7, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods, but will be limited to no more than one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit. If it is determined by the department that the Yentna River sockeye salmon [SEG or OEG] will be achieved during this time frame, the department may increase the allowable fishing gear from one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit to two 35-fathom set gillnets per permit, or the full complement of three set gillnets that are not more than 105 fathoms in aggregate length per permit. On the first regular fishing period after August 7, and thereafter, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will again return to a full complement of fishing gear of three set gillnets that

are not more than 105 fathoms in aggregate length per permit, unless restricted or closed by emergency order.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal may increase the harvest of coho salmon dependent on the run strength of various salmon species migrating to northern tributaries and the actions taken to manage those species.

**BACKGROUND:** Purpose statements found at the beginning of most Upper Cook Inlet management plans provides direction to future boards, stake holders, and the department on the long-term management objectives of the board. Purpose statements first appeared in the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan in 1981. These statements have changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

Prior to 1978, all salmon stocks in Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) were basically managed primarily for commercial uses, since the recreational use of these stocks was small. In 1978, the board passed the first rendition of the UCI salmon management plan as an uncodified policy. From 1981 to 1996 it remained relatively unchanged and directed the department to manage most stocks returning to UCI prior to July 1 “primarily” for recreational uses. From July 1 to August 15, most stocks were managed “primarily” for commercial uses with certain exceptions. After August 15, salmon stocks moving to Kenai Peninsula drainages were managed for recreational purposes, while all other stocks were managed for commercial purposes. In addition, in managing the commercial fishery, the department was instructed to “minimize” the harvest of certain recreationally important stocks, such as Kenai River king and coho stocks. In 1996, the plan was changed to management priority by stocks; sockeye, pink, and chum salmon stocks were to be managed for commercial purposes with the caveat that a reasonable opportunity be provided to other users, and coho and king salmon stocks were managed for recreational purposes.

Poor returns of coho salmon to UCI in 1997 and 1999, coupled with not meeting escapement goals, prompted the board to reduce the coho salmon sport fisheries on select Northern Cook Inlet streams. 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 Western Cook Inlet (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 three fish per day to two fish per day. Possession limits were reduced from six to four 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 fishing time, net length, and number of nets in selected areas as described in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* (5AAC 21.358).

In recent years (2005 and 2010), coho salmon returns to the several systems in the WCI area have experienced above average returns. In 2005, sport fishing restrictions were relaxed on some Westside Susitna River streams where coho bag and possession limits were increased from two per day and four in possession to three per day and six 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 Arm 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 escapement objectives were only met for one of these four systems despite inseason restrictions.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department has little data from which to manage road-accessible high-use streams when considering inseason regulatory changes.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 21.358(b). Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would direct the department to harvest pink and coho salmon in Northern District commercial fisheries with additional fishing periods beyond those currently in regulation.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The purposes of this management plan are to minimize the harvest of coho salmon bound for the Northern District of UCI and to provide the department direction for management of salmon stocks. The department shall manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide commercial fishermen with an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho salmon, to provide sport and guided sport fisherman a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run. From the beginning of the regular commercial salmon fishing season, which occurs on or after June 25, through July 19, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish no more than two regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods per week. From July 20 through August 7, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods, but will be limited to no more than one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit. The Northern District commercial salmon fisheries shall be managed to minimize the incidental take of coho salmon stocks bound for the Northern District. Additional fishing periods, other than the regular weekly fishing periods, may not be provided when coho salmon are expected to be the most abundant species harvested during that period; additional fishing periods may not be provided based on the abundance of Northern District coho salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the harvest of pink and coho salmon in the Northern District by an unknown amount. Effects of this proposal would be dependent on the run strength of various salmon species migrating to northern tributaries and actions taken to manage those species.

**BACKGROUND:** Purpose statements found at the beginning of most Upper Cook Inlet management plans provides direction to future boards, stake holders, and the department on the long-term management objectives of the board. Purpose statements first appeared in the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan in 1981. These statements have changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

Prior to 1978, all salmon stocks in UCI were managed primarily for commercial uses since the recreational use of these stocks was small. In 1978, the board passed the first rendition of the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* as an uncodified policy. That policy was challenged in court and overturned. From 1981 to 1996, it remained relatively unchanged and directed the department to manage most stocks returning to UCI prior to July 1 “primarily” for recreational uses. From July 1 to August 15, most stocks were managed “primarily” for commercial uses with certain exceptions. After August 15, salmon stocks migrating to the Kenai

Peninsula drainages were managed for recreational purposes, while all other stocks were managed for commercial purposes. In addition, in managing the commercial fishery, the department was instructed to “minimize” the harvest of certain recreationally important stocks, such as Kenai River king and coho salmon stocks. In 1996, the plan was changed to management priority by stock: sockeye, pink, and chum stocks were to be managed for commercial purposes with the caveat that a reasonable opportunity be provided to other users, and coho and king salmon stocks were managed for recreational purposes.

Poor returns of coho salmon to UCI in 1997 and 1999, coupled with not meeting escapement goals, prompted the board to reduce the coho salmon sport fisheries on select Northern Cook Inlet streams. 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 three fish per day to two fish per day. Possession limits were reduced from six to four 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 fishing time, net length, and number of nets in selected areas as described in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* (5AAC 21.358).

In recent years (2005 and 2010), coho salmon returns to the several systems in the WCI area have experienced above average returns. In 2005, sport fishing restrictions were relaxed on some Westside Susitna River streams where coho bag and possession limits were increased from two per day and four in possession to three per day and six in possession. Some remote Northern Cook Inlet areas could likely support an increase in harvest, such as the Westside Susitna River and WCI streams. Others, such as eastside Susitna River tributaries and Knik Arm 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.

There are two streams with coho salmon escapement goals in the Northern Cook Inlet area: Little Susitna River and Jim Creek. In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Little Susitna weir coho salmon escapement has been exceeded five times, within the goal twice, and below the goal three times. The Jim Creek escapement goal has been exceeded nine times and below once in the last 10 years. The upper end of the previous Fish Creek coho salmon escapement goal of 4,400 fish was nearly doubled in 2009 (8,214) and was exceeded by 50% in 2010 (6,971 fish).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department has little data from which to manage road-accessible high-use streams when considering inseason regulatory changes.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, and 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Susitna Valley Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would re-identify king and coho salmon as having a consumptive user/sport fisher's priority by closing the drift gillnet fishery on August 5. It would also reduce the Northern District king salmon set gillnet fishery from four or five commercial periods per year to three per year and reduce the Northern District weekly periods from two 12-hour periods per week to two six-hour fisheries per week after August 1.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Northern District king salmon fishery opens for the first fishing period beginning on the first Monday on or after May 25, and continues through June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Set gillnets may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh size, and gillnets may not be set or operated within 1,200 feet of another set gillnet. From May 25 through June 24, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing during the second regular Monday period only. If the Theodore, Lewis, or Ivan rivers are closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River shall be closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District shall be closed for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Chuitna River is closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River shall be closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. The harvest may not exceed 12,500 king salmon.

Drift gillnet fishing begins on the third Monday in June or June 19. Fishing periods are Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. From July 9 through July 15, the two regular fishing periods are restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1. At run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1 may be allowed. From July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1. At run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and drift gillnet areas 1 and 2. At run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there are no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods. From August 11 through August 15, there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular periods, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed because of the 1% one percent rule, regular fishing periods will be restricted to drift gillnet areas 3 and 4. From August 16 until closed by emergency order, drift gillnet areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods.

From the beginning of the regular commercial salmon fishing season, which occurs on or after June 25, through July 19, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish no more than two regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods per week. From July 20 through August 7, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods, but will be limited to no more than one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit. The Northern District commercial salmon fisheries shall be managed to minimize the incidental take of coho salmon stocks bound for the Northern District. Additional fishing periods, other than the regular weekly fishing periods, may not be provided when coho salmon are expected to be the most abundant species harvested during that period; additional fishing periods may not be provided based on the abundance of Northern District coho salmon.

It is the intent of the board that, while in most circumstances the department will adhere to the management plans in this chapter, no provision within a specific management plan is intended to limit the commissioner's use of emergency order authority to achieve established escapement goals for the management plans as the primary management objective.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Effects of this proposal would be dependent on actions taken in each of the management plans. Reducing the Northern District king salmon fishing time by 20% to 40% and Northern District salmon fishing time by 50% after August 1 would reduce the harvest of king, sockeye, and coho salmon by an unknown amount. In general, this proposal would increase the number of all salmon species migrating to the Northern District. These additional fish would either be harvested by noncommercial users or realized as escapement. The drift gillnet coho salmon harvest would be reduced by approximately 15,000 fish. However, those coho salmon are migrating to areas throughout Cook Inlet, not just to the Northern District.

**BACKGROUND:** The number and complexity of UCI management plans has evolved over the years. Management plans that this proposal seeks to change have been developed with long-term direction in management of UCI salmon stocks and species. Divisions within the department should receive long-term direction from the board in order to accomplish their missions and plan management, research, administrative, and other programs. Harvest of the UCI salmon are governed by specific and comprehensive management plans adopted by the board for salmon stocks and species, on a Cook Inlet basinwide basis, for different areas, and drainages and for different types of fisheries.

The previous 10-year (2001–2010) average harvest of the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery is 2,300 (Tables 133-1 through 133-3). The average harvest of king salmon sport fisheries in the Northern District is approximately 33,600 king salmon. In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Deshka River weir goal has been exceeded six times, within the goal twice, and below the goal twice. For the combined escapement goals on the west side streams (Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna), as estimated during aerial survey, out of 30 escapements surveyed, three were above, 13, within, and 14 below the escapement goal. There are two coho salmon escapement goals in the Northern Cook Inlet area: Little Susitna River and Jim Creek. In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Little Susitna weir coho escapement has been exceeded four times, been within the goal twice, and below the goal twice, in addition to the weir being flooded twice. The Jim Creek escapement has been exceeded nine times and below the goal in the last



10 years. From 2004-2008, when the most recent Fish Creek coho salmon escapement project was in place, the previous Fish Creek coho salmon goal SEG of 1,200–4,000 was exceeded four times and was below the goal once. The Fish Creek coho salmon escapement goal of 1,200–4,000 is being reinstated.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 133-1. Drift gillnet commercial salmon harvest after August 5, 2000–2010.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even Year Pink	Odd Year Pink	Chum	Total
2000	1	354	1,697	7,577		835	10,464
2001	4	373	7,354		74	1,473	9,278
2002	1	225	2,236	1,450		289	4,201
2003		963	1,332		18	425	2,738
2004	15	29,055	7,145	23,251		2,416	61,882
2005	26	64,779	17,381		119	1,754	84,059
2006	28	84,162	40,045	129,475		10,237	263,947
2007	24	47,091	16,770		1,894	6,706	72,485
2008	79	1,433	22,812	6422		2,234	32,980
2009	13	4,813	19,718		910	4,360	29,814
2010	9	3,816	10,414	3935		4,338	22,512
Avg.	18	21,551	13,355	15,646	274	3,188	54,033

Table 133-2. Northern District commercial salmon harvest after August 1, 2000–2010.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Even Year Pink	Odd Year Pink	Chum	Total
2000	5	1,864	20,895	5,050		249	28,063
2001	9	2,514	28,859		217	772	32,371
2002	3	2,947	31,970	768		2,003	37,691
2003	4	4,325	11,864		90	853	17,136
2004	2	5,420	24,015	538		768	30,743
2005	5	9,626	26,516		13	275	36,435
2006	1	8,033	18,764	1,600		430	28,828
2007	1	5,140	12,411		167	313	18,032
2008	3	2,122	25,346	1312		857	29,640
2009	6	4,737	25,098		1087	1,558	32,486
2010	3	5,745	20,151	670		1,335	27,904
MEAN	4	4,770	22,354	903	143	856	29,030

Table 133-3. King salmon harvest from Northern District directed fishery by statistical area, 2001–2010.

Year	Date	247-10	247-20	247-30	247-41	247-42	247-43	247-70	247-80	247-90	Total
2001	6/4/2001	173	218	80	30	42	15	59		15	
	6/11/2001	300	282		22	119	21	37		12	
	6/18/2001	118		6		28	23	7		9	
	Total	591	500	80	58	189	59	103	0	36	1,616
2002	5/27/2002	95			13	60	4	37	56		5
	6/3/2002	223	136	85	87	57	16	64	70		72
	6/10/2002	159	131		34	104	3	63	115		58
	Total	477	267	85	134	221	23	164	241	135	1,747
2003	5/26/2003	18	36		37	45		24			19
	6/2/2003	5	101	4	45	43	54	74	17		6
	6/9/2003	47	383	67	53	49	2	33	9		1
	Total	70	484	107	135	137	56	131	26	26	1,172
2004	5/31/2004	74	33		17	30	43	40		108	9
	6/7/2004	62	285	147	266	101	82	100			23
	6/14/2004		137	47	46	56	38	59			16
	Total	136	455	211	342	200	160	267	0	48	1,819
2005	5/30/2005	166	320		224	203	85	160	18		5
	6/6/2005	103	430	290	97	60	69	65			31
	6/13/2005	26	391		98	113	129	33	34		
	Total	295	1141	290	419	376	283	258	52	36	3,150
2006	5/29/2006	174	133	20	76	47	78	80	19		13
	6/5/2006	322	312	150	247	108	74	127	23		13
	6/12/2006	335	489	212	165	116	232	204	79	39	
	Total	831	934	382	488	271	384	411	121	65	3,887
2007	5/28/2007	178	99	21	15	42	7	78	28		30
	6/4/2007	237	162	228	131	94	124	240	36		18
	6/11/2007	94	366	126	120	87	181	346	24		20
	Total	509	627	375	266	223	312	664	88	68	3,132
2008	5/26/2008	39	272	42	33	16	27	35	24		11
	6/2/2008	110	165	49	72	50	37	96	7		11
	6/9/2008	103	535	143	275	208	153	168	72		31
	6/16/2008	118	282	138	162	81	110	132	33		15
	Total	370	1,254	372	542	355	327	431	136	68	3,855
2009	5/25/2009		28	14	6	3	1	24	3		
	6/1/2009	111	147	36	12	24	15	68	32		10
	6/8/2009	148	181	94	64	101	56	77	3		8
	Total	259	356	144	82	128	72	169	38	18	1,266
2010	5/31/2010	141		102		43	48	42	32	5	20
	6/7/2010	180	302		71	63	71	74	22		19
	6/14/2010		61		8	54	25	19	8		5
	6/21/2010	17	147		2	23	39	20	7		4
	Total	338	612	0	124	188	177	145	42	48	1,674

**PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would amend subsection (b) by addressing the sockeye salmon optimum escapement goal counted by the Bendix sonar in the Yentna River, which is no longer valid. This proposal would also address the priority statement in the current regulation for sockeye salmon migrating into the Susitna River drainage.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department shall manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries based on the abundance of Yentna River sockeye salmon, the Yentna River escapement goal, or other salmon abundance indices the department deems appropriate. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River inriver run goal. When sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are 4,000,000 fish or greater, there is an optimal escapement goal of 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** It is unlikely there would be any change in the current management scheme. Management concerning northern bound stocks would continue to follow the *Susitna River Sockeye Salmon Action Plan*. The action plan was adopted at the February 2008 UCI board meeting providing direction to the department on how these stocks were to be managed. Because the department continues to support the Susitna River sockeye salmon being a stock of concern at the yield level, the department would continue to follow the *Susitna River Sockeye Salmon Action Plan*.

**BACKGROUND:** The previous sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 90,000 to 160,000 spawners for the Yentna River sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 2001. Considerable uncertainty surrounded the escapement assessment and productivity of the stock, which was designated as a stock of yield concern in 2008. The previous escapement goal (90,000–160,000) was determined to be inappropriate given the escapement uncertainties associated with the Bendix sonar program. Escapement information for the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage were used for establishment of three new SEGs prior to the 2009 fishing season. These weir-based sockeye salmon escapement goals are Chelatna (20,000 to 65,000) and Judd (25,000 to 55,000) lakes in the Yentna River drainage. Additionally, on the Susitna River mainstem, a Larson Lake SEG was established with a range of 15,000 to 50,000 spawners. Escapements of sockeye salmon into Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage have been met four out of six times since being set in 2009.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However the department supports addressing the current regulatory language.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 21.358(b). Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would amend subsection (b) by incorporating the three weir goal escapements currently used into this salmon management plan for the Yentna and Susitna rivers.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department shall manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries based on the abundance of Yentna River sockeye salmon, the Yentna River escapement goal, or other salmon abundance indices the department deems appropriate. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River inriver run goal. When sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are 4,000,000 fish or greater, there is an optimal escapement goal of 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** It is unlikely there would be any change in the current management scheme. An action plan was adopted at the February 2008 UCI board meeting providing direction to the department on how these stocks were to be managed. Because the department continues to support the designation of Susitna River sockeye salmon as a stock of concern at the yield level, the department would continue to follow the *Susitna River Sockeye Salmon Action Plan*.

**BACKGROUND:** The previous sustainable escapement goal range of 90,000 to 160,000 spawners for the Yentna River sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 2001. Considerable uncertainty surrounded the escapement assessment and productivity of the stock, which was designated as a stock of yield concern by the board in 2008. The previous escapement goal (90,000–160,000) was determined to be inappropriate given the escapement uncertainties associated with the Bendix sonar program. Escapement information for the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage were used for establishment of three new SEGs prior to the 2009 fishing season. These sockeye salmon weir-based goals are Chelatna (20,000 to 65,000) and Judd (25,000 to 55,000) lakes in the Yentna River drainage. Additionally, on the Susitna River mainstem, a Larson Lake SEG was established with a range of 15,000 to 50,000 spawners.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However the department supports addressing the current regulatory language.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 21.3XX. New section.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Bruce Knowles.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would create optimum escapement goals by increasing the upper end of the current sustainable escapement goals (SEG) of each the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lake systems by between 40,000 and 50,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department shall manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries based on the abundance of Yentna River sockeye salmon, the Yentna River escapement goal, or other salmon abundance indices the department deems appropriate. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River inriver run goal. When sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are 4,000,000 fish or greater, there is an optimal escapement goal of 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This is an increase of between 75% and 100% of the upper end of the current goals. This increase would likely result in harvests that are, in general, not sustainable since it causes returns and yields to decrease in the future generations, which also results in lower escapements.

**BACKGROUND:** From 1981 to 2008, the Yentna River daily sonar estimates were used as an indicator of sockeye salmon escapement into the Susitna River drainage. Sockeye salmon escapement in the Yentna River was thought to be approximately one-half of the total Susitna River sockeye salmon escapement based on a combination of 1981–1985 mark-recapture abundance estimates. However, studies indicated that there was great uncertainty surrounding the accuracy and precision of the Bendix sonar and catch allocation project. The high variability observed between various methods of escapement assessment (i.e., ongoing Bendix estimates compared with recent estimates from mark-recapture and DIDSON sonar projects) added to the uncertainty regarding the department’s previous assessments. Because of this uncertainty, escapement information for the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage were used for the establishment of three new SEGs. These sockeye salmon weir-based goals are Chelatna (20,000 to 65,000) and Judd (25,000 to 55,000) lakes in the Yentna River drainage. Additionally, on the Susitna River mainstem, a Larson Lake SEG was established with a range of 15,000 to 50,000 spawners. Escapements of sockeye salmon in the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage have been met four out of six times since being set in 2009.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal as it may relate to the SEG. Under the *Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries*, the department has the responsibility of establishing biological and sustainable escapement goals. The board may establish or modify an optimal escapement goal, if deemed appropriate, which considers biological and allocative factors and may differ from the BEG or SEG.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.** *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.358. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan)*

**PROPOSED BY:** Andy Couch.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to reinstate the previous Yentna River escapement goals, and for those goals to be measured with Bendix-equivalent numbers using the Yentna River sonar.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department shall manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries based on the abundance of Yentna River sockeye salmon, the Yentna River escapement goal (90,000–160,000), or other salmon abundance indices, as the department deems appropriate. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River inriver run goal. When sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are 4,000,000 fish or greater, there is an optimal escapement goal of 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The effects of this proposal are unknown. The department would be using a measurement tool that was found to be inappropriate given the escapement uncertainties associated with the Bendix sonar program.

**BACKGROUND:** From 1981 to 2008, the Yentna River daily sonar estimates were used as an indicator of sockeye salmon escapement into the Susitna River drainage. Sockeye salmon escapement in the Yentna River was thought to be approximately one-half of the total Susitna River sockeye salmon escapement based on a combination of 1981–1985 mark-recapture abundance estimates. However, studies indicated that there was great uncertainty surrounding the accuracy and precision of the Bendix sonar and catch allocation project. The high variability observed between various methods of escapement assessment (i.e., ongoing Bendix estimates compared with recent estimates from mark-recapture and DIDSON sonar projects) added to the uncertainty regarding the department’s previous assessments. The same uncertainties are associated with the DIDSON counter as well, and are a function of the fish wheel apportionment of these counts, not the counts themselves. The issue is the number of other species, primarily the more numerous pink salmon, and variable catch rates of the various species with the fish wheel.

Because of this uncertainty in the fishwheel apportionment, escapement information for the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage were used for the establishment of three new SEGs for the 2009 season. These sockeye salmon weir-based goals are Chelatna (20,000 to 65,000) and Judd (25,000 to 55,000) lakes in the Yentna River drainage. Additionally, on the Susitna River mainstem, a Larson Lake SEG was established with a range of 15,000 to 50,000 spawners. Escapements of sockeye salmon in the Chelatna, Judd, and Larson lakes within the Susitna River drainage have been met four out of six times since being set in 2009.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal. The board has no "administrative, budgeting, or fiscal powers" that would allow the board to direct the kind of sonar that the department employs for fish counting (AS 16.05.241). It would also be inappropriate to use a counting system that is known to be inaccurate. The board may establish or modify an optimal escapement goal which considers biological and allocative factors and which may differ from the BEG or SEG.

**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.

## **PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern District Setnetters Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow the Northern District set gillnet fishermen to use up to three set gillnets instead of one set gillnet after July 30 instead of August 7.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** From the beginning of the regular commercial salmon fishing season, which occurs on or after June 25, through July 19, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish no more than two regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods per week. From July 20 through August 7, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods, but will be limited to no more than one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit. If it is determined by the department that the Yentna River sockeye salmon [SEG or OEG] will be achieved during this time frame, the department may increase the allowable fishing gear from one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit to two 35-fathom set gillnets per permit or the full complement of three set gillnets that are not more than 105 fathoms in aggregate length per permit. On the first regular fishing period after August 7, and thereafter, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will again return to a full complement of fishing gear of three set gillnets that are not more than 105 fathoms in aggregate length per permit, unless restricted or closed by emergency order.

The action plan also states that the sockeye salmon sport fishery in the Susitna River drainage will be prosecuted with a bag limit of three fish. If the Northern District set gillnet fishery is closed to conserve sockeye salmon, the Susitna River drainage sport fisheries will remain open unless the board directs otherwise. The Susitna River sport harvest is not used to determine spawning escapement or in the development of escapement goals.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would likely increase salmon harvests in the Northern District between July 30 and August 7 by some unknown amount. Harvest increase would be dependent on salmon run strength, indicating to the department the number of gillnets that may be allowed.

**BACKGROUND:** In the Northern District set gillnet fishery, the department's primary tool to reduce exploitation on Susitna River sockeye salmon stocks is by reducing gear from three nets to two or one from July 20 through early August, or to close the commercial fishery in its entirety. In practice, the department has done both concurrently, but most commonly the fishery had been closed. For example, from 2005 through 2007, the department closed the entire Northern District 17 times.

In response to the guidelines established in the Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, the department recommended the Susitna River sockeye salmon stock as a stock of yield concern at the 2008 UCI board meeting. An action plan describing the existing management plans and emergency order authority that the department was to follow to conserve Susitna River sockeye salmon was developed and adopted by the board. Further restrictions were adopted in the action plan for the Northern District commercial set gillnet fishery. This



included that from July 20 through August 6, the Northern District set gillnet fishery would fish regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods, but would be limited to no more than one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit. This action plan restriction reduced the sockeye harvest to all Northern District streams by approximately 1,800 fish (Table 138-1).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 138-1. Northern District commercial salmon harvest from July 31 through August 7, 2008–2010 (Note: these fishing periods were all conducted with gear limitations of one net per permit).

2008		KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL		
Date	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
31-Jul	1	1	868	868	1,777	1,777	224	224	50	50	2,920	2,920		
4-Aug	1	2	737	1,605	4,003	5,780	236	460	127	177	5,104	8,024		

2009		KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL		
Date	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
3-Aug	3	3	1,439	1,439	5,960	5,960	461	461	471	471	8,334	8,334		
6-Aug	3	6	1,294	2,733	4,008	9,968	472	933	467	938	6,244	14,578		

2010		KING		SOCKEYE		COHO		PINK		CHUM		TOTAL		
Date	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
2-Aug	2	2	2,818	2,818	4,678	4,678	304	304	675	675	8,477	8,477		
5-Aug		2	993	3,811	1,940	6,618	115	419	291	966	3,339	11,816		

**PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 21.3XX. New Section.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern District Setnetters Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would direct the department to open a terminal harvest commercial fishery on Fish Creek sockeye salmon stocks once the personal use fishery is opened.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Salmon may be taken by dip net in Fish Creek only from July 10 through July 31 if the department projects that the escapement of sockeye salmon into Fish Creek will be above the upper end of the escapement goal of 70,000 fish.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would harvest additional sockeye salmon in a terminal fishery at the mouth of Fish Creek during years of large runs. This proposal may decrease sockeye salmon harvest by the personal use fishery. This proposal may also increase the harvest of coho salmon above a sustainable level on years of average to low coho salmon returns to Knik Arm streams.

**BACKGROUND:** A small commercial set gillnet fishery was created by the board within Knik Arm in 1987 to harvest surpluses of sockeye salmon returning to Big Lake. The surpluses were due, at least in part, to hatchery stocking of fry into this system. Originally, this fishery opened when the escapement goal was projected to be met and ran until July 29. To reduce incidental harvest of coho salmon in this fishery, the board restructured this fishery in 1993 so that openings were on Tuesdays and Sundays from July 15 to July 26. These changes were effective and reduced the average coho harvest from 4,800 to 975. The commercial fishery was closed by the board from 1999–2001 due to low returns; the board eliminated the fishery in 2002. The personal use fishery continued by regulation from 1999–2001. It was then changed to open by emergency order after 2002 due to the low returns.

The Big Lake system (Fish Creek) has been stocked by the department, and later by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, since 1975. Sockeye salmon escapements at Fish Creek have been erratic over the past decade with a low of 14,000 in 2005 to high of 125,000 in 2010 (Table 139-1). The contribution of hatchery fish in the run to Fish Creek has been as high as 74%, with a more recent contribution of 36% in 2009 and 67% in 2010. The stocking program was discontinued in 2008 and the last year of hatchery fish returning to this system will be 2011. Without the return of hatchery fish, it is likely there may be less opportunity to open Fish Creek to dipnetting.

Because Fish Creek is relatively small in size, the harvest power of the personal use fishery can be substantial, oftentimes harvesting upwards of 95% of the daily inriver return. The Fish Creek personal use fishery has only been open in two of the past 10 years (2009 and 2010). If the personal use fishery had opened on July 1, it is likely that the escapement goal would not have been met each year from 2004–2007.

Smaller stocks of coho salmon in Fish, Wasilla, and Cottonwood creeks harvest less than 1,000 fish each and are already restricted to weekends only with a sport fish bag of two fish. When commercial fishing was open in the proposed area for two days per week with a season closure of July 26, the average commercial harvest was 975 coho salmon.

Since 2002, when the Fish Creek sockeye salmon SEG was set at the current range of 20,000 to 70,000 fish, the escapement has ranged from 14,215 (2005) to 126,889 (2010). The run has exceeded the goal four times, been within the goal three times, and below the goal twice.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However the department is **OPPOSED** to increased harvests of Knik Arm coho salmon stocks.

**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 139-1. Fish Creek weir sockeye salmon escapement goal and escapements, 2002–2010.

Year	Escapement Goal	Escapement
2002	20,000 - 70,000	86,328
2003	20,000 - 70,000	86,915
2004	20,000 - 70,000	20,465
2005	20,000 - 70,000	12,051
2006	20,000 - 70,000	26,712
2007	20,000 - 70,000	24,134
2008	20,000 - 70,000	19,339
2009	20,000 - 70,000	83,477
2010	20,000 - 70,000	126,829

## **PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Runyan.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would direct the department to forecast the commercial harvest of coho salmon in commercial fishing periods. Once projected to exceed a 25% coho salmon harvest, the department would close the Northern District commercial salmon fishery. If the catch of coho salmon in an emergency or scheduled opener exceeded 25% of the total catch from that opener, then the department would close the Northern District commercial salmon fishery.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The purposes of this management plan are to minimize the harvest of coho salmon bound for the Northern District of UCI and to provide the department direction for management of salmon stocks. The department shall manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide commercial fishermen with an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho salmon, to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run. From the beginning of the regular commercial salmon fishing season, which occurs on or after June 25, through July 19, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish no more than two regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods per week. From July 20 through August 7, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods, but will be limited to no more than one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit. The Northern District commercial salmon fisheries shall be managed to minimize the incidental take of coho salmon stocks bound for the Northern District. Additional fishing periods, other than the regular weekly fishing periods, may not be provided when coho salmon are expected to be the most abundant species harvested during that period; additional fishing periods may not be provided based on the abundance of Northern District coho salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The effects of this proposal are dependent on how the board defines a “targeted sockeye fishery” and what areas and fisheries are included. While the proposal lists the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*, the proposal discusses both set and drift gillnet fisheries in the Central District. This proposal would generally close the Northern District any time from late June to early July, Kalgin Island and the west side could close in mid to late July, drift gillnets sporadically by late July, and generally by early August based on actual catches. The Upper Subdistrict would likely never close for this coho salmon provision.

**BACKGROUND:** In the original *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan*, a priority of salmon stocks was accomplished using season dates. Stocks traveling in UCI prior to July 1 were given a recreational priority (with exceptions) by the board. From July 1–August 15, there was a commercial priority with the provision that the harvest of certain stocks was to be minimized. In the original plan, the Susitna coho salmon stocks were the only coho stock that was to be minimized during this time frame. In 1999, that was changed to Northern District coho salmon and the method of minimization was specified in regulation.

There are two coho salmon escapement goals in the Northern Cook Inlet area: Little Susitna River and Jim Creek. In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Little Susitna weir coho escapement has been exceeded four times, been within the goal twice, and below the goal twice, in addition to the weir being flooded twice. The Jim Creek escapement has been exceeded nine times and below the goal in the last 10 years. From 2004-2008, when the most recent Fish Creek coho salmon escapement project was been in place, the previous Fish Creek coho salmon goal SEG of 1,200–4,000 was exceeded four times and was below the goal once. The Fish Creek coho salmon escapement goal of 1,200–4,000 is being reinstated.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to impractical and unworkable regulations. The department cannot forecast harvests because they vary from one fishing period to another and are highly dependent on run strength, run timing, effort, and where that effort occurs.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, and 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Runyan.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reinstate a suite of changes in the current management plans that were in place prior to the 2005 board meeting. In addition, it asks for unspecified language to be inserted to the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* using the Fish Creek weir to ensure passage of sockeye salmon to Northern Cook Inlet's Knik Arm streams.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 21.363. *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks and salmon species from the board. Divisions within the department must receive long-term direction in order to accomplish its missions and plan management, research, administrative, and other programs. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the board. In this plan, the board established provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks. The provisions addressed in this proposal are actually in 5 AAC 21.360. *Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 21.353. *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*, and 5 AAC 21.358. *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Effects of this proposal would be highly dependent on the run size, run timing, and management actions taken in sockeye salmon fisheries. Differences in regulations prior to 2005 compared to what they are now are as follows:

- In the drift fishery, prior to 2005, between July 9 and 15, one period was restricted to the corridor and the second period was inletwide. Two periods are now restricted to Area 1.
- In the set gillnet fishery, in runs of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, there have been no changes in the management plans. In runs of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000, there were up to 36 hours of additional time and a 48-hour window; currently, there are 51 hours of additional time and a 24-hour floating window and a 36-hour fixed window. In runs over 4,000,000 there were 60 hours of additional time and a 36-hour window; currently, there are 84 hours of additional time and a 36-hour fixed window.

**BACKGROUND:** In the late 1970s to 1990, the department often restricted additional drift gillnet fishing time to an area that is now named the Kenai and Kasilof sections. Because of problems achieving the Yentna/Susitna River escapement goal during this time, in 1990 the department began restricting a regular drift period between July 10–15 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. These actions were taken because the sockeye return to the Susitna River is largely over in the Central District before escapements are measured in the Yentna River sonar program because of the travel time from the Central District. In addition to the drift restrictions, closures in the Northern District set gillnet fishery from one to as many as seven closed regular periods were implemented, with mixed results. In 2005, the department began a program to verify

whether the Yentna sonar was accurately counting the sockeye salmon return and determined by late 2008 that it was, indeed, not counting accurately: it was undercounting to an unacceptable level. In 2009, a new goal using weirs on three lakes was established. Since the new escapement goals were established for the Chelatna and Judd lakes in the Yentna River drainage, and Larson Lake within the Susitna River drainage, in 2009, escapement goals have been met four out of six times.

In the 1960s, a coffer dam was built on Fish Creek at the outlet of Big Lake to raise the water level in the lake for recreational boating. Sockeye production declined rapidly. The department initiated the Big Lake Salmon Hatchery in 1976 to rebuild this run. In 1993, this project was transferred to the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, which has recently terminated hatchery supplementation. The dam structure was recently reconfigured to mitigate sockeye production, and hopefully rehabilitate the Fish Creek portion of the production at Big Lake.

Since 2002, when the Fish Creek SEG was set at the current range of 20,000 to 70,000 fish, the escapement has ranged from 14,215 (2005) to 126,889 (2010) (Table 141-1). The goal has been exceeded four times, been within the goal three times, and below the goal twice. In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six times, been within the goal three times, and been below the goal once. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded nine of 10 years, while the OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded seven times and within the goal three times, including 2009 and 2010.

There are two coho salmon escapement goals in the Northern Cook Inlet area: Little Susitna River and Jim Creek. In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Little Susitna weir coho escapement has been exceeded four times, been within the goal twice, and below the goal twice, in addition to the weir being flooded twice. The Jim Creek escapement has been exceeded nine times and below the goal in the last 10 years. From 2004-2008, when the most recent Fish Creek coho salmon escapement project was been in place, the previous Fish Creek coho salmon goal SEG of 1,200–4,000 was exceeded four times and was below the goal once. The Fish Creek coho salmon escapement goal of 1,200–4,000 is being reinstated.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 141-1. Kenai, Kasilof, and Fish Creek sockeye salmon goals and passage, 1990–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River		Fish Creek	
	Goal	Estimate <sup>a</sup>	Goal	Estimate <sup>a</sup>	Goal	Estimate <sup>b</sup>
1990	400,000-700,000	659,520	150,000-250,000	144,289	50,000	50,000
1991	400,000-700,000	647,597	150,000-250,000	238,269	50,000	50,500
1992	400,000-700,000	994,798	150,000-250,000	184,178	50,000	71,385
1993	400,000-700,000	813,617	150,000-250,000	149,939	50,000	117,619
1994	400,000-700,000	1,003,446	150,000-250,000	205,117	50,000	95,107
1995	450,000-700,000	630,447	150,000-250,000	204,935	50,000	115,000
1996	550,000-800,000	797,847	150,000-250,000	249,944	50,000	63,160
1997	550,000-825,000	1,064,818	150,000-250,000	266,025	50,000	54,656
1998	550,000-850,000	767,558	150,000-250,000	273,213	50,000	22,853
1999	750,000-950,000	803,379	150,000-250,000	312,587	50,000	26,667
2000	600,000-850,000	624,578	150,000-250,000	256,053	50,000	19,533
2001	600,000-850,000	650,036	150,000-250,000	307,570	50,000	43,469
2002	750,000-950,000	957,924	150,000-250,000	226,682	20,000 - 70,000	90,483
2003	750,000-950,000	1,181,309	150,000-250,000	359,633	20,000 - 70,000	92,298
2004	850,000-1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000-250,000	577,581	20,000 - 70,000	22,157
2005	850,000-1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000-250,000	348,012	20,000 - 70,000	14,215
2006	750,000-950,000	1,499,692	150,000-250,000	368,092	20,000 - 70,000	32,566
2007	750,000-950,000	867,572	150,000-250,000	336,866	20,000 - 70,000	27,948
2008	650,000-850,000	614,946	150,000-250,000	301,469	20,000 - 70,000	19,339
2009	650,000-850,000	745,170	150,000-250,000	297,125	20,000 - 70,000	83,477
2010	750,000-950,000	970,662	150,000-250,000	267,013	20,000 - 70,000	126,829

<sup>a</sup> Derived from sonar counters unless otherwise noted.

<sup>b</sup> Weir counts.



## **PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Andy Couch.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would delay the opening of the Northern District king salmon fishery from May 25 to June 4 and reduce the number of fishing periods from four or five (depending on the calendar year) to three.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Northern District king salmon fishery opens for commercial fishing with the first fishing period beginning on the first Monday on or after May 25 and continues through June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Set gillnets may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh size, and gillnets may not be set or operated within 1,200 feet of another set gillnet (twice the normal distance for the king salmon season). From May 25 through June 24, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing during the second regular Monday period only. If the Theodore, Lewis, or Ivan rivers are closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River shall be closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District shall be closed for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Chuitna River is closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River shall be closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. The harvest may not exceed 12,500 king salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reduce the commercial harvest by an unknown amount. The average harvest for the previous three years, since the new management plan was adopted, is 2,213 king salmon. The average harvest in the seven years prior to the implementation of the new plan was 2,360 king salmon. Reductions of commercial fishing time occurred in the 2009 and 2010 commercial fishing seasons because of poor (2009) and late (2010) king salmon runs.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted in 1986 and has been changed at various board meetings. The king salmon directed commercial fishing season opening fishing date was changed to the first Monday on or after May 25 by the board in 2002. The number of fishing periods remained at three with only one period open in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River. In 2005, the number of commercial fishing periods remained the same but the length of those periods was increased from six hours in length to 12 hours in length. At the 2008 board meeting, the number of fishing periods was increased from three periods per year, to four or five, dependent on the calendar year. The season opening date remained the same but the closing date was changed to through June 24, unless closed by emergency order. Through these changes though, in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River, only one commercial fishing period per year has been allowed.

Prior to the 2009 season, the board reduced the first two commercial fishing periods from 12 hours to six, and the department closed the last two commercial periods of the season on June 15 and June 22 (Table 142-1). In 2010, commercial king salmon fishing was closed for the season in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River for all of the fishing periods scheduled for the 2010 king salmon fishing season. For the remainder of the Northern District, the June 14 period in 2010 was reduced from 12 hours to six. Sport fishermen were not allowed to use bait in the Deshka River from June 14 to June 19. The harvest cap of 12,500 king salmon has remained in effect. The last year that the king salmon harvest exceeded this cap was 1986.

The previous 10-year (2001–2010) average harvest in the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery is 2,300 (Table 142-2). The average harvest in king salmon sport fisheries in the Northern District is approximately 33,600 king salmon. In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Deshka River weir goal has been exceeded six times, been within the goal twice, and below the goal twice. Out of 30 aerial survey goals on west side streams combined (Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna), three were above the goal, 13 were within the goal, and 14 were below the escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 142-1. Emergency orders issued during the Northern District directed king salmon commercial fishery during the last BOF cycle to conserve northern-bound king salmon stocks.

EO #	Date	Action Taken	Reason for Action
1	6/23/08	Closed commercial salmon fishing in the Northern District of UCI on Monday, June 23, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	To comply with 5 AAC 21.366, which states that if the sport fishery is closed in the Deshka River, the N. District commercial fishery will close.
2	6/26/08	Closed commercial salmon fishing in the Northern District of UCI on Thursday, June 26, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	To reduce the exploitation of Deshka River king salmon.
1	5/25/09	Reduced the open fishing time from twelve hours to six hours for the two commercial salmon fishing periods scheduled in the Northern District of UCI on Monday, May 25, 2009 and on Monday, June 1, 2009, from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. only.	To comply with an emergency regulation passed by the board to reduce the exploitation rate of Deshka River king salmon.
2	6/15/09	Closed commercial salmon fishing in the Northern District of UCI on Monday, June 15, 2009 and Monday, June 22, 2009.	To comply with 5 AAC 21.366, which states that if the sport fishery is closed in the Deshka River, the N. District commercial fishery will close.
1	5/11/10	Closed commercial salmon fishing in that portion of the Northern District of UCI from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River for all of the fishing periods scheduled for the 2010 king salmon fishing season. The fishing periods being closed by this announcement are those on Mondays, May 31, June 7, June 14, and June 21, 2010.	Division of Sport Fish closed the Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna Rivers to sport fishing. The <i>Northern District King Salmon Management Plan</i> requires a commercial closure from one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River if sport fishing closures occur.
2	6/10/10	Reduced the open fishing time from twelve hours to six hours, or from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., for the commercial salmon fishing period scheduled in the Northern District of UCI on Monday, June 14, 2010.	To reduce the exploitation of Deshka River king salmon.

Table 142-2. King salmon harvest from Northern District directed fishery by statistical area, 2001–2010.

Year	Date	247-10	247-20	247-30	247-41	247-42	247-43	247-70	247-80	247-90	Total
2001	6/4/2001	173	218	80	30	42	15	59		15	
	6/11/2001	300	282		22	119	21	37		12	
	6/18/2001	118			6	28	23	7		9	
	Total	591	500	80	58	189	59	103	0	36	1,616
2002	5/27/2002	95			13	60	4	37	56	5	
	6/3/2002	223	136	85	87	57	16	64	70	72	
	6/10/2002	159	131		34	104	3	63	115	58	
	Total	477	267	85	134	221	23	164	241	135	1,747
2003	5/26/2003	18		36	37	45		24		19	
	6/2/2003	5	101	4	45	43	54	74	17	6	
	6/9/2003	47	383	67	53	49	2	33	9	1	
	Total	70	484	107	135	137	56	131	26	26	1,172
2004	5/31/2004	74	33	17	30	43	40	108		9	
	6/7/2004	62	285	147	266	101	82	100		23	
	6/14/2004		137	47	46	56	38	59		16	
	Total	136	455	211	342	200	160	267	0	48	1,819
2005	5/30/2005	166	320		224	203	85	160	18	5	
	6/6/2005	103	430	290	97	60	69	65		31	
	6/13/2005	26	391		98	113	129	33	34		
	Total	295	1,141	290	419	376	283	258	52	36	3,150
2006	5/29/2006	174	133	20	76	47	78	80	19	13	
	6/5/2006	322	312	150	247	108	74	127	23	13	
	6/12/2006	335	489	212	165	116	232	204	79	39	
	Total	831	934	382	488	271	384	411	121	65	3,887
2007	5/28/2007	178	99	21	15	42	7	78	28	30	
	6/4/2007	237	162	228	131	94	124	240	36	18	
	6/11/2007	94	366	126	120	87	181	346	24	20	
	Total	509	627	375	266	223	312	664	88	68	3,132
2008	5/26/2008	39	272	42	33	16	27	35	24	11	
	6/2/2008	110	165	49	72	50	37	96	7	11	
	6/9/2008	103	535	143	275	208	153	168	72	31	
	6/16/2008	118	282	138	162	81	110	132	33	15	
	Total	370	1,254	372	542	355	327	431	136	68	3,855
2009	5/25/2009		28	14	6	3	1	24	3		
	6/1/2009	111	147	36	12	24	15	68	32	10	
	6/8/2009	148	181	94	64	101	56	77	3	8	
	Total	259	356	144	82	128	72	169	38	18	1,266
2010	5/31/2010	141	102		43	48	42	32	5	20	
	6/7/2010	180	302		71	63	71	74	22	19	
	6/14/2010		61		8	54	25	19	8	5	
	6/21/2010	17	147		2	23	39	20	7	4	
	Total	338	612	0	124	188	177	145	42	48	1,674

**PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Susitna Borough Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would add a purpose statement to the *Northern District King Salmon management Plan*. It would also reduce commercial fishing periods from 12 hours to 6 hours when bait was prohibited for king salmon sport fishing in the Deshka River. Commercial fishing would be closed in specific areas if sport fishing was closed to the retention of king salmon in either the Chuitna or Deshka rivers.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Northern District king salmon fishery opens for commercial fishing beginning on the first Monday on or after May 25, and continues through June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Set gillnets may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh size, and gillnets may not be set or operated within 1,200 feet of another set gillnet (twice the normal distance for the king season). From May 25 through June 24, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing during the second regular Monday period only. If the Theodore, Lewis, or Ivan rivers are closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River shall be closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District shall be closed for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Chuitna River is closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River shall be closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. The harvest may not exceed 12,500 king salmon.

The Chuitna River is open to the sport harvest of king salmon from January 1 through June 30, the use of bait is prohibited from May 15 through June 30, and fishing is allowed only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one per day.

The Deshka River is open to fishing for king salmon January 1 through July 13, the use of bait is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and fishing is allowed only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one per day.

The Theodore and Lewis rivers are open to catch and release fishing for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from January 1–June 30. No retention is allowed. Only one, unbaited single hook, artificial lure is allowed January 1–July 13.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The effect of elements of this proposal concerning commercial fishing restrictions and closures would be dependent on management actions taken in the sport fishery. However, the Theodore and Lewis rivers are already catch-and-release. Hence, the board would be permanently closing the area

from the Theodore River to the Susitna River to commercial fishing while sport fishing remained open, but closed to the retention of king salmon in either the Chuitna or Deshka rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** Purpose statements found at the beginning of most Upper Cook Inlet management plans provides direction to future boards, stake holders, and the department on the long-term management objectives of the board. Purpose statements first appeared in the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan in 1981. These statements have changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

The *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted in 1986 and has been changed at various board meetings. The king salmon directed commercial fishing season opening fishing date was changed to the first Monday on or after May 25 by the board in 2002. The number of fishing periods remained at three with only one period open in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River. In 2005, the number of commercial fishing periods remained the same but the length of those periods was increased from six hours in length to 12 hours in length. At the 2008 board meeting, the number of fishing periods was increased from three periods per year, to four or five, dependent on the calendar year. The season opening date remained the same but the closing date was changed to through June 24, unless closed by emergency order. Through these changes though, in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River, only one commercial fishing period per year has been allowed.

Prior to the 2009 season, the board reduced the first two commercial fishing periods from 12 hours to six, and the department closed the last two commercial periods of the season on June 15 and June 22. In 2010, commercial king salmon fishing was closed for the season in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River for all of the fishing periods scheduled for the 2010 king salmon fishing season. For the remainder of the Northern District, the June 14 period in 2010 was reduced from 12 hours to six. Sport fishermen were not allowed to use bait in the Deshka River from June 14 to June 19. The harvest cap of 12,500 king salmon has remained in effect. The last year that the king salmon harvest exceeded this cap was 1986.

In 2008, the use of bait on the Deshka River was prohibited by emergency order on June 14, and the sport fishery for king salmon was closed on June 20, 2008. Prior to the 2009 season, the board reduced the first two commercial fishing periods from 12 hours to six and the department closed the last two commercial periods of the season on June 15 and June 22. In the Deshka River, the use of bait was prohibited on May 15 and anglers were allowed to retain king salmon only on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays until the river was closed to king salmon fishing by emergency order on June 13, 2009. In 2010, commercial king salmon fishing was closed for the season in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River for all of the fishing periods scheduled for the 2010 king salmon fishing season. For the remainder of the Northern District, the June 14 period in 2010 was reduced from 12 hours to six. Sport fishing for king salmon was closed by emergency order in the Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna rivers on May 15, 2010. Sport fishermen were not allowed to use bait in the Deshka River from June 12 to June 19.

The Theodore and Lewis rivers drain into West Cook Inlet north of the village of Tyonek. About 900 fishing days of effort are expended on the Theodore River to catch 800 king salmon, while on average, anglers spend 300 days fishing the Lewis River to catch 130 fish. The board took action in 1999 to restrict these rivers to catch-and-release only due to low observed escapements during the mid 1990s. Despite very restrictive sport fish regulations, neither system has met the lower bounds of their respective escapement goals in the past four years.

The previous 10-year (2001–2010) average harvest of the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery is 2,300 (Table 143-1). The harvest cap of 12,500 king salmon has remained in effect. The last year that the king salmon harvest exceeded this cap was in 1986. The average harvest of king salmon sport fisheries in the Northern District is approximately 33,600 king salmon. The average harvest (2001–2010) of king salmon sport fisheries in the Deshka River is approximately 5,411 king salmon. In the 10 years, 2001–2010, the Deshka River weir escapement goal has been exceeded six times, was within the goal twice, and below the goal twice (Table 143-2). Out of 30 aerial survey goals on west side streams combined (Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna) three were above the goal, 13 were within the goal, and 14 were below the escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 143-1. King salmon harvest from Northern District directed fishery by statistical area, 2001–2010.

Year	Date	247-10	247-20	247-30	247-41	247-42	247-43	247-70	247-80	247-90	Total
2001	6/4/2001	173	218	80	30	42	15	59		15	
	6/11/2001	300	282		22	119	21	37		12	
	6/18/2001	118			6	28	23	7		9	
	Total	591	500	80	58	189	59	103	0	36	1,616
2002	5/27/2002	95			13	60	4	37	56	5	
	6/3/2002	223	136	85	87	57	16	64	70	72	
	6/10/2002	159	131		34	104	3	63	115	58	
	Total	477	267	85	134	221	23	164	241	135	1,747
2003	5/26/2003	18		36	37	45		24		19	
	6/2/2003	5	101	4	45	43	54	74	17	6	
	6/9/2003	47	383	67	53	49	2	33	9	1	
	Total	70	484	107	135	137	56	131	26	26	1,172
2004	5/31/2004	74	33	17	30	43	40	108		9	
	6/7/2004	62	285	147	266	101	82	100		23	
	6/14/2004		137	47	46	56	38	59		16	
	Total	136	455	211	342	200	160	267	0	48	1,819
2005	5/30/2005	166	320		224	203	85	160	18	5	
	6/6/2005	103	430	290	97	60	69	65		31	
	6/13/2005	26	391		98	113	129	33	34		
	Total	295	1,141	290	419	376	283	258	52	36	3,150
2006	5/29/2006	174	133	20	76	47	78	80	19	13	
	6/5/2006	322	312	150	247	108	74	127	23	13	
	6/12/2006	335	489	212	165	116	232	204	79	39	
	Total	831	934	382	488	271	384	411	121	65	3,887
2007	5/28/2007	178	99	21	15	42	7	78	28	30	
	6/4/2007	237	162	228	131	94	124	240	36	18	
	6/11/2007	94	366	126	120	87	181	346	24	20	
	Total	509	627	375	266	223	312	664	88	68	3,132
2008	5/26/2008	39	272	42	33	16	27	35	24	11	
	6/2/2008	110	165	49	72	50	37	96	7	11	
	6/9/2008	103	535	143	275	208	153	168	72	31	
	6/16/2008	118	282	138	162	81	110	132	33	15	
	Total	370	1,254	372	542	355	327	431	136	68	3,855
2009	5/25/2009		28	14	6	3	1	24	3		
	6/1/2009	111	147	36	12	24	15	68	32	10	
	6/8/2009	148	181	94	64	101	56	77	3	8	
	Total	259	356	144	82	128	72	169	38	18	1,266
2010	5/31/2010	141	102		43	48	42	32	5	20	
	6/7/2010	180	302		71	63	71	74	22	19	
	6/14/2010		61		8	54	25	19	8	5	
	6/21/2010	17	147		2	23	39	20	7	4	
	Total	338	612	0	124	188	177	145	42	48	1,674



Table 143-2. Doshka River king salmon weir escapement, 1995–2010.

Year	Escapement	Year	Escapement
1995	10,044	2003	39,496
1996	14,349	2004	57,934
1997	35,587	2005	37,725
1998	15,409	2006	31,150
1999	29,649	2007	18,714
2000	35,242	2008	7,533
2001	29,004	2009	11,960
2002	29,427	2010	18,594

BEG = 13,000-28,000

**PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Bruce Knowles.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish a king salmon management plan for tributaries of the Susitna River. Management would be based on the historical escapements instead of inseason information.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Northern District king salmon fishery opens for commercial fishing beginning on the first Monday on or after May 25, and continues through June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Set gillnets may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh size, and gillnets may not be set or operated within 1,200 feet of another set gillnet. From May 25 through June 24, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing during the second regular Monday period only. If the Theodore, Lewis, or Ivan rivers are closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River shall be closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District shall be closed for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. If the Chuitna River is closed to sport fishing, the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River shall be closed to commercial king salmon fishing for the remainder of the directed king salmon fishery. The harvest may not exceed 12,500 king salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Effects of this proposal would be dependent on actions taken by the board in developing the proposed plan.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted in 1986 and has been changed at various board meetings. The king salmon directed commercial fishing season opening fishing date was changed to the first Monday on or after May 25 by the board in 2002. The number of fishing periods remained at three with only one period open in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River. In 2005, the number of commercial fishing periods remained the same but the length of those periods was increased from six hours in length to 12 hours in length. At the 2008 board meeting, the number of fishing periods was increased from three periods per year, to four or five, dependent on the calendar year. The season opening date remained the same but the closing date was changed to through June 24, unless closed by emergency order. Through these changes though, in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River, only one commercial fishing period per year has been allowed.

Prior to the 2009 season, the board reduced the first two commercial fishing periods from 12 hours to six, and the department closed the last two commercial periods of the season on June 15 and June 22. In 2010, commercial king salmon fishing was closed for the season in that area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna

River for all of the fishing periods scheduled for the 2010 king salmon fishing season. For the remainder of the Northern District, the June 14 period in 2010 was reduced from 12 hours to six. Sport fishermen were not allowed to use bait in the Deshka River from June 14 to June 19. The harvest cap of 12,500 king salmon has remained in effect. The last year that the king salmon harvest exceeded this cap was 1986.

The previous 10-year (2001–2010) average harvest of the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery is 2,300. The average harvest of king salmon sport fisheries in the Northern District is approximately 33,600 king salmon. In the previous 10 years (2001–2010), the Deshka River weir goal has been exceeded six times, within the goal twice, and below the goal twice. Out 30 aerial survey goals on the west side streams combined (Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna), three were above the goal, 13 were within the goal, and 14 were below the escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.

## **PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern District Setnetters Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would have the department conduct a stock assessment of the king salmon caught during the marine fishery off Deep Creek prior to any restrictions being enacted in the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are no regulations which direct the department to conduct research projects.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would likely have no measurable effect on management of the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery because studies of the marine recreational fishery have already been conducted.

**BACKGROUND:** The board passed the *Upper Cook Inlet Marine Early Run King Salmon Management Plan* in 1996. The plan was intended to stabilize a growing king salmon fishery on fully-utilized mixed stocks in the nearshore marine waters from Ninilchik south to Bluff Point, and to prevent overexploitation of king salmon stocks thought to be intercepted in the marine recreational fishery and that were experiencing below average returns. These king salmon stocks included Deep Creek, Anchor River, Kenai River, and some northern Cook Inlet tributaries. Record harvests were occurring in Anchor River and Deep Creek concurrently with below-average escapements. In addition to creating the management plan, the board restricted freshwater king salmon fisheries in Anchor River and Deep Creek as a further conservation measure. The plan also established a conservation zone that extended one mile seaward and encompassed the area from the mouth of the Ninilchik River to two miles south of Deep Creek (Figure 145-1).

The early-run marine king salmon harvest north of Bluff Point peaked at 8,230 in 1995. After implementation of the *Upper Cook Inlet Marine Early-run King Salmon Management Plan*, the average annual early-run marine king salmon sport harvest stabilized at an average of 4,505 fish. Annual harvests from 1996 through 2009 were within the guideline harvest level of 8,000 king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. The peak harvest was 5,783 fish in 1998. The reported harvests are of king salmon of any size, including those less than 20 inches (Table 145-1).

A department study to estimate the contribution of coded-wire-tagged king salmon stocks to the marine fishery was conducted from 1996–2002 and found that the marine fishery between Bluff Point and Deep Creek harvests a mixture of king salmon stocks from Cook Inlet and the western United States. Cook Inlet stocks dominate the harvest, but nonlocal stocks make up a significant proportion of the harvest in some years. No one Cook Inlet stock dominates the harvest; rather, many Cook Inlet stocks contribute. Deep Creek wild and Ninilchik River hatchery-produced king salmon were the only local stocks with coded wire tags, and were found to contribute fewer than 300 and fewer than 200 fish, respectively, to the annual marine harvest in the years that all year classes of the two stocks were tagged. The marine harvest of Anchor River king salmon is likely slightly higher, but of a similar small magnitude, compared to the harvest from Deep

Creek. Cook Inlet stocks dominated the harvest taken within three-quarter mile from shore and nonlocal stocks comprise the largest component of the harvest beyond three-quarter mile of shore. No information exists about the stock composition of the marine harvest prior to the restrictions implemented in 1996.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal. The board has no "administrative, budgeting, or fiscal powers" that would allow the board to direct department research activity.

**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.

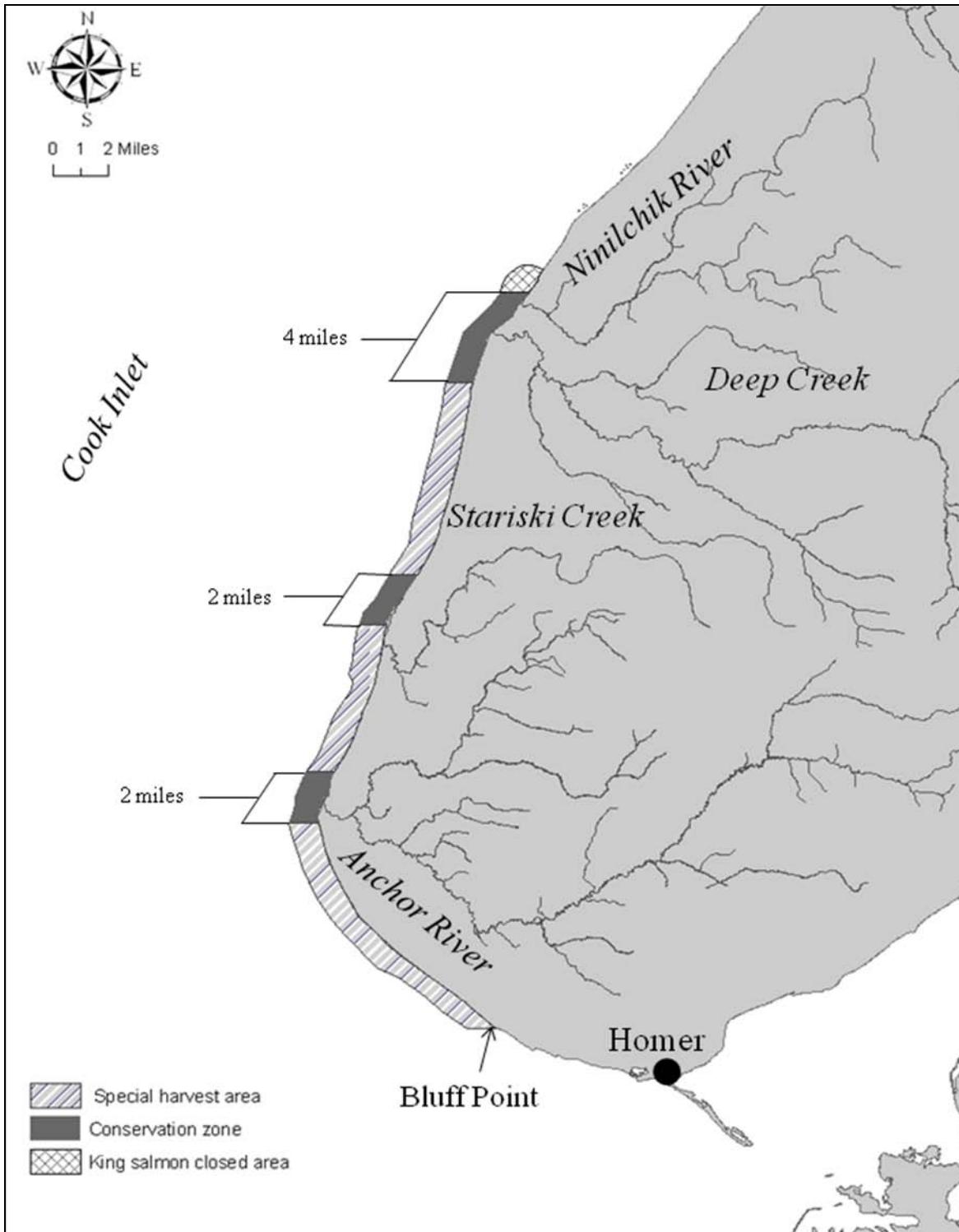


Figure 145-1. Map of Cook Inlet early-run king salmon special harvest area.

Table 145-1. Marine early- and late-run Central Cook Inlet king salmon sport fishery harvest by boat anglers, 1972–2009.

Year	Early-run	Late-run	Total
1972	1,000	1,250	2,250
1973	519	491	1,010
1974	500	100	600
1975	540	345	885
1976	5,495	1,382	6,877
1977	4,617	366	4,983
1978	2,669	2,693	5,362
1979	3,088	1,164	4,252
1980	521	747	1,268
1981	2,363	170	2,533
1982	2,497	1,173	3,670
1983	1,000	1,707	2,707
1984	2,386	835	3,221
1985	5,087	1,731	6,818
1986	2,888	1,208	4,096
1987	3,613	1,512	5,125
1988	4,243	1,775	6,018
1989	3,863	1,616	5,479
1990	4,694	1,964	6,658
1991	4,824	2,019	6,843
1992	5,996	2,509	8,505
1993	8,136	3,404	11,540
1994	6,850	2,296	9,146
1995	8,230	2,673	10,903
1996	4,702	2,006	6,708
1997	5,646	2,850	8,496
1998	5,783	1,680	7,463
1999	4,907	997	5,904
2000	4,773	1,026	5,799
2001	3,671	860	4,531
2002	3,368	427	3,795
2003	4,042	200	4,242
2004	3,880	1,539	5,419
2005	3,746	1,040	4,786
2006	5,035	898	5,933
2007	4,015	797	4,829
2008	2,137	517	2,654
2009	1,415	256	1,671
Mean			
1972-1995	3,567	1,464	5,031
1996-2009	4,080	1,078	5,159

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**PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow the department to reduce the size of the closed area around the mouth of the Kenai River if the inriver king salmon run is less than 40,000 fish.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Consistent with the purposes of this management plan and 5 AAC 21.360, if the projected inriver return of king salmon is less than 40,000 fish, the department may not reduce the closed waters at the mouth of the Kenai River described in 5 AAC 21.350(b). These waters are described as Kenai River: waters enclosed by a line from the southern ADF&G regulatory marker at the mouth of the Kenai River (60° 30.32' N. lat., 151° 17.05' W. long.) to the Coast Guard channel marker 1 KE located at 60° 31.30' N. lat., 151° 20.50' W. long. to the northern ADF&G regulatory marker at the mouth of the Kenai River (60° 34.09' N. lat., 151° 19.30' W. long.), and the area between a line bearing 235° from the northern ADF&G regulatory marker; and the Kenai River mouth, those waters within one mile of the mean high tide mark and, in the area between the southern ADF&G regulatory marker and the Kenai River mouth, those waters within one and one-half miles of the mean high tide mark.

The department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions.

The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Effects of this proposal would be dependent upon the usage of the Kenai River Special Harvest Area. In years of large sockeye salmon runs to the Kenai River, fishing in this area would allow commercial fishermen to harvest large concentrations of Kenai River sockeye salmon during a short time period. Commercial harvest rates of Kenai River sockeye salmon and late-run king salmon would likely increase. This proposal would increase the social conflicts between the commercial and personal use fisheries operating in the same location.

**BACKGROUND:** The Kenai River closed waters area (Figure 146-1) includes the waters from the regulatory markers placed approximately three miles from the river, both north and south of the river out to approximately one and one-half miles from the mean high tide mark. Reducing closed waters in commercial fisheries has been used in the past in the Kenai River to harvest large surpluses of sockeye salmon. This area was last used in 1988 and was contemplated in 1992. However, the run in 1992 did not build at the river mouth in a timeframe conducive to use of this area. In 1996, the present language was added to the plan requiring 40,000 king salmon inriver, 4,300 over the upper end of the goal. Prior to this change, making the goal for king salmon was all that was required.

During 1986–2009, the total harvest of late-run king salmon has ranged from 13,435 to 44,618 and averaged 27,724. Over this time, the harvest percent by gear group is 1) sport fisheries ranged from 33% to 79% and averaged 55%; 2) commercial fisheries ranged from 19% to 67% and averaged 43%; and 3) personal use and educational fisheries ranged from 1% to 7% and averaged 2% (Table 146-1). Table 146-2 shows the goals and sonar estimates of sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 146-1. Harvest of Kenai River late-run king salmon, 1986–2010.

Year	Deep Creek	Eastside	Drift	Inriver				Percent of total harvest by fishery		
	Marine	Set Net	Gillnet	Pers.	Ed.	Sport	Total	Commercial	All sport	Ed.
	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Use	Fishery	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Harvest			Pers. Use
1986	630	19,810	1,834			10,188	32,462	67%	33%	0%
1987	1,218	20,588	4,551			13,223	39,580	64%	36%	0%
1988	1,487	12,870	2,217			19,871	36,444	41%	59%	0%
1989	1,368	10,919	0		22	9,779	22,089	49%	50%	0%
1990	1,605	4,139	621	91	13	6,966	13,435	35%	64%	1%
1991	1,705	4,891	241	130	288	7,919	15,173	34%	63%	3%
1992	2,115	10,718	543	50	402	7,790	21,618	52%	46%	2%
1993	2,834	13,977	751	129	27	18,253	35,970	41%	59%	0%
1994	1,869	15,885	460	13	392	18,409	37,028	44%	55%	1%
1995	2,069	12,032	523	36	646	13,081	28,387	44%	53%	2%
1996	2,038	11,521	365	45	294	8,449	22,712	52%	46%	1%
1997	2,931	11,281	489	339	26	13,325	28,391	41%	57%	1%
1998	1,784	5,039	332	271	2	8,110	15,538	35%	64%	2%
1999	1,004	9,463	575	488	4	14,277	25,811	39%	59%	2%
2000	1,052	3,684	270	410	6	15,721	21,143	19%	79%	2%
2001	920	6,009	619	638	8	17,305	25,499	26%	71%	3%
2002	427	9,478	415	606	6	13,272	24,204	41%	57%	3%
2003	200	14,810	1,240	1,016	11	18,746	36,023	45%	53%	3%
2004	1,660	21,683	1,526	792	10	18,393	44,064	53%	46%	2%
2005	1,040	21,472	1,839	775	11	19,481	44,618	52%	46%	2%
2006	938	8,696	1,051	1,034	11	16,642	28,372	34%	62%	4%
2007	797	12,292	912	1,509	6	12,111	27,627	48%	47%	5%
2008	517	7,573	653	1,362	15	11,508	21,628	38%	56%	6%
2009	256	5,588	859	1,189	4	9,662	17,558	37%	56%	7%
2010 <sup>b</sup>	-	7,059	539	-		5,430	13,028	58%	42%	
Average 1986–2009	1,353	11,434	954	546	105	13,437	27,724	43%	55%	2%
Average 2005–2009	710	11,124	1,063	1,174	9	13,881	27,961	42%	53%	5%

<sup>a</sup> Includes harvest above and below sonar and hook and release mortality.

<sup>b</sup> 2010 estimates of harvest are **preliminary**.

Table 146-2. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

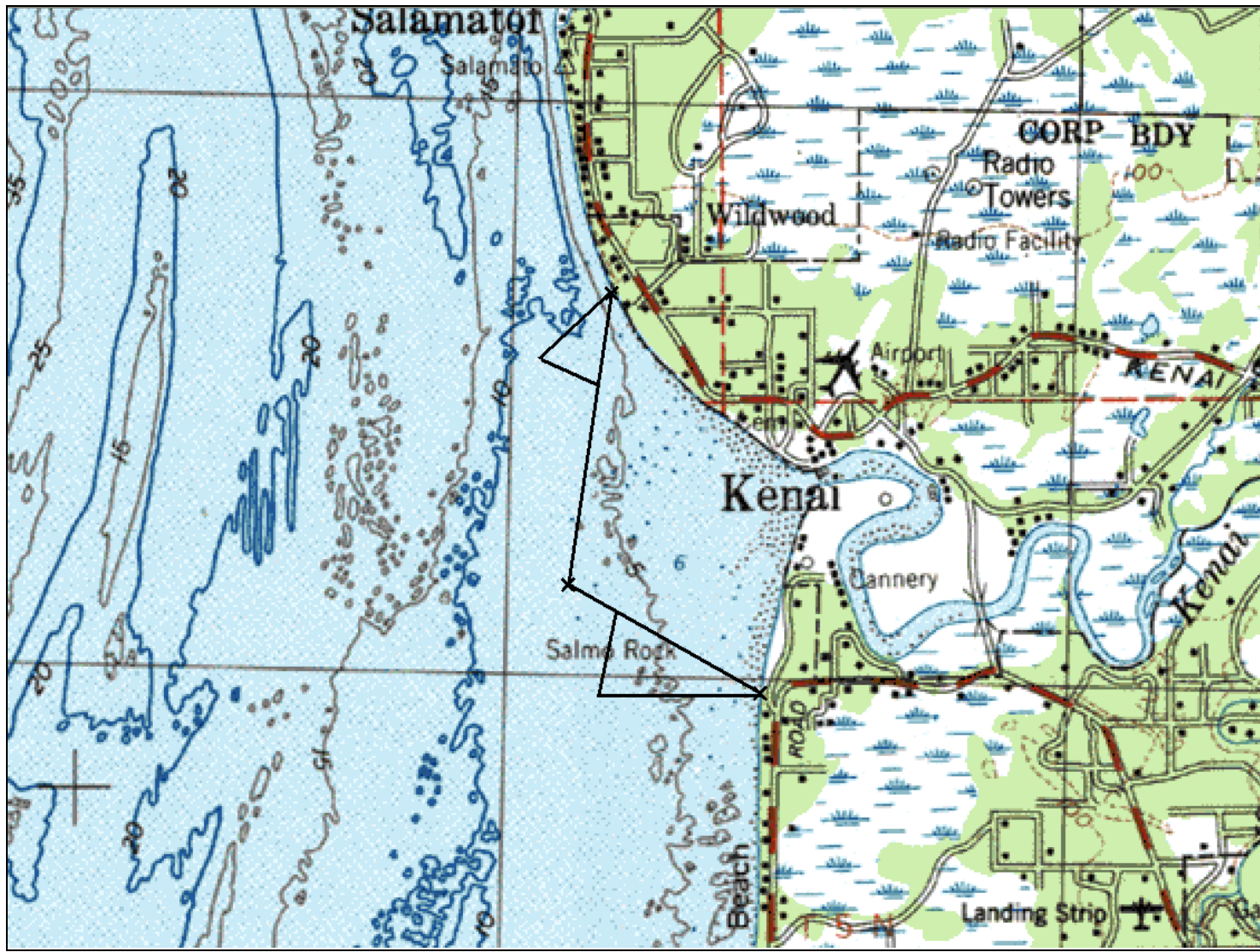


Figure 146-1. Kenai River closed waters.

**PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would add an additional purpose statement; increase the upper end of the inriver goal to 1,200,000 sockeye salmon in all three management tiers; in runs of 2,000,000–4,000,000 sockeye salmon, have two set closed fishing windows of 36 hours each and delete the floating 24 hour window closure; shorten the set gillnet fishing season by a minimum of eight days; and direct the department to develop inriver projections.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks are managed primarily for commercial uses. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho, and late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with an opportunity to harvest these resources. The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an optimum escapement goal (OEG) range of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the (OEG) range. The current sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon and is determined by the department.

Based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return, the run will be managed as follows: at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19 and will fish regular weekly fishing periods and allow additional fishing of no more than 24-hours per week.

At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 51 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for an additional 24-hour period during the same week.

At run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the OEG, the department shall manage the sport fishery on the Kenai River, except that portion of the Kenai River from its confluence with the Russian River to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1,800 yards downstream as follows: fishing will occur seven days per week, 24 hours per day; and the bag and possession limit for the sport fishery is three sockeye salmon unless the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds 2,000,000 salmon, at which time the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit as the commissioner determines to be



appropriate; if the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is less than 650,000 fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below the lower end of the OEG, the commissioner may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit, as the commissioner determines to be appropriate, for sockeye salmon in the sport fishery above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19.

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the OEG, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River. In the Kenai River, salmon may be taken by dip net from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The commissioner may extend, by emergency order, the personal use fishery to 24-hours per day if the department determines that the abundance of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon is greater than 2,000,000 fish. The annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is 25 salmon for the head of a household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it is the intent of the board that, while in most circumstances, the department will adhere to the management plans in this chapter; no provision within a specific management plan is intended to limit the commissioner's use of emergency order authority under AS 16.05.060 to achieve established escapement goals for the management plans as the primary management objective.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would likely require the department to deviate from the management plan by emergency order, for additional fishing time, to achieve established escapement goals as directed under 5 AAC 21.363(e) in runs between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. This proposal also asks the department to develop inseason inriver projections which are highly dependent on the run size, run timing, and fishing time, leading to inaccurate assessments.

**BACKGROUND:** Purpose statements found at the beginning of most Upper Cook Inlet management plans provides direction to future boards, stakeholders, and the department on the long-term management objectives of the board. Purpose statements first appeared in the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* in 1981. These statements have changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

The first restrictions on additional time in the Upper Subdistrict were put in place in 1999. At that time there was a mandatory 24-hour closed period on Fridays, often called a “window”. In addition, there was a second 24-hour window if the inriver king salmon sport fishery was restricted. In 1996, a limit on additional fishing time of no more than a single extra period per week was put in place in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in the *Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. Also in 1996, restrictions were implemented in the Northern District set gillnet fishery; additional time, other than regular periods, was prohibited after August 15, and two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. A third regular drift gillnet period after July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In 2002, additional fishing time in the

Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery was limited to either 36, 48, or 60 hours of additional time per week and a mandatory closed period of 24, 36, or 48 hours, depending on run strength, was implemented. For runs of less than 2,000,000, the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2,000,000–4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 36 hours per week and there is a mandatory closed period of 48 hours per week. For runs of over 4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 60 hours per week and a mandatory closed period of 36 hours per week. Regulations now in place were adopted at the 2005 board meeting and allow 24, 51, or 84 hours of additional time by run strength.

The current escapement goal range of 500,000–800,000 spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 1999. Stock-recruit data have been modeled extensively for the past decade, as well as in the escapement goal report to be presented during this board meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 board meeting, the board adopted an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three inriver-based goals.

In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six of 10 years within the goal three times, and below the goal once. In the last nine years (2001–2009), the sockeye salmon escapement in the Kenai River was below the OEG twice, within the goal four times, and exceeded the goal three times (Table 147-1). During that same time period, the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) has been below the goal twice, within the goal three times, and the goal was exceeded four times. Escapements are not available for 2010 because sport fishing harvests are not yet available for 2010. Table 147-2 shows the Kenai River late-run king salmon harvest by user group from 1986–2010. Figures 147-1 and 147-2 show the Upper Subdistrict east side set gillnet harvests of sockeye and king salmon.

The department recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG range of 500,000–800,000 should change to an SEG range of 700,000–1,200,000 fish. There is one optimal escapement goal and three inriver goals associated with the current escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, this proposal may require the department to deviate from the management plan by emergency order to achieve established escapement goals as directed under 5 AAC 21.363(e). The department is **OPPOSED** to impractical and unworkable regulations; the department cannot project the inriver abundance within 48 hours because passage rates vary from one day to the next and are dependent on run strength, run timing, and fishing effort.

**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 147-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup> An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

Table 147-2. Harvest of Kenai River late-run king salmon, 1986–2010.

Year	Deep Creek	Eastside	Drift			Inriver		Percent of total harvest by fishery		
	Marine	Set Net	Gillnet	Pers. Use	Ed. Fishery	Sport	Total	Commercial	All sport	Ed. Fishery
	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest			Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Harvest			
1986	630	19,810	1,834			10,188	32,462	67%	33%	0%
1987	1,218	20,588	4,551			13,223	39,580	64%	36%	0%
1988	1,487	12,870	2,217			19,871	36,444	41%	59%	0%
1989	1,368	10,919	0		22	9,779	22,089	49%	50%	0%
1990	1,605	4,139	621	91	13	6,966	13,435	35%	64%	1%
1991	1,705	4,891	241	130	288	7,919	15,173	34%	63%	3%
1992	2,115	10,718	543	50	402	7,790	21,618	52%	46%	2%
1993	2,834	13,977	751	129	27	18,253	35,970	41%	59%	0%
1994	1,869	15,885	460	13	392	18,409	37,028	44%	55%	1%
1995	2,069	12,032	523	36	646	13,081	28,387	44%	53%	2%
1996	2,038	11,521	365	45	294	8,449	22,712	52%	46%	1%
1997	2,931	11,281	489	339	26	13,325	28,391	41%	57%	1%
1998	1,784	5,039	332	271	2	8,110	15,538	35%	64%	2%
1999	1,004	9,463	575	488	4	14,277	25,811	39%	59%	2%
2000	1,052	3,684	270	410	6	15,721	21,143	19%	79%	2%
2001	920	6,009	619	638	8	17,305	25,499	26%	71%	3%
2002	427	9,478	415	606	6	13,272	24,204	41%	57%	3%
2003	200	14,810	1,240	1,016	11	18,746	36,023	45%	53%	3%
2004	1,660	21,683	1,526	792	10	18,393	44,064	53%	46%	2%
2005	1,040	21,472	1,839	775	11	19,481	44,618	52%	46%	2%
2006	938	8,696	1,051	1,034	11	16,642	28,372	34%	62%	4%
2007	797	12,292	912	1,509	6	12,111	27,627	48%	47%	5%
2008	517	7,573	653	1,362	15	11,508	21,628	38%	56%	6%
2009	256	5,588	859	1,189	4	9,662	17,558	37%	56%	7%
2010 <sup>b</sup>	-	7,059	539	-		5,430	13,028	58%	42%	
Average 1986–2009	1,353	11,434	954	546	105	13,437	27,724	43%	55%	2%
Average 2005–2009	710	11,124	1,063	1,174	9	13,881	27,961	42%	53%	5%

<sup>a</sup> Includes harvest above and below sonar and hook and release mortality.

<sup>b</sup> 2010 estimates of harvest are **preliminary**.

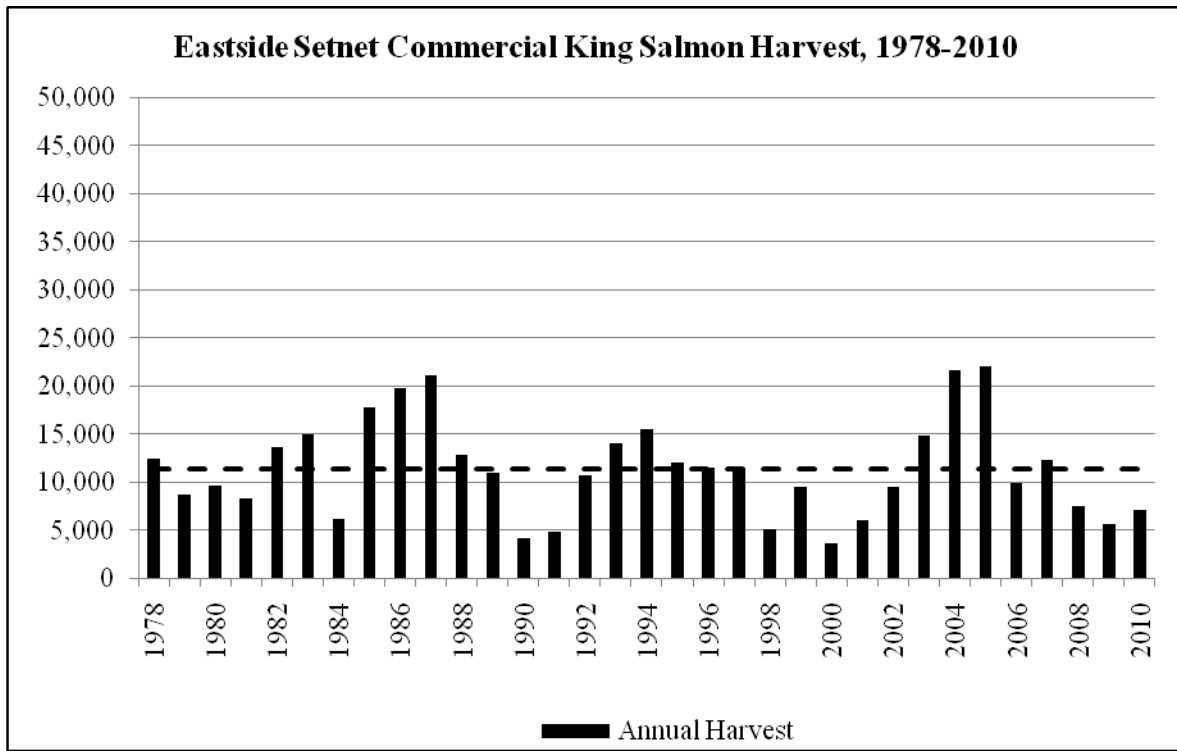


Figure 147-1. Upper Subdistrict eastside set gillnet harvests of king salmon, 1978-2010.

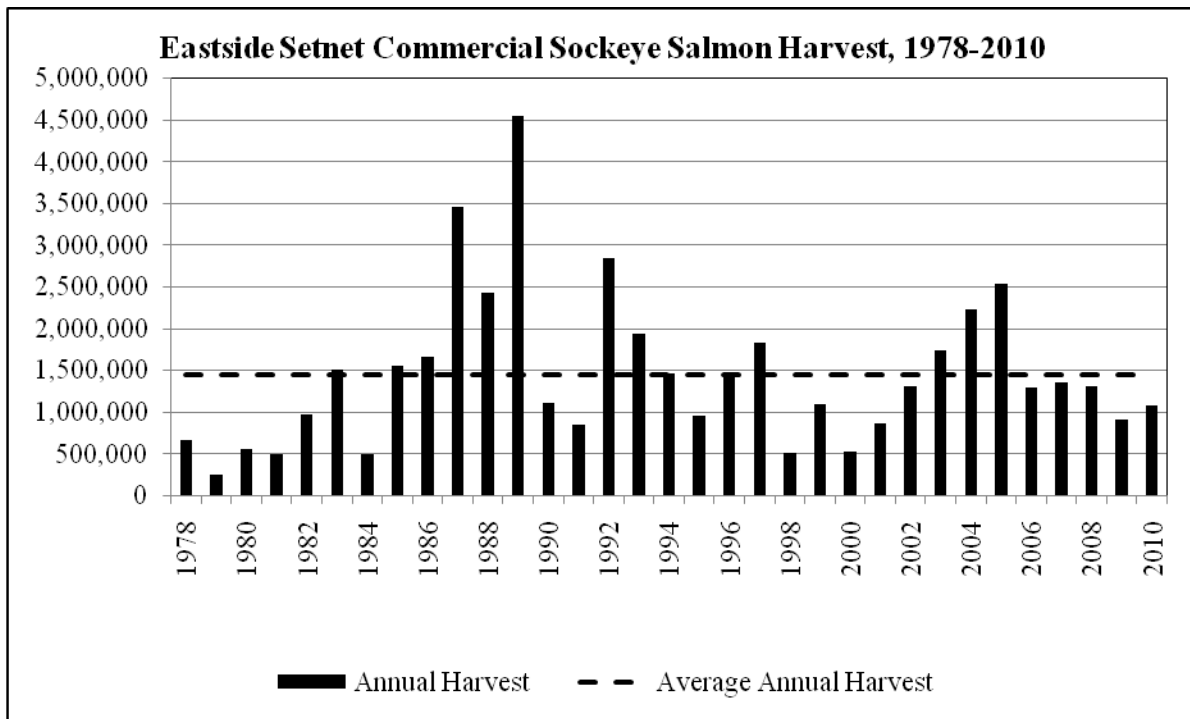


Figure 147-2. Upper Subdistrict eastside set gillnet harvests of sockeye salmon, 1978-2010.

**PROPOSAL 327 - 5 AAC 21.360(c). Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would remove regulatory language that requires closed windows and limitations on the amount of emergency order authority beyond the two regular 12-hour commercial fishing periods that can be fished each week. It would delete everything in the management plans except the inriver goals within the three tiers of regulations related to run size.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return, the run will be managed as follows: at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19, will fish regular weekly fishing periods, and allow additional fishing of no more than 24-hours per week.

At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 51hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for an additional 24-hour period during the same week.

At run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The department would manage for the various sockeye salmon escapement goals as established in the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, but without any mandatory windows or emergency order limitations. Commercial harvests of king salmon would also be dependent on fisheries management for sockeye salmon. Management actions taken inseason would be dependent on run strength and run timing of the sockeye salmon runs. Allocations would become incidental to management directed at achieving the various goals. Deleting windows and regulatory limitations on emergency order authority may aid in harvesting the larger pulses of sockeye salmon. This proposal may also result in restrictions or closure to the Kenai River sport fishery above the sonar site, as well as to the Russian River sport fishery depending on the run size.

**BACKGROUND:** The first restrictions on additional time in the Upper Subdistrict were put in place in 1999. At that time there was a mandatory 24-hour closed period on Fridays, often called a “window”. These windows are to provide for relatively predictable inriver fishing opportunities. In addition, there was a second 24-hour window if the inriver king salmon sport fishery was restricted. In 1996, a limit on additional fishing time of no more than a single extra

period per week was put in place in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in the *Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. Also in 1996, restrictions were implemented in the Northern District set gillnet fishery; additional time, other than regular periods, was prohibited after August 15, and two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. A third regular drift gillnet period after July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In 2002, additional fishing time in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery was limited to either 36, 48, or 60 hours of additional time per week, and a mandatory closed period of 24, 36, or 48 hours, depending on run strength, was implemented. For runs of less than 2,000,000, the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2,000,000–4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 36 hours per week and there is a mandatory closed period of 48 hours per week. For runs of over 4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 60 hours per week and a mandatory closed period of 36 hours per week. Regulations now in place were adopted at the 2005 board meeting.

In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The biological escapement goal (BEG) (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years (Table 327-1). In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six of 10 years, within the goal three times, and below the goal once (Table 327-1). In the last nine years (2001–2009), sockeye salmon escapement in the Kenai River was below the OEG (500,000–1,000,000) twice, was within the goal four times, and exceeded the goal three times. During that same time period, the SEG (500,000–800,000) has been below the goal twice, within the goal three times, and exceeded the goal four times. Escapements are not available for 2010 because sport fishing harvests are not yet available for 2010. . King salmon harvests by user group can be found in Table 327-2.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 327-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.



Table 327-2. Harvest of Kenai River late-run king salmon, 1986–2010.

Year	Deep Creek	Eastside	Drift			Inriver		Percent of total harvest by fishery		
	Marine	Set Net	Gillnet	Pers.	Ed.	Sport	Total	Ed. Fishery		
	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Use	Fishery	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Harvest	Commercial	All sport	Pers. Use
1986	630	19,810	1,834			10,188	32,462	67%	33%	0%
1987	1,218	20,588	4,551			13,223	39,580	64%	36%	0%
1988	1,487	12,870	2,217			19,871	36,444	41%	59%	0%
1989	1,368	10,919	0		22	9,779	22,089	49%	50%	0%
1990	1,605	4,139	621	91	13	6,966	13,435	35%	64%	1%
1991	1,705	4,891	241	130	288	7,919	15,173	34%	63%	3%
1992	2,115	10,718	543	50	402	7,790	21,618	52%	46%	2%
1993	2,834	13,977	751	129	27	18,253	35,970	41%	59%	0%
1994	1,869	15,885	460	13	392	18,409	37,028	44%	55%	1%
1995	2,069	12,032	523	36	646	13,081	28,387	44%	53%	2%
1996	2,038	11,521	365	45	294	8,449	22,712	52%	46%	1%
1997	2,931	11,281	489	339	26	13,325	28,391	41%	57%	1%
1998	1,784	5,039	332	271	2	8,110	15,538	35%	64%	2%
1999	1,004	9,463	575	488	4	14,277	25,811	39%	59%	2%
2000	1,052	3,684	270	410	6	15,721	21,143	19%	79%	2%
2001	920	6,009	619	638	8	17,305	25,499	26%	71%	3%
2002	427	9,478	415	606	6	13,272	24,204	41%	57%	3%
2003	200	14,810	1,240	1,016	11	18,746	36,023	45%	53%	3%
2004	1,660	21,683	1,526	792	10	18,393	44,064	53%	46%	2%
2005	1,040	21,472	1,839	775	11	19,481	44,618	52%	46%	2%
2006	938	8,696	1,051	1,034	11	16,642	28,372	34%	62%	4%
2007	797	12,292	912	1,509	6	12,111	27,627	48%	47%	5%
2008	517	7,573	653	1,362	15	11,508	21,628	38%	56%	6%
2009	256	5,588	859	1,189	4	9,662	17,558	37%	56%	7%
2010 <sup>b</sup>	-	7,059	539	-		5,430	13,028	58%	42%	
Average 1986–2009	1,353	11,434	954	546	105	13,437	27,724	43%	55%	2%
Average 2005–2009	710	11,124	1,063	1,174	9	13,881	27,961	42%	53%	5%

<sup>a</sup> Includes harvest above and below sonar and hook and release mortality.

<sup>b</sup> 2010 estimates of harvest are **preliminary**.

**PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.360. Weekly Fishing Periods)*

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would increase the Kenai River OEG and inriver goals by an additional 100,000 sockeye salmon for Russian River and Hidden Lake sockeye salmon stocks within the Kenai River drainage.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG range of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. At run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19. At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter, and at run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** There would be no effect if this proposal were adopted. Both Russian River and Hidden Lake sockeye salmon stocks are included in the current goals.

**BACKGROUND:** The escapement goal for the Kenai River drainage includes all wild sockeye salmon spawning within the Kenai River watershed. This number is derived by taking the sonar count at river mile 19 and subtracting the sport harvest above the sonar counter (including late-run Russian River sockeye salmon) and the enhanced (hatchery) component from the Hidden Lake weir project. Therefore, the current SEG for the Kenai River system already includes the late-run Russian River stocks, as well as the wild fish escapement to the Hidden Lake weir.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal lowers the current Kenai River OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon, and requests it become a BEG with a range of 400,000–700,000 sockeye salmon and seeks an inriver goal of 600,000–800,000 sockeye salmon. It also removes regulatory language which requires closed windows and limitations on the amount of emergency order beyond the two regular 12-hour commercial fishing periods that can be fished, and deletes the three tiers of regulations related to run size and the inriver goals associated with those tiers.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks are managed primarily for commercial uses. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho and late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with an opportunity to harvest these resources. The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon as determined by the department.

Based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return, the run will be managed as follows: at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19, and will fish regular weekly fishing periods and allow additional fishing of no more than 24-hours per week.

At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter, and allow additional fishing of no more than 51 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, and for an additional 24-hour period during the same week.

At run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter, and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The department would manage for the various sockeye salmon escapement goals as established in the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, but without any mandatory windows or emergency order limitations. Commercial harvests of king salmon would also be dependent on fisheries management for sockeye salmon. Management actions taken inseason would be dependent on run strength and run timing of the sockeye salmon runs. Allocations would become incidental to management directed at achieving the various goals. Deleting windows

and regulatory limitations on emergency order authority may aid in harvesting the larger pulses of sockeye salmon. This proposal may also result in restrictions or closure to the Kenai River sport fishery above the sonar site, as well as to the Russian River sport fishery depending on the run size.

**BACKGROUND:** The first restrictions on additional time in the Upper Subdistrict were put in place in 1999. At that time, there was a mandatory 24-hour closed period on Fridays, often called a “window”. In addition, there was a second 24-hour window if the inriver king salmon sport fishery was restricted. In 1996, a limit on additional fishing time of no more than a single extra period per week was put in place in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in the *Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. Also in 1996, restrictions were implemented in the Northern District set gillnet fishery; additional time, other than regular periods, was prohibited after August 15, and two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. A third regular drift gillnet period after July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In 2002, additional fishing time in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery was limited to either 36, 48, or 60 hours of additional time per week, and a mandatory closed period of 24, 36, or 48 hours, depending on run strength, was implemented. For runs of less than 2,000,000, the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2,000,000–4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 36 hours per week and a mandatory closed period of 48 hours per week. For runs of over 4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 60 hours per week and a mandatory closed period of 36 hours per week. Regulations now in place were adopted at the 2005 board meeting.

The Kenai River sockeye salmon goal ranges have varied through time, beginning with 350,000–500,000 from 1978–1985 (this goal did not include Russian River or Hidden Lake stocks) to 550,000–850,000 (1998). The current escapement goal range of 500,000–800,000 spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 1999. Stock-recruit data have been extensively modeled in historical reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this board meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 board meeting, the board adopted an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance-based goals.

In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six of 10 years, within the goal three times, and below the goal once. In the last nine years (2001–2009), the sockeye salmon escapement in the Kenai River was below the OEG twice, within the goal four times, and exceeded the goal three times. During that same time period, the SEG has been below the goal twice, within the goal three times, and was exceeded four times (Table 149-1). Escapements are not available for 2010 because sport fishing harvests are not yet available for 2010. Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985–2009 have ranged 228,580 fish, with the most recent 10-year average (2000–2009) of 275,627 fish (Table 149-2).

The department has recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition,

and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG range of 500,000–800,000 should change to an SEG range of 700,000–1,200,000 fish. There is one OEG and three inriver goals associated with the current escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal as it may relate to the SEG. Under the *Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries*, the department has the responsibility of establishing biological and sustainable escapement goals. The board may establish or modify an optimal escapement goal, if deemed appropriate, which considers biological and allocative factors and may differ from the BEG or SEG.

**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 149-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

Table 149-2. Kenai River drainage sockeye salmon escapements and inriver harvest, 1981–2009.

Year	Inriver Subsistence, Personal Use, and Educational Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Sport Harvest Below Sonar <sup>b</sup>	Kenai River Sonar Count	Total Inriver Run	Harvests above Sonar							Late Run Russian River	Hidden Lake Personal Use & Sport <sup>c</sup>	Total Harvest Above Sonar	Spawning Escapement	Total Sport Harvest
					Kenai R Below Soldotna Bridge	Kenai R Sonar to Soldotna Bridge	Kenai R Above Soldotna Bridge	Kenai R Reach Not Specified <sup>c</sup>	Skilak Lake	Kenai R Reach Not Specified <sup>c</sup>	Kenai R Reach Not Specified <sup>c</sup>					
1981	ND	3,116	407,639	410,755	5,270	2,154	14,451	ND	ND	23,720	0	40,325	367,314	43,441		
1982	Insignificant	6,922	619,831	626,753	11,706	4,784	38,397	ND	ND	10,320	ND	53,501	566,330	60,423		
1983	7,562	13,577	630,340	651,479	22,961	9,384	48,306	ND	0	16,000	0	73,690	556,650	87,267		
1984	ND	2,613	344,571	347,184	4,419	1,806	11,283	ND	0	21,970	17	35,076	309,495	37,689		
1985	ND	8,835	502,820	511,655	14,941	6,106	42,272	124	0	58,410	149	106,937	395,883	115,772		
1986	ND	12,522	501,157	513,679	21,177	8,655	51,221	ND	13	30,810	0	90,699	410,458	103,221		
1987	24,090	50,274	1,596,871	1,671,235	85,020	34,746	155,799	ND	2,029	40,580	689	233,843	1,363,028	284,117		
1988	16,880	29,345	1,021,469	1,067,694	49,627	20,282	103,124	ND	382	19,540	583	143,911	877,558	173,256		
1989	51,192	66,162	1,599,959	1,717,313	111,889	45,727	165,336	681	1,654	55,210	331	268,258	1,331,701	334,420		
1990	3,477	19,640	659,520	682,637	33,213	13,573	85,074	0	670	56,180	107	155,604	503,916	175,244		
1991	13,433	31,536	647,597	692,566	53,331	21,795	108,271	76	2,411	31,450	63,681	227,608	419,989	259,144		
1992	30,454	47,622	994,798	1,072,874	80,535	32,913	161,956	ND	1,044	26,101	468	222,482	772,316	270,104		
1993	35,592	27,717	813,617	876,926	46,873	19,156	90,306	0	825	26,772	133	137,192	676,425	164,909		
1994	15,804	17,954	1,003,446	1,037,204	30,363	12,409	63,253	ND	213	26,375	102	102,352	901,094	210,306		
1995	15,720	29,451	630,447	675,618	49,806	20,355	75,622	ND	177	11,805	83	108,042	522,405	137,493		
1996	104,110	39,810	797,847	941,767	67,324	27,514	118,967	ND	307	19,136	225	166,149	631,698	205,959		
1997	116,107	43,642	1,064,818	1,224,567	73,805	30,163	103,328	ND	312	12,910	274	146,987	917,831	190,629		
1998	105,497	33,980	767,558	907,035	57,464	23,484	107,072	ND	158	25,110	81	155,905	611,653	189,885		
1999	150,993	46,043	803,379	1,000,415	77,865	31,822	122,709	ND	0	32,335	859	187,725	615,654	233,768		
2000	99,571	57,978	624,578	782,127	98,048	40,070	132,935	ND	377	30,229	190	203,801	420,777	261,779		
2001	152,580	51,374	650,036	853,990	86,880	35,506	113,882	ND	24	18,550	142	168,104	481,932	219,478		
2002	182,229	46,693	957,924	1,186,846	78,964	32,271	143,211	3,742	1,509	31,999	308	213,040	744,884	259,733		
2003	227,207	60,722	1,181,309	1,469,238	102,689	41,967	173,068	10,168	96	28,085	302	253,686	927,623	314,408		
2004	266,937	62,397	1,385,981	1,715,315	105,521	43,124	182,722	5,795	276	22,417	437	254,771	1,131,210	317,168		
2005	300,105	58,017	1,376,452	1,734,574	98,114	40,097	182,704	13,469	45	18,503	0	254,818	1,121,634	312,835		
2006	130,486	30,964	1,499,692	1,661,142	52,364	21,400	113,972	7,089	98	29,694	385	172,638	1,327,054	203,602		
2007	295,866	60,623	867,572	1,224,061	102,521	41,898	199,415	6,876	94	16,863	240	265,386	602,186	326,009		
2008	239,075	46,053	614,946	900,074	77,882	31,829	144,325	7,823	171	23,680	0	207,828	407,118	253,881		
2009	343,758	45,868	745,170	1,134,796	77,568	31,700	167,746	7,009	102	33,935	1,019	241,511	503,659	287,379		
2010			970,662													
Avg. (2005-2009)	261,860	48,300	1,020,770	1,330,930	81,690	33,380	161,630	8,450	100	24,540	330	228,440	792,330	276,741		
Avg. (2000-2009)	223,780	52,070	990,370	1,266,220	88,060	35,990	155,400	6,200	280	25,400	300	223,560	766,810	275,627		
Avg. (1996-2009)	193,890	48,870	952,660	1,195,420	82,640	33,770	143,290	4,430	250	24,530	320	206,600	764,710	255,465		
Avg. (1985-2009)	116,850	41,010	932,360	1,090,210	69,350	28,340	124,330	2,510	520	29,070	2,830	187,570	744,790	228,580		

Source: Statewide Harvest Surveys from Mills 1982-1994; Howe et al. 1995, 1996, 2001a-d; Walker et al. 2003; Jennings et al. 2004, 2006a-b, 2007, 2009a-b, 2010a-b; G. B. Jennings, Sport Fish Program Coordinator, ADF&G, Anchorage, personal communication; Brannian and Fox 1996; Reimer and Sigurdsson 2004, Dunker and Lafferty 2007, K. J. Dunker, Sport Fish biologist, Anchorage, personal communication; King 1995, 1996; Pappas and Marsh 2004; Shields 2009, P. Shields, Commercial Fisheries biologist, ADF&G, Soldotna, personal communication; educational harvest data, Kenaitze Indian Tribe; 2007-2009 Subsistence data, USFWS.

<sup>a</sup> Personal use harvest not known in 1982; personal use (1981-1995) and subsistence dip net harvest (1991-2,1994) from Brannian and Fox, 1996. Educational is total annual Kenaitze educational permit harvest.

<sup>b</sup> In 1994 and 1995 a creel survey was conducted to estimate harvest below the sonar. In 1994, 49.7% of the below Soldotna Bridge harvest was taken below the sonar. In 1995, 68.6% was taken below the sonar. The average of these two percentages is applied to all other year's below-bridge harvest to estimate the harvest below the sonar.

<sup>c</sup> Sport harvest and 1991 Hidden Lake personal use from SWHS.

<sup>c</sup> SWHS began reporting this data consistently in 2002.

Note: ND = no data available.

**PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change the Kenai River SEG to 450,000–650,000.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon as determined by the department.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would decrease the likelihood on inseason restrictions to the sport fishery above the sonar during years of low run strengths and allow additional harvests of approximately 50,000 fish. There would be no change to the inriver goals.

**BACKGROUND:** The current escapement goal range of 500,000–800,000 spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 1999. Stock-recruit data have been extensively modeled in historical reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this board meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 board meeting, the board adopted an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance-based goals. Table 150-1 shows the goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

The department has recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG range of 500,000–800,000 should change to an SEG range of 700,000–1,200,000 fish. There is one optimal escapement goal and three inriver goals associated with the current escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal as it may relate to the SEG. Under the *Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries*, the department has the responsibility of establishing biological and sustainable escapement goals. The board may establish or modify an optimal escapement goal, if deemed appropriate, which considers biological and allocative factors and may differ from the BEG or SEG.

**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 150-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

**PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.)*

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary L. Hollier.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would remove the three-tier management system and guidelines contained in 5 AAC 21.360(c), and requests a single Kenai River inriver goal range of 600,000–900,000 sockeye salmon based on the DIDSON system.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG established by the department is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon.

The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks are managed primarily for commercial uses. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho and late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with an opportunity to harvest these resources. The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG range of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range.

Based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return, the run will be managed as follows: at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19, and will fish regular weekly fishing periods and allow additional fishing of no more than 24-hours per week.

At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 51hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for an additional 24-hour period during the same week.

At run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The department would manage for the various sockeye salmon escapement goals as established in the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, but without any mandatory windows or emergency order limitations. Commercial harvests of king salmon would also be dependent on fisheries management for sockeye salmon. Management actions taken inseason would be dependent on run strength and run timing of the sockeye salmon runs. Allocations would

become incidental to management directed at achieving the various goals. Deleting windows and regulatory limitations on emergency order authority may aid in harvesting the larger pulses of sockeye salmon. This proposal may also result in restrictions or closure to the Kenai River sport fishery above the sonar site, as well as to the Russian River sport fishery depending on the run size. The department has already set an SEG for this system of 500,000–800,000 based on the Bendix sonar system. For the board to adopt an inriver goal of 600,000–900,000 DIDSON counts, the SEG would have to be within the proposed DIDSON range

**BACKGROUND:** The first restrictions on additional time in the Upper Subdistrict were put in place in 1999. At that time, there was a mandatory 24-hour closed period on Fridays, often called a “window”. In addition, there was a second 24-hour window if the inriver king salmon sport fishery was restricted. In 1996, a limit on additional fishing time of no more than a single extra period per week was put in place in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in the *Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. Also in 1996, restrictions were implemented in the Northern District set gillnet fishery; additional time, other than regular periods, was prohibited after August 15, and two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. A third regular drift gillnet period after July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In 2002, additional fishing time in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery was limited to either 36, 48, or 60 hours of additional time per week and a mandatory closed period of 24, 36, or 48 hours, depending on run strength, was implemented. For runs of less than 2,000,000, the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2,000,000–4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 36 hours per week and there is a mandatory closed period of 48 hours per week. For runs of over 4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 60 hours per week and a mandatory closed period of 36 hours per week. Regulations now in place were adopted at the 2005 board meeting. Table 150-2 shows the goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

The department has recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG range of 500,000–800,000 should change to an SEG range of 700,000–1,200,000 fish. There is one optimal escapement goal and three inriver goals associated with the current escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 151-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
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1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

**PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would delete a large portion of the purpose statement that guides management and changes the OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 a SEG of 400,000–700,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho and late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with an opportunity to harvest these resources. The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG established by the department is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would decrease the likelihood on inseason restrictions to the sport fishery above the sonar during years of low run strengths, and allow additional harvests of approximately 100,000 fish. There would be no change to the inriver goals. Deleting the language regarding minimizing harvest of Northern District coho salmon, and Kenai River king and coho salmon would not likely affect current management since directions on how to minimize harvest of these stocks are in other sections of this and other management plans. It is unknown how the change in the plan's intent would affect long-term management objectives.

**BACKGROUND:** The current SEG of 500,000–800,000 spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 1999. Stock-recruit data have been extensively modeled in historical reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this board meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 board meeting, the board adopted an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance-based goals. Table 152-1 shows the goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

The department has recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG range of 500,000–800,000 should change to an SEG range of 700,000–1,200,000 fish. There is one OEG and three inriver goals associated with the current SEG.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 152-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

**PROPOSAL 128 – 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** *(This proposal was erroneously cited as AAC 5 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Salmon Management Plan.)*

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would delete the three tiers of the Kenai River in river sonar goals and replace them with a single tiered OEG of 400,000–700,000 Bendix equivalent spawners.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon.

Based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return, the run will be managed as follows: at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19, will fish regular weekly fishing periods, and allow additional fishing of no more than 24-hours per week.

At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 51 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, and for an additional 24-hour period during the same week.

At run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The department would manage for the various sockeye salmon escapement goals as established in the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, but without any mandatory windows or emergency order limitations. Commercial harvests of king salmon would also be dependent on fisheries management for sockeye salmon. Management actions taken inseason would be dependent on run strength and run timing of the sockeye salmon runs. Allocations would become incidental to management directed at achieving the various goals. Deleting windows and regulatory limitations on emergency order authority may aid in harvesting the larger pulses of sockeye salmon. This proposal may also result in restrictions or closure to the Kenai River sport fishery above the sonar site, as well as to the Russian River sport fishery depending on the run size. The proposed change of lowering the current OEG by 100,000 fish would make it less likely to restrict fisheries below the Kenai River sonar site during years of low run strengths. This proposal may increase the likelihood in restrictions to Kenai River fisheries above the sonar, depending on inriver run abundance.

The department recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG range of 500,000–800,000 should change to an SEG range of 700,000–1,200,000 fish. There is one OEG and three inriver goals associated with the current escapement goal.

**BACKGROUND:** The Kenai River sockeye salmon goal ranges have varied through time, beginning with 350,000–500,000 from 1978–1985 (this goal did not include Russian River or Hidden Lake stocks) to 550,000–850,000 (1998). The current escapement goal range of 500,000–800,000 spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 1999. Stock-recruit data have been extensively modeled in historical reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this board meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 board meeting, the board adopted an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance based goals.

In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River inriver sockeye salmon run goal has been exceeded six of 10 years, within the goal three times, and below the goal once. In the last nine years (2001–2009), the sockeye salmon escapement in the Kenai River was below the OEG twice, within the goal four times, and exceeded the goal three times. During that same time period, the SEG has been below the goal twice, within the goal three times, and was exceeded four times (Table 128-1). Escapements are not available for 2010 because sport fishing harvests are not yet available for 2010. Kenai River late run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985–2009 have ranged 228,580 fish, with the most recent 10-year average (2000–2009) of 275,627 fish.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST STATEMENT:** The department does not believe that adoption of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.



Table 128-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

**PROPOSAL 326 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** (*This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.*)

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would revise the escapement goal to 400,000–700,000 spawners under one optimum escapement goal range and delete 5 AAC 21.360(c).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG range of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon.

The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks are managed primarily for commercial uses. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho and late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with an opportunity to harvest these resources. The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG range of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon and is determined by the department.

Based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return, the run will be managed as follows: at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19 and will fish regular weekly fishing periods and allow additional fishing of no more than 24-hours per week.

At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 51 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for an additional 24-hour period during the same week.

At run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The department would manage for the various sockeye salmon escapement goals as established in the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, but without any mandatory windows or emergency order limitations. Commercial harvests of king salmon would also be dependent on fisheries management for sockeye salmon. Management actions taken inseason would be dependent on run strength and run timing of the sockeye salmon runs. Allocations would

become incidental to management directed at achieving the various goals. Deleting windows and regulatory limitations on emergency order authority may aid in harvesting the larger pulses of sockeye salmon. This proposal may also result in restrictions or closure to the Kenai River sport fishery above the sonar site, as well as to the Russian River sport fishery depending on the run size. The proposed change of lowering the current OEG by 100,000 fish would make it less likely to restrict fisheries below the Kenai River sonar during years of low run strengths. This proposal may increase the likelihood in restrictions to Kenai River fisheries above the sonar, depending on inriver run abundance.

**BACKGROUND:** The Kenai River sockeye salmon goal ranges have varied through time beginning with 350,000–500,000 from 1978–1985 (this goal did not include Russian River or Hidden Lake stocks) to 550,000–850,000 (1998). The current escapement goal range of 500,000–800,000 spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 1999. Stock-recruit data have been extensively modeled in historical reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this board meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 board meeting, the board adopted an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance-based goals. Table 326-1 shows the goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

The first restrictions on additional time in the Upper Subdistrict were put in place in 1999. At that time there was a mandatory 24-hour closed period on Fridays, often called a “window”. In addition, there was a second 24-hour window if the inriver king salmon sport fishery was restricted. In 1996, a limit on additional fishing time of no more than a single extra period per week was put in place in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in the *Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. Also in 1996, restrictions were implemented in the Northern District set gillnet fishery; additional time, other than regular periods, was prohibited after August 15, and two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. A third regular drift gillnet period after July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In 2002, additional fishing time in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery was limited to either 36, 48, or 60 hours of additional time per week and a mandatory closed period of 24, 36, or 48 hours depending on run strength was implemented. For runs of less than 2,000,000, the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2,000,000–4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 36 hours per week and there is a mandatory closed period of 48 hours per week. For runs of over 4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 60 hours per week and a mandatory closed period of 36 hours per week. Regulations now in place were adopted at the 2005 board meeting.

The department recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG range of 500,000–800,000

should change to an SEG range of 700,000–1,200,000 fish. There is one OEG and three inriver goals associated with the current SEG.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 326-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
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1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

**PROPOSAL 325 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would revise the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* and other management plans affected, by the re-establishment of a single spawning escapement goal range and single OEG range, as measured at the Kenai River sockeye salmon sonar.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG range of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon.

The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks are managed primarily for commercial uses. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho and late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with an opportunity to harvest these resources. The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an OEG range of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon and is determined by the department.

Based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return, the run will be managed as follows: at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19, will fish regular weekly fishing periods, and allow additional fishing of no more than 24-hours per week.

At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 51 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for an additional 24-hour period during the same week.

At run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The department would manage for the various sockeye salmon escapement goals as established in the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, but without any mandatory windows or emergency order limitations. Commercial harvests of king salmon would also be dependent on fisheries management for sockeye salmon. Management actions taken inseason would be

dependent on run strength and run timing of the sockeye salmon runs. Allocations would become incidental to management directed at achieving the various goals. Deleting windows and regulatory limitations on emergency order authority may aid in harvesting the larger pulses of sockeye salmon. This proposal may also result in restrictions or closure to the Kenai River sport fishery above the sonar site, as well as to the Russian River sport fishery depending on the run size.

**BACKGROUND:** The Kenai River sockeye salmon goal ranges have varied through time beginning with 350,000–500,000 from 1978–1985 (this goal did not include Russian River or Hidden Lake stocks) to 550,000–850,000 (1998). The current escapement goal range of 500,000–800,000 spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 1999. Stock-recruit data have been extensively modeled in historical reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this board meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 board meeting, the board adopted an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance-based goals.

The first restrictions on additional time in the Upper Subdistrict were put in place in 1999. At that time there was a mandatory 24-hour closed period on Fridays, often called a “window”. In addition, there was a second 24-hour window if the inriver king salmon sport fishery was restricted. In 1996, a limit on additional fishing time of no more than a single extra period per week was put in place in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in the *Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. Also in 1996, restrictions were implemented in the Northern District set gillnet fishery; additional time, other than regular periods, was prohibited after August 15, and two regular periods were restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for the drift fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*. A third regular drift gillnet period after July 25 was restricted in 1999 to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In 2002, additional fishing time in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery was limited to either 36, 48, or 60 hours of additional time per week and a mandatory closed period of 24, 36, or 48 hours, depending on run strength, was implemented. For runs of less than 2,000,000, the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2,000,000–4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 36 hours per week and there is a mandatory closed period of 48 hours per week. For runs of over 4,000,000, there is a limit on additional time of no more than 60 hours per week and a mandatory closed period of 36 hours per week., Regulations now in place were adopted at the 2008 board meeting.

In the last 10 years (2001–2010), the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver run goal has been exceeded six of 10 years, within the goal three times, and below the goal once. In the last nine years (2001–2009), the sockeye salmon escapement in the Kenai River was below the OEG twice, within the goal four times, and exceeded the goal three times. During that same time period, the SEG has been below the goal twice, within the goal three times, and exceeded the goal four times. Escapements are not available for 2010 because sport fishing harvests are not yet available for 2010. Table 325-1 shows the goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010 harvests are not yet available for 2010.

The department recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kenai River sockeye salmon SEG range of 500,000–800,000 should change to an SEG range of 700,000–1,200,000 fish. There is one OEG and three inriver goals associated with the current SEG.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 325-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

**PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** (This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would delete a portion of the purpose statement in 5 AAC 21.360(a) guiding management of late-run Kenai River king salmon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would likely have no effect on current harvest levels since fishing time, closed windows, and fishing periods are all described in the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. It is unknown how the change in the plan's intent would affect long-term management objectives.

**BACKGROUND:** Purpose statements found at the beginning of most Upper Cook Inlet management plans provides direction to future boards, stakeholders, and the department on the long-term management objectives of the board. Purpose statements first appeared in the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* in 1981. These statements have changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups. This minimized language first appeared in the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* in 1981. It has changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC. 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would delete a portion of the purpose statement in 5 AAC 21.360(a) guiding management of late run Kenai River king and Northern District coho salmon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would likely have no effect on current harvest levels since fishing time, closed windows, and fishing periods are all described in the *Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. It is unknown how the change in the plan's intent would affect long-term management objectives.

**BACKGROUND:** Purpose statements found at the beginning of most Upper Cook Inlet management plans provides direction to future boards, stakeholders, and the department on the long-term management objectives of the board. This minimized language first appeared in the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* in 1981. It has changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 57.150. Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** (*This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 21.361. Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*)

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would develop a management plan to allow a commercial harvest of 10,000 early Russian River sockeye salmon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The purpose of the *Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* is to ensure an adequate escapement, as determined by the department, of sockeye salmon into the Russian River system and to provide management guidelines to the department to reduce conflicts between various users of this resource. Because early- and late-run Russian River system sockeye salmon are discrete stocks, each with established escapement goals, these stocks shall be managed by the department as a separate entity without regard to Kenai River system sockeye salmon run size.

Russian River early-run sockeye salmon stocks have been harvested primarily by the sport fishery since 1974. Since the bulk of the early Kenai River sockeye salmon run (those salmon passing the department sonar counter located near Soldotna before June 21) is comprised of Russian River sockeye salmon stocks, the department shall manage the early sockeye salmon stocks to achieve the escapement goals for the Kenai and Russian rivers.

Concerning commercial regulations, in the set gillnet fishery, the Kenai and East Forelands sections are open from July 8 through August 10. In the Central District for drift gillnets, the commercial fishing season opens the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, until closed by emergency order.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would open a commercial fishery directed on a stock that historically has been harvested by the sport fishery. Harvests of early run Russian River sockeye salmon sport fish and/or escapements would decrease by up to 10,000 sockeye salmon and may result in sport fishery closures or restrictions during years of below average early Russian River sockeye salmon runs. The commercial harvest of Kenai River early-run king salmon would increase by an unknown amount.

**BACKGROUND:** The bulk of early-run Kenai River sockeye salmon is comprised of Russian River sockeye salmon stocks. Russian River early-run sockeye salmon stocks have been harvested primarily by the sport fishery since 1974. For several years, the SEG for early Russian River sockeye salmon has been 14,000–37,000 sockeye salmon. However, the department is changing it to a BEG of 22,000–42,000 sockeye salmon based on available data.

The return of early-run sockeye salmon to the Kenai River is not counted by sonar because most enter the river prior to installation of the sockeye salmon sonar at Kenai River mile 19 on July 1. In mid May, an inriver king salmon gillnetting program at Kenai River mile 8.5 begins. Generally, the early-run sockeye salmon immigration is detected by this program during late

May. The catch of sockeye in the netting program increases through early June, then declines until sometime during July; thereafter, the sockeye salmon catch increases as the return of late-run sockeye salmon to the Kenai River commences. Total returns of early-run Russian River sockeye salmon are determined from harvests estimated by creel surveys, as well as the SWHS and weir counts. From 1975–2009, the total return has averaged approximately 60,000 sockeye salmon (Table 156-1). The escapement was 27,074 sockeye salmon in 2010. Historically, total return abundance has been variable and in some years quite low (< 20,000 fish). The relative abundance of the stock is very small and therefore susceptible to overexploitation when compared to the abundance of other sockeye salmon stocks that support both recreational and commercial harvests.

The Kenai River early-run king salmon fishery is a very intensively managed recreational fishery. Management plans have been conservatively structured to constrain the ability of the angling public to harvest early-run stocks at sustainable levels while still providing for fishing opportunity. Nonetheless, past seasons have established exploitation rates exceeding 60%. During the past 19 years, with the sport fishery managed within the framework of a board-adopted management plan, it has been necessary to utilize inseason restrictions during nine of those years in order to ensure that the final spawning escapement goals were achieved.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

**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 156-1. Angler effort, harvest, and escapement, Russian River early-run (ER) and late-run (LR) sockeye salmon, 1975–2010.

Year	Effort <sup>a</sup>	Sport Harvest		Subsistence <sup>b</sup> Harvest		Spawning Escapement		Local Return <sup>c</sup>	
		ER	LR	ER	LR	ER	LR	ER	LR
1975	16,510	1,400	8,390	ND	ND	5,645	31,961	7,045	40,351
1976	26,310	3,380	13,700	ND	ND	14,736	31,939	18,116	45,639
1977	69,510	20,400	27,440	ND	ND	16,061	21,362	36,461	48,802
1978	69,860	37,720	24,530	ND	ND	34,240	34,334	71,960	58,864
1979	55,000	8,400	26,840	ND	ND	19,749	87,852	28,149	114,692
1980	56,330	27,220	33,500	ND	ND	28,624	83,984	55,844	117,484
1981	51,030	10,720	23,720	ND	ND	21,142	44,523	31,862	68,243
1982	51,480	34,500	10,320	ND	ND	56,106	30,800	90,606	41,120
1983	31,860	8,360	16,000	ND	ND	21,272	33,734	29,632	49,734
1984	49,550	35,880	21,970	ND	ND	28,908	92,659	64,788	114,629
1985	50,770	12,300	58,410	ND	ND	30,605	136,969	42,905	195,379
1986	52,250	35,100	30,810	ND	ND	36,338	40,281	71,438	71,091
1987	113,010	154,200	40,580	ND	ND	61,513	53,932	215,713	94,512
1988	72,030	54,780	19,540	ND	ND	50,406	42,476	105,186	62,016
1989	60,570	11,290	55,210	ND	ND	15,278	138,377	26,628	193,587
1990	84,710	30,215	56,180	ND	ND	25,144	83,434	56,931	139,614
1991	85,741	65,390	31,450	ND	ND	31,660	78,175	97,779	109,625
1992	60,499	30,512	26,101	ND	ND	37,117	62,584	67,629	88,685
1993	58,093	37,261	26,772	ND	ND	39,857	99,259	77,118	126,031
1994	64,134	48,923	26,375	ND	ND	44,872	122,277	93,795	148,652
1995	48,185	23,572	11,805	ND	ND	28,603	61,982	52,175	73,787
1996	69,032	39,075	19,136	ND	ND	52,905	34,691	91,980	53,827
1997	60,923	36,788	12,910	ND	ND	36,280	65,905	73,068	78,815
1998	56,121	42,711	25,110	ND	ND	34,143	113,480	76,854	138,590
1999	64,536	34,283	32,335	ND	ND	36,607	139,863	70,890	172,198
2000	69,864	40,732	30,229	ND	ND	32,736	56,580	73,468	86,809
2001	55,972	35,400	18,550	ND	ND	78,255	74,964	113,655	93,514
2002	68,263	52,139	31,999	ND	ND	85,943	62,115	138,082	94,114
2003	50,448	22,986	28,085	ND	ND	23,650	157,469	46,636	185,554
2004	60,784	32,727	22,417	ND	ND	56,582	110,244	89,309	132,661
2005	55,801	37,139	18,503	ND	ND	52,903	59,473	90,042	77,976
2006	70,804	51,167	29,694	ND	ND	80,524	89,160	131,691	118,854
2007 <sup>b</sup>	57,755	36,805	16,863	380	298	27,298	53,068	64,483	70,229
2008	55,444	42,492	23,680	928	478	30,989	46,638	74,409	70,796
2009	64,518	59,097	33,935	543	431	52,178	80,088	111,818	114,454
2010						27,074	38,848	27,074	
Average (1975-2009)	59,648	28,385	21,359	617	402	31,185	64,848	59,659	86,233
Average (2000-2009)	60,965	41,068	25,396	617	402	52,106	78,980	93,359	104,496

Source: Mills 1979–1994; Howe et al. 1995, 1996, 2001a–d; Walker et al. 2003; Jennings et al. 2004, 2006a–b, 2007, 2009a–b, 2010a–b; G. B. Jennings, Sport Fish Program Coordinator, ADF&G, Anchorage, personal communication; Pappas and Marsh 2004; Subsistence data, USFWS.

<sup>a</sup> Effort is combined early and late run fisheries. 1970–1996 estimated from in-season creel survey, 1997–2009 estimated from SWHS.

<sup>b</sup> Subsistence fishery started in 2007.

<sup>c</sup> Escapement above weir plus harvest; 1989–1991 includes 60 fish (in 1989) used to test brood source for disease, 1,572 fish (in 1990) and 729 fish (in 1991) used as brood source for stocking in Resurrection Bay.

Note: ND = no data collected.

**PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 21.363(e). Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to remove language that was repealed during the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting.

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

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** There would be no effect because the language proposed for deletion is not in the stated management plan.

**BACKGROUND:** At the 2008 board meeting, the board clarified that meeting escapement goals takes preference over achieving window closures and fishing hours. If the department believes that a goal is not going to be met, the commissioner can take management actions outside current management plans in order to achieve escapement goals.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** James Garhart.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would restrict any harvests by all user groups until the minimum escapement goals have been met.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are numerous escapement goals and inriver goals throughout Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) for all species. These goals include biological, sustainable, and optimal escapement goals for the various species.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The opening date of all fisheries would be delayed by some unknown number of days. Delaying current opening dates would significantly reduce the opportunity of all users to harvest all species of salmon. Effects of this proposal would include, but not be limited to, exceeding escapement goals, increased congestion in sport and personal use fisheries, commercial fishing in terminal harvest areas, and requesting additional commercial fishing opportunity later in the season. Biologically, this proposal would shift all harvests to the later portions of the run, likely altering run timing of all salmon species by some unknown degree.

This proposal may affect reasonable opportunity for subsistence as outlined in 5 AAC 21.363 (a) (1) by restricting the harvest of subsistence users.

**BACKGROUND:** There are a suite of commercial and noncommercial management plans that provide guidance to the department in managing UCI fisheries. These plans have been developed through the board process with significant public input. These plans are structured around the migratory timing and abundance of the various salmon stocks as they move through UCI. Opening dates of these fisheries allow harvests of salmon throughout the run, while allowing fish passage to their spawning grounds to provide sustained yields.

The *Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan* confirms that, consistent with the statutory priority for subsistence, the harvest of UCI salmon for customary and traditional uses will be provided.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.



**PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.**

**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 add directives into the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan*.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Management and allocation of UCI salmon resources and the harvest of UCI salmon will be governed by specific comprehensive management plans adopted by the board for salmon stocks and species, on a Cook Inlet basinwide basis, for different areas, and drainages and for different types of fisheries.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** It is unknown what effect the added purpose statement may have on long-term management objectives of the board. This proposal would likely have no immediate effect on fisheries management or harvest. There is already language in each of the management plans providing guidance to the department pertaining to management of the various salmon stocks.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* first was passed as a policy by the board in 1978. The plan changed little between 1981 and 1995. That plan set priorities for management by time period. Prior to July 1, UCI was managed primarily for recreational purposes, with certain exceptions; from July 1 to August 15, primarily for commercial purposes with certain exceptions; and after August 15, for a mixture of purposes depending on area.

The plan states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of UCI salmon stocks and salmon species. Divisions within the department must receive long-term direction in order to accomplish their missions and plan management, research, administrative, and other programs. UCI stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries. Under this, the board established provisions for the management and conservation of UCI salmon stocks. The *Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan* confirms that, consistent with the statutory priority for subsistence, the harvest of UCI salmon for customary and traditional uses will be provided.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would return the Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishing regulations to what they were prior to 1998.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 21.363 states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of UCI salmon stocks and salmon species. Divisions within the department must receive long-term direction in order to accomplish their missions and plan management, research, administrative, and other programs. UCI stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the board. Under this, the board established provisions for the management and conservation of UCI salmon stocks.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would revert back to a plan in which harvests would be dependent upon management actions taken inseason.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* first was passed as a policy by the board in 1978. The plan changed little between 1981 and 1995. That plan set priorities for management by time period. Prior to July 1, UCI was managed primarily for recreational purposes, with certain exceptions; from July 1 to August 15, primarily for commercial purposes with certain exceptions; and after August 15, for a mixture of purposes depending on area.

There is a suite of commercial and noncommercial management plans that guide the department in managing UCI fisheries. These plans have been developed through the board process with significant public input. These plans are structured around the migratory timing and abundance of the various salmon stocks as they move through UCI. Opening dates of these fisheries allow harvests of salmon throughout the run, while allowing adequate fish passage to spawning grounds to provide sustained yields. The *Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan* confirms that, consistent with the statutory priority for subsistence, the harvest of UCI salmon for customary and traditional uses will be provided.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would delete or change a significant amount of language that provides direction to the department on managing Kasilof River sockeye salmon. Deletions and changes include, but are not limited, to references to the OEG, seasons, windows, additional fishing time, separate management of the Kenai and Kasilof sections, fishing in the one-half mile section, and repealing regulations pertaining to the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *Kasilof River Management Plan* governs the harvest of Kasilof River salmon excess to spawning escapement needs. It is the intent of the board that Kasilof River salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries. Openings in the areas historically fished must be consistent with escapement objectives for UCI salmon and with the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon management Plan*. Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal takes priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG range of 150,000–300,000 sockeye salmon.

Regular fishing periods are Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. beginning June 25. Commercial fishing may open prior to June 25, but no earlier than June 20, if it is projected that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River. From the beginning of the fishing season through July 7, the department may allow up to 48 hours of additional fishing time per week in addition to the two regular 12 hour fishing periods. The commercial fishery is to remain closed for at least one continuous 36-hour period per week to begin between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section is managed in concert with the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon management plan.

The department may limit commercial fishing in the Kasilof section within one-half mile of shore if the set gillnet fishery in the Kenai and East Forelands sections are not open for the fishing period. After July 15, if Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run strength is projected to be less than 2,000,000 fish and the 300,000 OEG for the Kasilof River sockeye salmon may be exceeded, an additional 24 hours per week in the Kasilof Section within one-half mile of shore is allowed.

The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) will be opened to the taking of salmon by gillnets when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. However, it is the intent of the board that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the commissioner opens the KRSHA, fishing time should be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first, and secondly, that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, if necessary, to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would likely increase the commercial harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon.

Harvest rates of salmon would be dependent on management actions taken inseason. Harvests of other salmon stocks may also occur, but would also be dependent on management actions taken to harvest Kasilof River sockeye salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted following the 1985 season due to escapement in excess of 500,000 sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River. Until 2002, its sole function was to address the harvest within the special harvest area when the escapement exceeded 275,000 sockeye salmon. In 2002, many other provisions were added, including the OEG. In 2008, the floating closed window of 48 hours was reduced to a window closure of 36 hours to begin between Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday 7:00 a.m. The board also clarified that achieving established escapement goals was the primary management objective. In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years (Table 161).

The department recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. Department staff have recommended to the directors of the divisions of the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish that the Kasilof sockeye salmon BEG of 150,000–250,000 should change to a BEG range of 160,000–340,000. There is one OEG associated with the current escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 161-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

## **PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would add a purpose statement to the management plan and require the department to manage for the BEG of 150,000–250,000 sockeye salmon instead of the OEG of 150,000–300,000.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* governs the harvest of Kasilof River salmon excess to spawning escapement needs. It is the intent of the board that Kasilof River salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries. Openings in the areas historically fished must be consistent with escapement objectives for UCI salmon and the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan*. Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG range of 150,000–300,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Concerning the additional language, there would be no change in fisheries management. It is unknown what effect the added purpose statement may have on long-term management objectives of the board. This proposal may increase the commercial harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon. Harvest rates of salmon would be dependent on management actions taken inseason. Increased harvests of other salmon stocks may occur, but would also be dependent on management actions taken to harvest Kasilof River sockeye salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** Purpose statements found at the beginning of most Upper Cook Inlet management plans provides direction to future boards, stakeholders, and the department on the long-term management objectives of the board. Purpose statements first appeared in the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* in 1981. These statements have changed slightly over the years as the board has deliberated extensively to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

The *Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted following the 1985 season due to escapement in excess of 500,000 sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River. Until 2002, its sole function was to address the harvest within the special harvest area when the escapement exceeded 275,000 sockeye salmon. In 2002, many other provisions were added, including the OEG. In 2008, the floating closed window of 48 hours was reduced to a window closure of 36 hours to begin between Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday 7:00 a.m. The board also clarified that achieving established escapement goals was the primary management objective. In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years (Table 162-1).

The department recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other

data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. The Kasilof sockeye salmon BEG of 150,000–250,000 should change to a BEG range of 160,000–340,000. There is one OEG associated with the current escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 162-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
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1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
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1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
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1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
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2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001



**PROPOSAL 329 - 5 AAC 21.365(b). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would place the current Kasilof River sockeye salmon BEG into regulation.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG range of 150,000–300,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** It is unlikely this proposal would have any change in fisheries management because achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal would still remain a priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG range of 150,000–300,000 sockeye salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted following the 1985 season due to escapement in excess of 500,000 sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River. Until 2002, its sole function was to address the harvest within the special harvest area when the escapement exceeded 275,000 sockeye salmon. In 2002, many other provisions were added including the OEG. In 2008, the floating closed window of 48 hours was reduced to a window closure of 36 hours to begin between Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday 7:00 a.m. The board also clarified that achieving established escapement goals was the primary management objective. In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years (Table 329-1).

The department recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. The Kasilof sockeye salmon BEG of 150,000–250,000 should change to a BEG range of 160,000–340,000. There is one OEG associated with the current escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to having BEGs and SEGs defined in regulation because of the review process these goals consistently undergo.

**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 329-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
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1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

**PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would increase the lower and upper end of the Kasilof River OEG by 50,000 sockeye salmon, from the current OEG of 150,000–300,000 to an OEG of 200,000–350,000.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG range of 150,000–300,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reduce the harvest of sockeye salmon by 50,000 fish to all user groups. There would be less commercial fishing earlier in the season. In years of low runs, restrictions on all user groups may be necessary. Escapement goals that are higher than maximum sustained yield (MSY) will likely produce lower yields in the future. Lower future yields would mean less fish for harvesting by all user groups. All user groups would also forego some immediate harvests due to the higher proposed goals in exchange for harvests at lower levels in the future.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted following the 1985 season due to escapement in excess of 500,000 sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River. Until 2002, its sole function was to address the harvest within the special harvest area when the escapement exceeded 275,000 sockeye salmon. In 2002, many other provisions were added, including the OEG. In 2008, the floating closed window of 48 hours was reduced to a window closure of 36 hours to begin between Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday 7:00 a.m. The board also clarified that achieving established escapement goals was the primary management objective. In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years.

The department recently assessed the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal is being recommended because of 1) the change of sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced with DIDSON), and 2) new information such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. A report will be available prior to the board meeting that describes this transition. The Kasilof sockeye salmon (BEG of 150,000–250,000 should change to a BEG range of 160,000–340,000. There is one OEG associated with the current escapement goal.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change the *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* so that achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof optimal escapement goal (OEG) range.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG of 150,000–300,000 sockeye salmon. No provision within a specific management plan is intended to limit the use of emergency authority to achieve established escapement goals for the management plans as the primary management objective. The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to an OEG range of 500,000–1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon, achieve inriver goals, and to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon throughout the OEG range. The current SEG is 500,000–800,000 sockeye salmon and is determined by the department. At run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 650,000–850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19. At run strengths of 2,000,000–4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 750,000–950,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter. At run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 850,000–1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter and allow additional fishing of no more than 84 hours per week. The set gillnet fishery will be closed for one 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

No provision within a specific management plan is intended to limit the use of emergency authority to achieve established escapement goals for the management plans as the primary management objective.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal may result in escapements beyond the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG in poor runs to the Kenai River, and average to above average runs to the Kasilof River. The use of the terminal area and/or the one-half mile fishery would be dependent on the shortfall of the Kenai River inriver goal. If escapements to the Kenai River are falling short of the Kenai River inriver goal, the commercial fishery would already be restricted in areas targeting Kenai River stocks, and fishing in the Kasilof Section would likely be restricted to the one-half mile area and/or the terminal area.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted following the 1985 season due to escapement in excess of 500,000 sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River. Until 2002, its sole function was to address the harvest within the special harvest area when the escapement exceeded 275,000 sockeye salmon. In 2002, many other provisions, including fishing hours beyond the regular fishing period, windows of no commercial fishing, and the OEG were added.

The current escapement goal range of 500,000–800,000 spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the department in 1999. Stock-recruit data have been extensively modeled in historical reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this board meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 board meeting, the board adopted an OEG of 500,000–1,000,000 sockeye salmon. The inriver goals were developed by adding an amount of sockeye salmon based on historical harvests of the inriver sport fisheries to the SEG.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.** *(This proposal was cited erroneously as 5 AAC 21.320. Cook Inlet Area weekly fishing periods.)*

**PROPOSED BY:** James Garhart.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal asks for one day a week with no commercial fishing.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** From the beginning of commercial fishing in the Kasilof Section through July 7, there are two regular weekly fishing periods per week (Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). In addition, 48 hours of additional fishing time beyond the regular two fishing periods are allowed. The commercial fishery is closed for at least one continuous 36-hour period per week to begin between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section is managed in concert with the Kenai River.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** There would be no change in fisheries management. The *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* already requires a 36-hour closed window unless superseded by 5 AAC 21.363(e) when the sockeye salmon escapement goal is going to be exceeded.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted following the 1985 season due to escapement in excess of 500,000 sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River. Until 2002, its sole function was to address the harvest within the special harvest area when the escapement exceeded 275,000 sockeye salmon. In 2002, many other provisions, including fishing hours beyond the regular fishing period, windows of no commercial fishing, and the OEG were added.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal. A commercial fishing closure of 36 hours already exists.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lance Alldrin.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would open set gillnets closest to the current tide line in years when the Kenai River sockeye salmon goal is not being met.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** From the beginning of commercial fishing in the Kasilof Section, there are two regular weekly fishing periods per week (Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). In addition, 48 hours of additional fishing time beyond the regular two fishing periods are allowed. The commercial fishery is closed for at least one continuous 36-hour period per week to begin between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section is managed in concert with the Kenai River.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** While it is difficult to determine the application of the proposal, it appears to require the movement of commercial setnets as the tide floods and ebbs so that a setnet would be “closest to the current tide line” at all times. This would require the presence of all setnet fishermen at the net site and the adjustment of the net position every few minutes as the “current tide line” was moving. Also, it is unclear what “different rows of nets” means or how this fishing method would be applied. As written, this proposal does not contain sufficient specifics on how nets would be positioned or operated, and appears to create a burden on fishermen in positioning nets and upon enforcement personnel who would be required to fairly administer this regulation, if adopted. If adopted as written, this proposal would reduce the amount of gear by as much as 88 percent when compared to the Kasilof half-mile fishery.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* was first adopted following the 1985 season due to escapement in excess of 500,000 sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River. Until 2002, its sole function was to address the harvest within the special harvest area when the escapement exceeded 275,000 sockeye salmon. In 2002, many other provisions were added, including the OEG. In 2008, the floating closed window of 48 hours was reduced to a window closure of 36 hours to begin between Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday 7:00 a.m. The board also clarified that achieving established escapement goals was the primary management objective. In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years (Table 166-1). Table 166-2 shows the king and sockeye salmon commercial harvest in the Kasilof Section one-half mile fishery during the past five years (2006–2010).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. This proposal may require the department to deviate from the management plan by emergency order to achieve established escapement goals as directed under 5 AAC 21.363(e).

**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 166-1. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 1978–2010.

Year	Kenai River		Kasilof River	
	Enumeration Goal	Enumeration Estimate	Enumeration Goal <sup>a</sup>	Enumeration Estimate
1978	350,000–500,000	398,900	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	350,000–500,000	285,020	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	350,000–500,000	464,038	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	350,000–500,000	407,639	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	350,000–500,000	619,831	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	350,000–500,000	630,340	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	350,000–500,000	344,571	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	350,000–500,000	502,820	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	350,000–500,000	501,157	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	400,000–700,000	1,596,871	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	400,000–700,000	1,021,469	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	400,000–700,000	1,599,959	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	400,000–700,000	659,520	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	400,000–700,000	647,597	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	400,000–700,000	994,798	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	400,000–700,000	813,617	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	400,000–700,000	1,003,446	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	450,000–700,000	630,447	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	550,000–800,000	797,847	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	550,000–825,000	1,064,818	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	550,000–850,000	767,558	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	750,000–950,000	803,379	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	600,000–850,000	624,578	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	600,000–850,000	650,036	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	750,000–950,000	957,924	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	750,000–950,000	1,181,309	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	850,000–1,100,000	1,385,981	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	850,000–1,100,000	1,376,452	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	750,000–950,000	1,499,692	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	750,000–950,000	867,572	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	650,000–850,000	614,946	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	650,000–850,000	745,170	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	750,000–950,000	970,662	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.



Table 166-2. Commercial king and sockeye salmon harvest in the Kasilof Section one-half mile fishery during the past five years (2006–2010).

Year	Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
		Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
2006	15-Jul	321	321	114,666	114,666
	16-Jul	193	514	74,741	189,407
	19-Jul	310	824	20,467	209,874
	20-Jul	299	1,123	39,588	249,462
	21-Jul	292	1,415	37,865	287,327
	22-Jul	89	1,504	9,461	296,788
	3-Aug	129	1,633	10,078	306,866
2007	18-Jul	315	315	62,348	62,348
	20-Jul	241	556	54,960	117,308
	25-Jul	120	676	29,215	146,523
	27-Jul	154	830	13,018	159,541
2008	15-Jul	193	193	58,267	58,267
	16-Jul	273	466	57,793	116,060
	19-Jul	188	654	27,740	143,800
	20-Jul	263	917	33,032	176,832
	22-Jul	193	1,110	18,517	195,349
	23-Jul	307	1,417	16,361	211,710
	26-Jul	137	1,554	13,922	225,632
Kasilof Section one-half mile fishery was open three other days when the full Kasilof Section was fished; could not differentiate harvest.					
2009	11-Jul	154	154	34,026	34,026
	12-Jul	156	310	19,031	53,057
	15-Jul	162	472	24,128	77,185
	17-Jul	146	618	24,179	101,364
	18-Jul	30	648	5,966	107,330
	19-Jul	117	765	12,479	119,809
	21-Jul	193	958	14,906	134,715
	22-Jul	205	1,163	25,025	159,740
27-Jul	145	1,308	16,912	176,652	
2010	10-Jul	209	209	10,747	10,747
	14-Jul	169	378	16,542	27,289
	17-Jul	114	492	41,723	69,012
	18-Jul	114	606	30,288	99,300

## **PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Nathan Corr.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would not allow the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) to open until it is projected the escapement would exceed the OEG of 150,000–300,000 sockeye salmon. It would also limit the use of the KRSHA to 48 consecutive hours, and then mandate a minimum closure time of 24 hours.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The KRSHA may be opened when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. It is the intent of the board that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the KRSHA can be opened, additional fishing time should be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first, and secondly, that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, if necessary, to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal may reduce the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon by at least 25,000 fish and king salmon by an unknown amount. Because the upper end of the OEG is 300,000, not being able to harvest additional fish until the goal is exceeding 300,000 sockeye salmon increases the likelihood of exceeding the OEG in years of large runs. This proposal may require the department to deviate from the management plan, by emergency order, for additional fishing time to achieve established escapement goals as directed by 5 AAC 21.363(e) in years of large Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs while conserving Kenai River sockeye salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the board in 1986 to be used in a year when the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is strong, while the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is either average or below. The KRSHA (Figure 168-1) has been opened by emergency order in three of the last four seasons to the taking of salmon by gillnets. The terminal harvest area was used more extensively in 2006 when directed fisheries on Kenai River sockeye salmon were closed for conservation reasons, and the only tool available for managers to harvest the abundance of Kasilof River sockeye salmon was the KRSHA. In 2007, this area was only used towards the end of the season, in large part because under current regulations, the commissioner can, and did, allow commercial fishing during the closed windows in the Kasilof Section only. In 2008, with the Kenai River sockeye salmon run later and below expectations, but with the Kasilof River escapement goal nearing the upper end, the KRSHA was used later in the season in attempts to stay within the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement goal. Extra fishing time was provided in the Kasilof Section out to one-half mile to target Kasilof River fish in 2009 and the KRSHA was not used. Neither additional time nor fishing in the KRSHA was used in 2010. The king salmon harvest in the KRSHA between 2004 and 2008 ranged from 77–2,996, while sockeye salmon harvests have ranged from 5,476–687,572 (Tables 168-1 and 168-2). Table 168-3 describes the late-run Kasilof River king salmon sport harvest and abundance, 1996–2009.

In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years (Table 168-4).

The department is currently assessing the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A new goal has been developed because of the change in sonar systems (Bendix sonar being replaced by DIDSON), and 2) new information available such as brood year, genetics, age composition, and other data. The recommended BEG is now 160,000–340,000 sockeye salmon.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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 168-1. Kasilof River Special Harvest Area king and sockeye salmon commercial harvests, 2004–2008.

Year	King Salmon	Sockeye Salmon
2004	77	5,476
2005	748	97,199
2006	2,996	687,572
2007	180	20,290
2008	1,522	77,869

Table 168-2. Kasilof River Special Harvest Area commercial king and sockeye salmon harvests by day, 2004–2008.

<b>2004</b> Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
14-Jul	4	4	1,895	1,895
17-Jul	2	6	13	1,908
23-Jul	6	12	98	2,006
24-Jul	8	20	285	2,291
25-Jul	7	27	738	3,029
27-Jul	2	29	400	3,429
28-Jul	25	54	601	4,030
30-Jul	9	63	780	4,810
7-Aug	14	77	666	5,476

<b>2005</b> Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
5-Jul	18	18	5,596	5,596
6-Jul	40	58	6,344	11,940
8-Jul	104	162	14,417	26,357
9-Jul	68	230	8,649	35,006
10-Jul	48	278	8,244	43,250
15-Jul	73	351	8,614	51,864
17-Jul	115	466	13,524	65,388
18-Jul	18	484	1,131	66,519
22-Jul	92	576	17,952	84,471
29-Jul	141	717	10,975	95,446
30-Jul	31	748	1,753	97,199

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Table 168-2. Page 2 of 2.

2006 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jun	10	10	3,341	3,341
28-Jun	54	64	15,546	18,887
4-Jul	20	84	3,787	22,674
5-Jul	97	181	25,983	48,657
9-Jul	60	241	11,474	60,131
11-Jul	49	290	4,321	64,452
12-Jul	34	324	2,312	66,764
15-Jul	39	363	8,880	75,644
16-Jul	434	797	46,074	121,718
17-Jul	39	836	21,094	142,812
18-Jul	164	1,000	11,832	154,644
19-Jul	57	1,057	4,651	159,295
20-Jul	198	1,255	36,275	195,570
21-Jul	190	1,445	38,133	233,703
22-Jul	221	1,666	21,929	255,632
23-Jul	190	1,856	39,415	295,047
24-Jul	174	2,030	186,258	481,305
25-Jul	317	2,347	105,277	586,582
26-Jul	237	2,584	38,706	625,288
27-Jul	246	2,830	37,825	663,113
29-Jul	166	2,996	24,459	687,572

2007 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jul	11	11	3,668	3,668
28-Jul	27	38	2,304	5,972
29-Jul	23	61	2,720	8,692
3-Aug	45	106	2,967	11,659
4-Aug	23	129	3,154	14,813
5-Aug	16	145	1,853	16,666
9-Aug	3	148	246	16,912
10-Aug	32	180	3,378	20,290

2008 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jul	22	22	901	901
28-Jul	113	135	9,074	9,975
29-Jul	113	248	12,325	22,300
30-Jul	108	356	10,716	33,016
31-Jul	170	526	9,766	42,782
1-Aug	201	727	9,363	52,145
2-Aug	154	881	8,344	60,489
3-Aug	147	1,028	6,950	67,439
4-Aug	127	1,155	3,714	71,153
5-Aug	106	1,261	2,623	73,776
6-Aug	91	1,352	2,139	75,915
7-Aug	170	1,522	1,954	77,869

Table 168-3. Late-Run Kasilof River king salmon sport harvest and abundance, 1996–2009.

Year	Inriver	
	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Abundance <sup>b</sup>
1996	833	
1997	1,101	
1998	637	
1999	658	
2000	1,086	
2001	1,378	
2002	451	
2003	1,144	
2004	1,038	
2005	1,052	12,097
2006	883	8,611
2007	1,062	8,522
2008	793	8,276
2009	2,164	
Min	451	8,276
Max	2,164	12,097
Average	1,020	9,377

<sup>a</sup> Source: From Statewide Harvest Surveys (SWHS, Howe et al. 1996-1999;

Walker et al. 2003; Jennings et al. 2007, IN prep.; Jennings et al. 2004, 2006 a-b;

<sup>b</sup> Source: From Reimer and Fleishman In prep.

Table 168-4. Enumeration goals and sonar estimates of passage of sockeye salmon in the Kasilof River, 1978–2010.

Year	Kasilof River	
	Escapement Goal <sup>a</sup>	Escapement Estimate
1978	75,000–150,000	116,600
1979	75,000–150,000	152,179
1980	75,000–150,000	184,260
1981	75,000–150,000	256,625
1982	75,000–150,000	180,239
1983	75,000–150,000	210,271
1984	75,000–150,000	231,685
1985	75,000–150,000	505,049
1986	75,000–150,000	275,963
1987	150,000–250,000	249,250
1988	150,000–250,000	204,000
1989	150,000–250,000	158,206
1990	150,000–250,000	144,289
1991	150,000–250,000	238,269
1992	150,000–250,000	184,178
1993	150,000–250,000	149,939
1994	150,000–250,000	205,117
1995	150,000–250,000	204,935
1996	150,000–250,000	249,944
1997	150,000–250,000	266,025
1998	150,000–250,000	273,213
1999	150,000–250,000	312,587
2000	150,000–250,000	256,053
2001	150,000–250,000	307,570
2002	150,000–250,000	226,682
2003	150,000–250,000	359,633
2004	150,000–250,000	577,581
2005	150,000–250,000	348,012
2006	150,000–250,000	368,092
2007	150,000–250,000	336,866
2008	150,000–250,000	301,469
2009	150,000–250,000	297,125
2010	150,000–250,000	267,013

<sup>a</sup>An OEG of 150,000–300,000 fish was set in 2001.

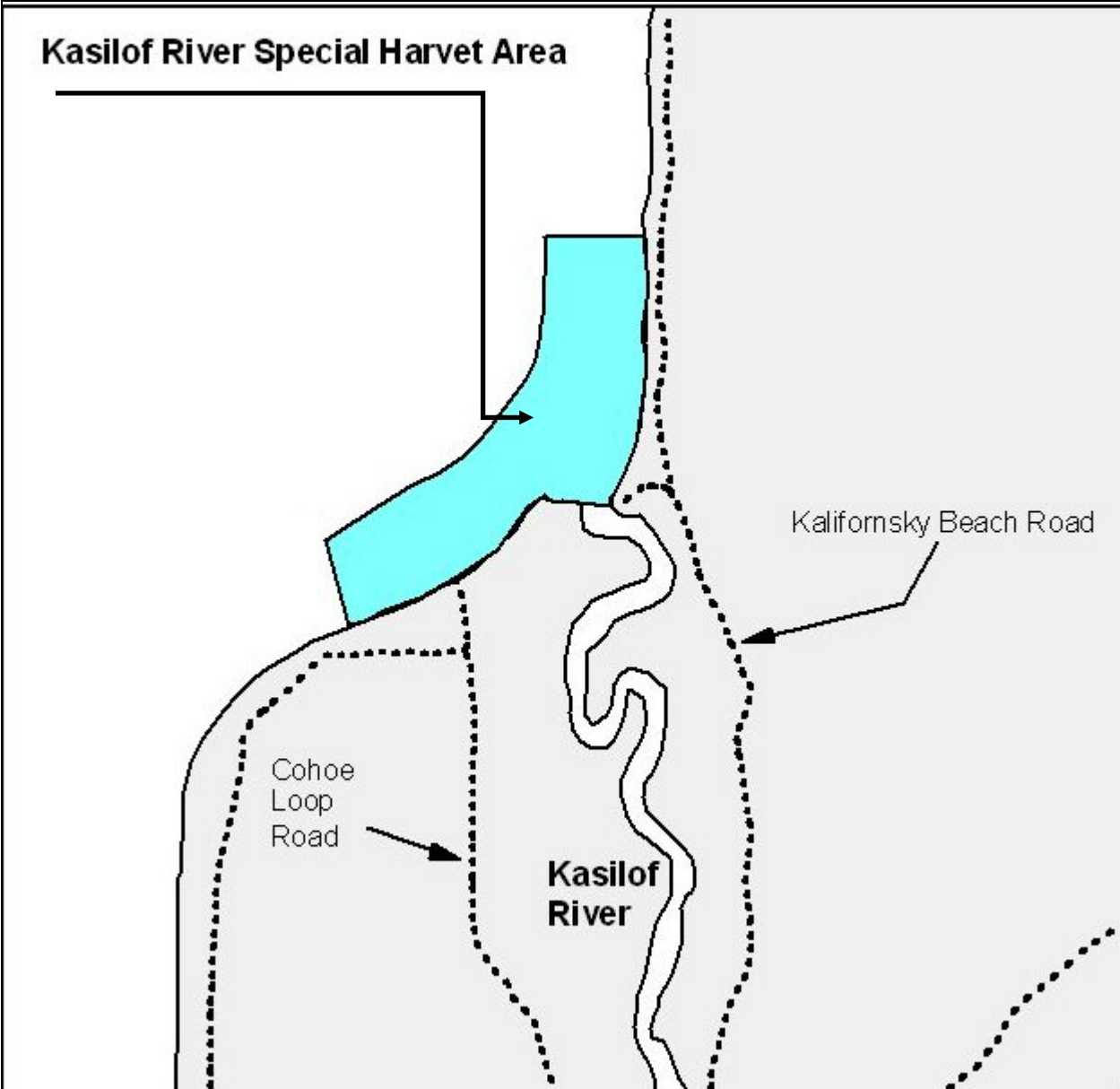


Figure 168-1. Map of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.



**PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Joel Doner.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would open commercial fishing with set gillnets within one-half mile of the beach in the Kasilof Section whenever the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is opened to commercial fishing if it is necessary to achieve escapement goals contained within this and other management plans.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) may be opened when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. It is the intent of the board that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the KRSHA can be opened, additional fishing time should be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first, and secondly, that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, if necessary to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans. Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG range of 150,000–300,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THIS PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye in years of large Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs. It would likely increase incidental harvest of Kenai and Kasilof river king salmon and Kenai River sockeye salmon in years of poor Kenai River runs when the department is utilizing the KRSHA to stay below the upper end of the Kasilof River goal and achieve the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal.

**BACKGROUND:** The KRSHA (Figure 169-1) was developed by the board in 1986 to be used in a year when the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is strong, while the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is either average or below. The KRSHA has been opened by emergency order in three of the last four seasons to the taking of salmon by gillnets. The terminal harvest area was used more extensively in 2006 when directed fisheries on Kenai River sockeye salmon were closed for conservation reasons, and the only tool available for managers to harvest the abundance of Kasilof River sockeye salmon was the KRSHA. In 2007, this area was only used towards the end of the season, in large part, because under current regulations, the commissioner can, and did, allow commercial fishing during the closed windows in the Kasilof Section only. In 2008, with the Kenai River sockeye salmon run later and below expectations, but with the Kasilof River escapement goal nearing the upper end, the KRSHA was used later in the season in attempts to stay within the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement goal. Extra fishing time was provided in the Kasilof Section out to one-half mile to target Kasilof River fish in 2009 and the KRSHA was not used. Neither additional time nor fishing in the KRSHA was used in 2010. The king salmon harvest in the KRSHA between 2004 and 2008 ranged from 77–2,996, while sockeye salmon harvests have ranged from 5,476–687,572 (Tables 169-1 and 169-2).

In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years (Table 169-3).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to the inability to use the Special Harvest Area when necessary to achieve inriver and escapement goals.

**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 169-1. Kasilof River Special Harvest Area king and sockeye salmon commercial harvests, 2004–2008.

Year	King Salmon	Sockeye Salmon
2004	77	5,476
2005	748	97,199
2006	2,996	687,572
2007	180	20,290
2008	1,522	77,869

Table 169-2. Kasilof River Special Harvest Area commercial king and sockeye salmon harvests by day, 2004–2008.

<b>2004</b> Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
14-Jul	4	4	1,895	1,895
17-Jul	2	6	13	1,908
23-Jul	6	12	98	2,006
24-Jul	8	20	285	2,291
25-Jul	7	27	738	3,029
27-Jul	2	29	400	3,429
28-Jul	25	54	601	4,030
30-Jul	9	63	780	4,810
7-Aug	14	77	666	5,476

<b>2005</b> Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
5-Jul	18	18	5,596	5,596
6-Jul	40	58	6,344	11,940
8-Jul	104	162	14,417	26,357
9-Jul	68	230	8,649	35,006
10-Jul	48	278	8,244	43,250
15-Jul	73	351	8,614	51,864
17-Jul	115	466	13,524	65,388
18-Jul	18	484	1,131	66,519
22-Jul	92	576	17,952	84,471
29-Jul	141	717	10,975	95,446
30-Jul	31	748	1,753	97,199

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Table 169-2. Page 2 of 2.

2006 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jun	10	10	3,341	3,341
28-Jun	54	64	15,546	18,887
4-Jul	20	84	3,787	22,674
5-Jul	97	181	25,983	48,657
9-Jul	60	241	11,474	60,131
11-Jul	49	290	4,321	64,452
12-Jul	34	324	2,312	66,764
15-Jul	39	363	8,880	75,644
16-Jul	434	797	46,074	121,718
17-Jul	39	836	21,094	142,812
18-Jul	164	1,000	11,832	154,644
19-Jul	57	1,057	4,651	159,295
20-Jul	198	1,255	36,275	195,570
21-Jul	190	1,445	38,133	233,703
22-Jul	221	1,666	21,929	255,632
23-Jul	190	1,856	39,415	295,047
24-Jul	174	2,030	186,258	481,305
25-Jul	317	2,347	105,277	586,582
26-Jul	237	2,584	38,706	625,288
27-Jul	246	2,830	37,825	663,113
29-Jul	166	2,996	24,459	687,572

2007 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jul	11	11	3,668	3,668
28-Jul	27	38	2,304	5,972
29-Jul	23	61	2,720	8,692
3-Aug	45	106	2,967	11,659
4-Aug	23	129	3,154	14,813
5-Aug	16	145	1,853	16,666
9-Aug	3	148	246	16,912
10-Aug	32	180	3,378	20,290

2008 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jul	22	22	901	901
28-Jul	113	135	9,074	9,975
29-Jul	113	248	12,325	22,300
30-Jul	108	356	10,716	33,016
31-Jul	170	526	9,766	42,782
1-Aug	201	727	9,363	52,145
2-Aug	154	881	8,344	60,489
3-Aug	147	1,028	6,950	67,439
4-Aug	127	1,155	3,714	71,153
5-Aug	106	1,261	2,623	73,776
6-Aug	91	1,352	2,139	75,915
7-Aug	170	1,522	1,954	77,869

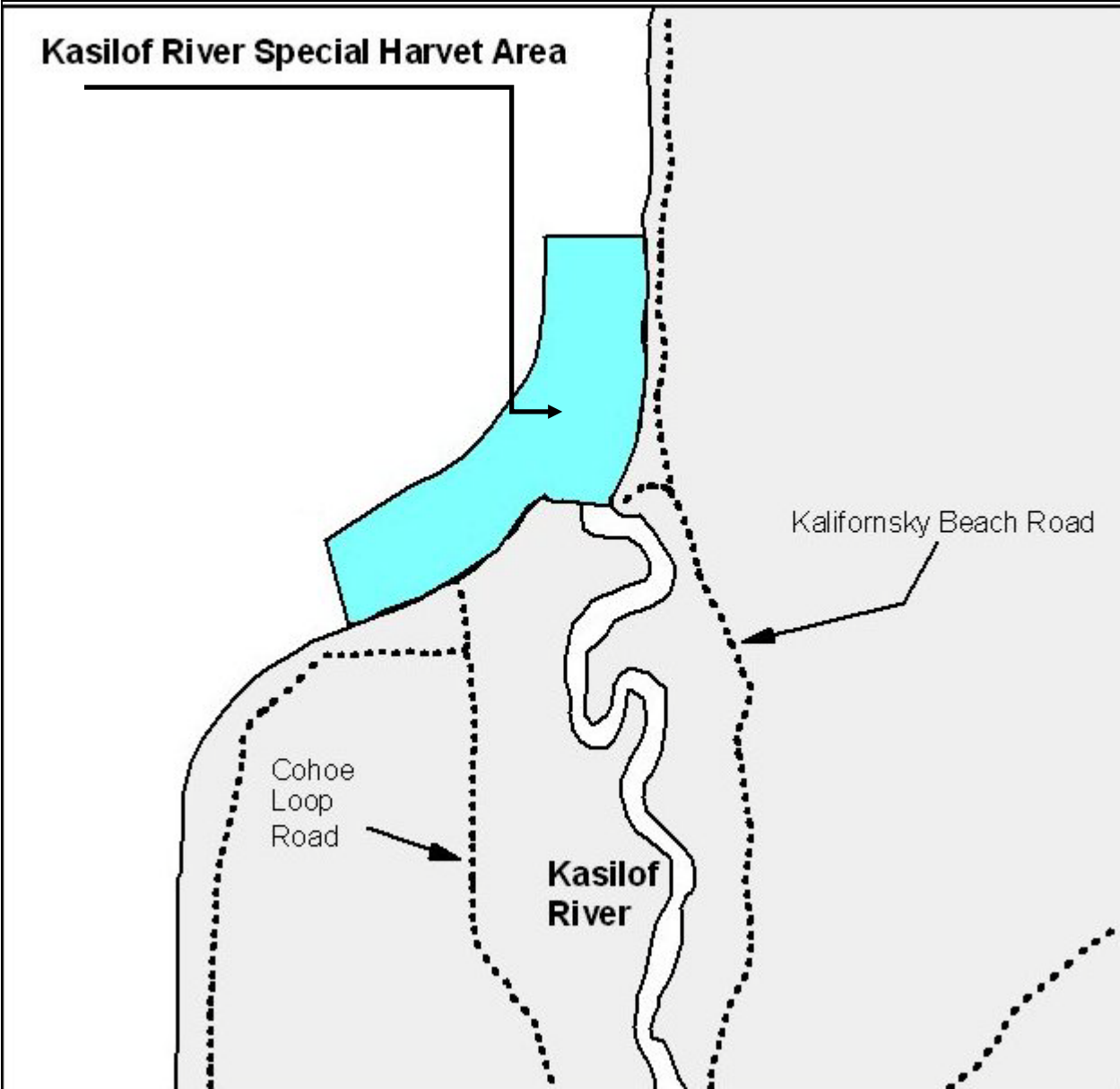


Figure 169-1. Map of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

**PROPOSALS 170 and 330 - 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Anchorage Advisory Committee (Proposal 170).  
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (Proposal 330).

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** These proposals would open commercial fishing with set gillnets within one-half mile of the beach in the Kasilof Section whenever the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is opened to commercial fishing.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) may be opened when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish, it is the intent of the board that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the KRSHA can be opened, additional fishing time should be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first, and secondly, that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, if necessary to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans. Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THESE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** These proposals would increase the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye in years of large Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs. It would likely increase incidental harvest of Kenai and Kasilof river king salmon, and Kenai River sockeye salmon in years of poor Kenai River runs when the department is utilizing the KRSHA to stay below the upper end of the Kasilof River goal and above the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal.

**BACKGROUND:** The KRSHA (Figure 170-1) was developed by the board in 1986 to be used in a year when the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is strong while the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is either average or below. The KRSHA has been opened by emergency order in three of the last four seasons to the taking of salmon by gillnets. The terminal harvest area was used more extensively in 2006 when directed fisheries on Kenai River sockeye salmon were closed for conservation reasons and the only tool available for managers to harvest the abundance of Kasilof River sockeye salmon was the KRSHA. In 2007, this area was only used towards the end of the season, in large part because under current regulations, the commissioner can, and did, allow commercial fishing during the closed windows in the Kasilof Section only. In 2008, with the Kenai River sockeye salmon run later and below expectations, but the Kasilof River escapement goal nearing the upper end, the KRSHA was used later in the season in attempts to stay within the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement goal. Extra fishing time was provided in the Kasilof Section out to one-half mile to target Kasilof River fish in 2009 and the KRSHA was not used. Neither additional time nor fishing in the KRSHA was used in 2010. The king salmon harvest in the KRSHA between 2004 and 2008 ranged from 77–2,996, while sockeye salmon harvests have ranged from 5,476–687,572 (Tables 170-1 and 170-2).

In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on these allocative proposals. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to the inability to use the Special Harvest Area when necessary to achieve inriver and escapement goals.

**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 170-1. Kasilof River Special Harvest Area king and sockeye salmon commercial harvests, 2004–2008.

Year	King Salmon	Sockeye Salmon
2004	77	5,476
2005	748	97,199
2006	2,996	687,572
2007	180	20,290
2008	1,522	77,869

Table 170-2. Kasilof River Special Harvest Area commercial king and sockeye salmon harvests.

<b>2004</b> Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
14-Jul	4	4	1,895	1,895
17-Jul	2	6	13	1,908
23-Jul	6	12	98	2,006
24-Jul	8	20	285	2,291
25-Jul	7	27	738	3,029
27-Jul	2	29	400	3,429
28-Jul	25	54	601	4,030
30-Jul	9	63	780	4,810
7-Aug	14	77	666	5,476

<b>2005</b> Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
5-Jul	18	18	5,596	5,596
6-Jul	40	58	6,344	11,940
8-Jul	104	162	14,417	26,357
9-Jul	68	230	8,649	35,006
10-Jul	48	278	8,244	43,250
15-Jul	73	351	8,614	51,864
17-Jul	115	466	13,524	65,388
18-Jul	18	484	1,131	66,519
22-Jul	92	576	17,952	84,471
29-Jul	141	717	10,975	95,446
30-Jul	31	748	1,753	97,199

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Table 170-2. Page 2 of 2.

2006 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jun	10	10	3,341	3,341
28-Jun	54	64	15,546	18,887
4-Jul	20	84	3,787	22,674
5-Jul	97	181	25,983	48,657
9-Jul	60	241	11,474	60,131
11-Jul	49	290	4,321	64,452
12-Jul	34	324	2,312	66,764
15-Jul	39	363	8,880	75,644
16-Jul	434	797	46,074	121,718
17-Jul	39	836	21,094	142,812
18-Jul	164	1,000	11,832	154,644
19-Jul	57	1,057	4,651	159,295
20-Jul	198	1,255	36,275	195,570
21-Jul	190	1,445	38,133	233,703
22-Jul	221	1,666	21,929	255,632
23-Jul	190	1,856	39,415	295,047
24-Jul	174	2,030	186,258	481,305
25-Jul	317	2,347	105,277	586,582
26-Jul	237	2,584	38,706	625,288
27-Jul	246	2,830	37,825	663,113
29-Jul	166	2,996	24,459	687,572

2007 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jul	11	11	3,668	3,668
28-Jul	27	38	2,304	5,972
29-Jul	23	61	2,720	8,692
3-Aug	45	106	2,967	11,659
4-Aug	23	129	3,154	14,813
5-Aug	16	145	1,853	16,666
9-Aug	3	148	246	16,912
10-Aug	32	180	3,378	20,290

2008 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jul	22	22	901	901
28-Jul	113	135	9,074	9,975
29-Jul	113	248	12,325	22,300
30-Jul	108	356	10,716	33,016
31-Jul	170	526	9,766	42,782
1-Aug	201	727	9,363	52,145
2-Aug	154	881	8,344	60,489
3-Aug	147	1,028	6,950	67,439
4-Aug	127	1,155	3,714	71,153
5-Aug	106	1,261	2,623	73,776
6-Aug	91	1,352	2,139	75,915
7-Aug	170	1,522	1,954	77,869

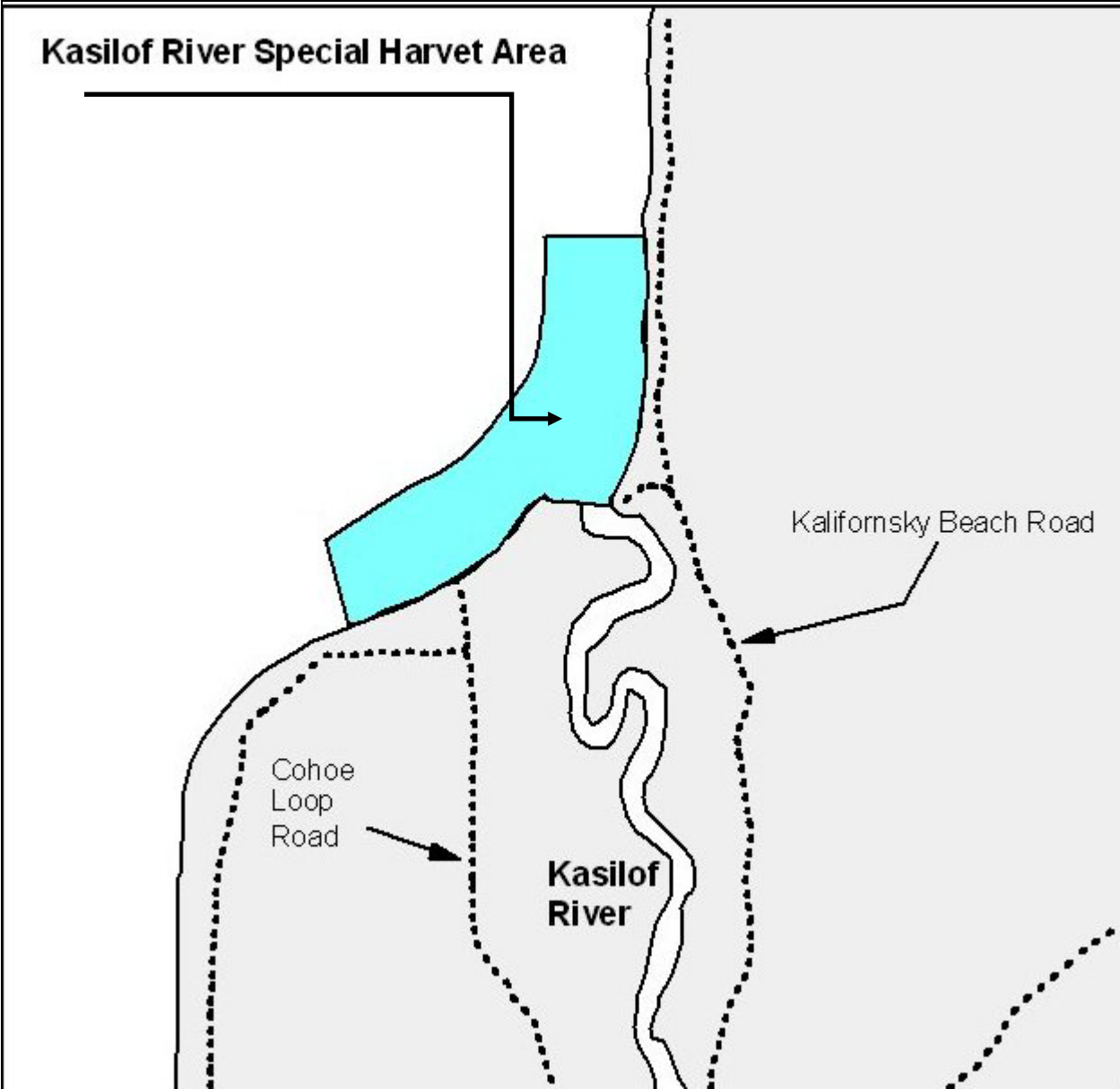


Figure 170-1. Map of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

**PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would open the South K-Beach statistical area (244-31) whenever the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is open.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is defined as those waters within one and one-half miles of the navigational light located on the south bank of the Kasilof River, excluding waters of the Kasilof River upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located near the terminus of the river. Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THESE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** These proposals would increase the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye in years of large Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs. It would likely increase incidental harvest of Kenai and Kasilof river king salmon and Kenai River sockeye salmon in years of poor Kenai River runs when the department is utilizing the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) to stay below the upper end of the Kasilof River goal and above the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal.

**BACKGROUND:** The KRSHA (Figure 171-1) was developed by the board in 1986 to be used in a year when the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is strong while the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is either average or below. The KRSHA has been opened by emergency order in three of the last four seasons to the taking of salmon by gillnets. The terminal harvest area was used more extensively in 2006 when directed fisheries on Kenai River sockeye salmon were closed for conservation reasons, and the only tool available for managers to harvest the abundance of Kasilof River sockeye salmon was the KRSHA. In 2007, this area was only used towards the end of the season, in large part because under current regulations, the commissioner can, and did, allow commercial fishing during the closed windows in the Kasilof Section only. In 2008, with the Kenai River sockeye salmon run later and below expectations, but the Kasilof River escapement goal nearing the upper end, the KRSHA was used later in the season in attempts to stay within the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement goal. Extra fishing time was provided in the Kasilof Section out to one-half mile to target Kasilof River fish in 2009 and the KRSHA was not used. Neither additional time nor fishing in the KRSHA was used in 2010. The king salmon harvest in the KRSHA between 2004 and 2008 ranged from 77–2,996 while sockeye salmon harvests have ranged from 5,476–687,572 (Tables 171-1 and 171-2).

In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to the inability to use the Special Harvest Area when necessary to achieve inriver and escapement goals.

**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 171-1. Kasilof River Special Harvest Area king and sockeye salmon commercial harvests, 2004–2008.

Year	King Salmon	Sockeye Salmon
2004	77	5,476
2005	748	97,199
2006	2,996	687,572
2007	180	20,290
2008	1,522	77,869

Table 171-2. Kasilof River Special Harvest Area commercial king and sockeye salmon harvests.

<b>2004</b> Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
14-Jul	4	4	1,895	1,895
17-Jul	2	6	13	1,908
23-Jul	6	12	98	2,006
24-Jul	8	20	285	2,291
25-Jul	7	27	738	3,029
27-Jul	2	29	400	3,429
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30-Jul	9	63	780	4,810
7-Aug	14	77	666	5,476

<b>2005</b> Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
5-Jul	18	18	5,596	5,596
6-Jul	40	58	6,344	11,940
8-Jul	104	162	14,417	26,357
9-Jul	68	230	8,649	35,006
10-Jul	48	278	8,244	43,250
15-Jul	73	351	8,614	51,864
17-Jul	115	466	13,524	65,388
18-Jul	18	484	1,131	66,519
22-Jul	92	576	17,952	84,471
29-Jul	141	717	10,975	95,446
30-Jul	31	748	1,753	97,199

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Table 171-2. Page 2 of 2.

2006 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
27-Jun	10	10	3,341	3,341
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4-Jul	20	84	3,787	22,674
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9-Jul	60	241	11,474	60,131
11-Jul	49	290	4,321	64,452
12-Jul	34	324	2,312	66,764
15-Jul	39	363	8,880	75,644
16-Jul	434	797	46,074	121,718
17-Jul	39	836	21,094	142,812
18-Jul	164	1,000	11,832	154,644
19-Jul	57	1,057	4,651	159,295
20-Jul	198	1,255	36,275	195,570
21-Jul	190	1,445	38,133	233,703
22-Jul	221	1,666	21,929	255,632
23-Jul	190	1,856	39,415	295,047
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27-Jul	246	2,830	37,825	663,113
29-Jul	166	2,996	24,459	687,572

2007 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
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27-Jul	11	11	3,668	3,668
28-Jul	27	38	2,304	5,972
29-Jul	23	61	2,720	8,692
3-Aug	45	106	2,967	11,659
4-Aug	23	129	3,154	14,813
5-Aug	16	145	1,853	16,666
9-Aug	3	148	246	16,912
10-Aug	32	180	3,378	20,290

2008 Date	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
	Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum
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29-Jul	113	248	12,325	22,300
30-Jul	108	356	10,716	33,016
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2-Aug	154	881	8,344	60,489
3-Aug	147	1,028	6,950	67,439
4-Aug	127	1,155	3,714	71,153
5-Aug	106	1,261	2,623	73,776
6-Aug	91	1,352	2,139	75,915
7-Aug	170	1,522	1,954	77,869

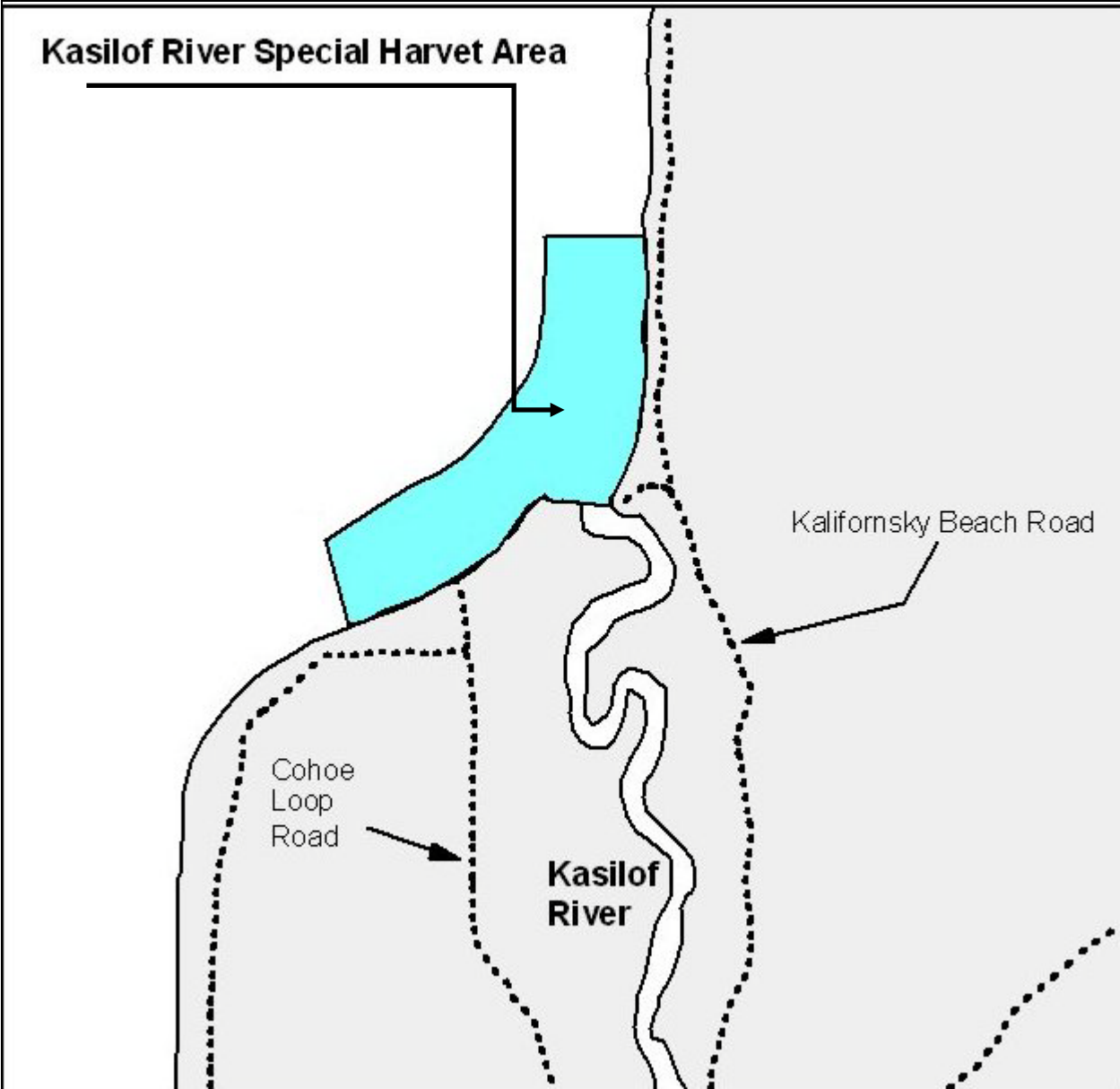


Figure 171-1. Map of the Kasilof River Special Harvest area.

**PROPOSAL 331 - 5 AAC 21.365(f)(1) and (3). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would increase the fishing area for set gillnets by 600 feet and decrease the fishing area by 600 feet for drift gillnets in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Set gillnets may be operated only within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in the special harvest area, and drift gillnets may be operated only in waters between 600 feet of the mean high tide mark out to one and one-half miles of the navigational light located on the south bank of the Kasilof River.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the set gillnet harvest by some unknown amount and decrease the drift gillnet harvest by some unknown amount in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

**BACKGROUND:** The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (Figure 331-1) was developed by the board in 1986 to be used in a year when the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is strong, while the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is either average or below. The KRSHA has been opened by emergency order in three of the last four seasons to the taking of salmon by gillnets. The terminal harvest area was used more extensively in 2006 when directed fisheries on Kenai River sockeye salmon were closed for conservation reasons, and the only tool available for managers to harvest the abundance of Kasilof River sockeye salmon was the KRSHA. In 2007, this area was only used towards the end of the season, in large part because under current regulations, the commissioner can, and did, allow commercial fishing during the closed windows in the Kasilof Section only. In 2008, with the Kenai River sockeye salmon run later and below expectations, but the Kasilof River escapement goal nearing the upper end, the KRSHA was used later in the season in attempts to stay within the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement goal. Extra fishing time was provided in the Kasilof Section out to one-half mile to target Kasilof River fish in 2009 and the KRSHA was not used. Neither additional time nor fishing in the KRSHA was used in 2010.

In the last 10 years, the Kasilof River OEG (150,000–300,000) has been exceeded seven years and was within the goal three years, including the two previous years (2009 and 2010). The BEG (150,000–250,000) has been exceeded nine of the last 10 years.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**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.



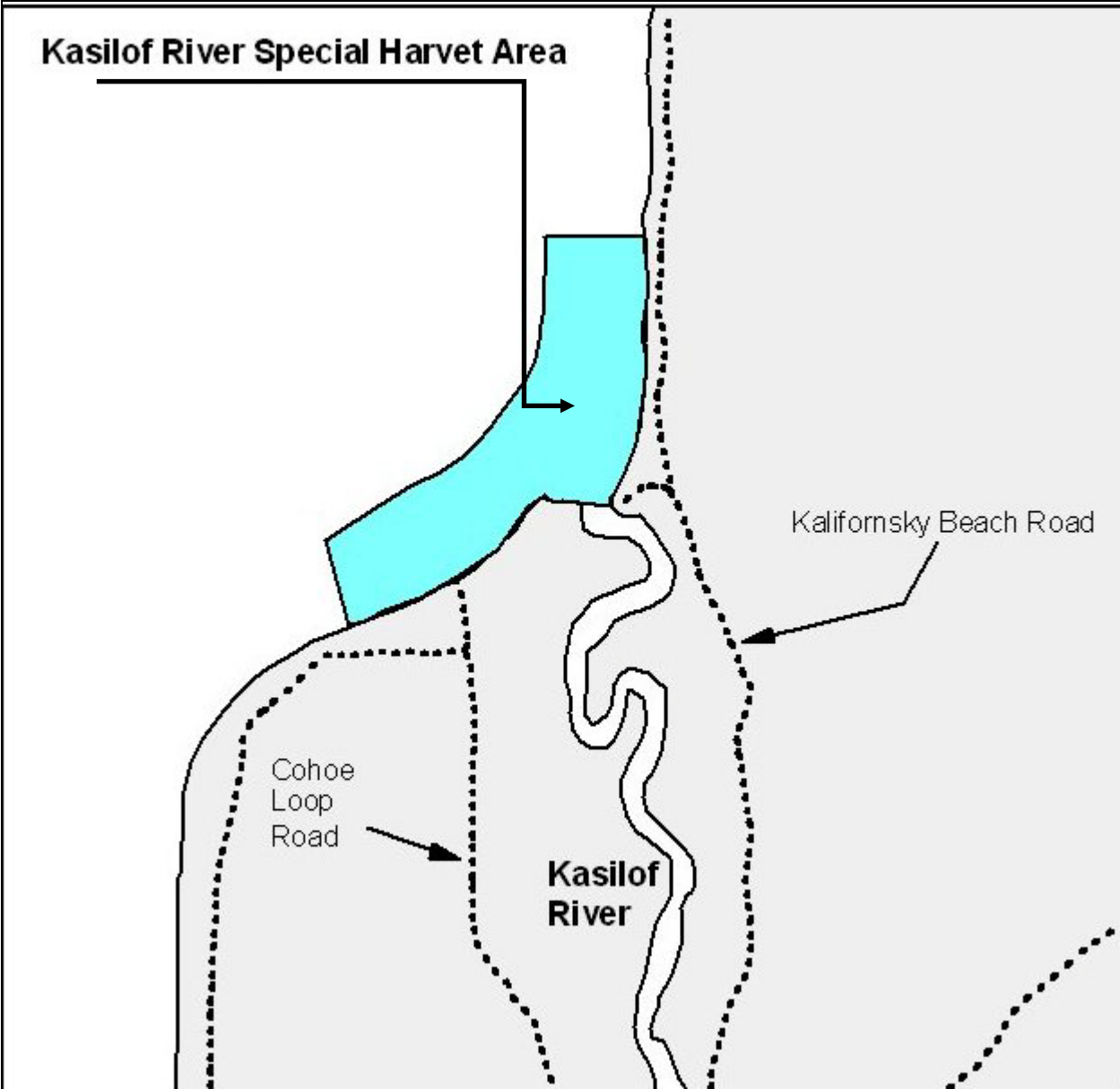


Figure 331-1. Map of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.