

Historic Eastside Set Net Compromise
1974-2012

RC 62

- **1974** It was established that Russian River Sockeye will be managed primarily for the in river sport fishery.
- **1976** King Salmon Plan states that Sport catches of late run King salmon in the Kenai River and the Deep Creek saltwater fishery (to be determined by in-season sport fish catch rates) shall be on 1:1 basis with commercial catches on beaches 244-20-30-40 during the (2) regulatory scheduled 12-hour periods each week after July 1. For proposes of late July Sport Fish management, commercial catches of King salmon after July 20th will be extrapolated. The sport fishery will close by emergency field order if sport catches of King Salmon exceed commercial catches of King salmon by 10%.
- **1978** The BOF instituted the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Commercial fishers were allowed to fish from June 25 to August 15.
- **1979** Sockeye Management Plan determined Sport fish harvest percentage allowed based on the size of the run. The minimum escapement for sockeye into the Kenai River was **350,000-500,000** fish.
- **1981** BOF maintains King Salmon 1:1 sport to commercial harvest limit. Sport fishery closes if harvest exceeds 10% of commercial harvest. Kenai Coho Declared a Sport Fish Priority.
- **1984** BOF moves opening date for Eastside s in the Kenai, Salmatof and East Forelands sections from June 25th to July 1 through August 15 to allow passage of a small percentage of King Salmon both early run and late run to the Sport and Commercial Guide fisheries.
- **1993** Area Registration requirement for set net Permits in Upper Cook Inlet. Formally adopted Policy for Mixed Stock Fisheries.
- **1997** The opening date for the set gillnet season was moved from July 1 to July 8 in the Kenai, Salmatof and East Forelands sections to allow for passage of King Salmon into the Kenai River and at the same time, advanced the closing date from August 15 to August 10 for the protection of Coho Salmon bound for the Kenai River.
- **1999** The Kenai River was moved to three tiered Management Plan for Sockeye escapements. The larger the return, the larger the escapement tier. (Currently the escapement goals are 2.3 million, 2.3 - 4.6 million, and over 4.6 million are the current tiers which have been adjusted for Didson data.) The Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Umbrella plan now includes language that introduced "Step Down" plans for specific fisheries in upper Cook Inlet.
- **2002** BOF limited the set gill net season when it prohibited set gill nets from fishing for more than one 24-hour period between August 1 and August 7.
- **2005** BOF eliminated in-season windows after August 1st and implemented season closer if at any point after August 1st the daily harvest is less than 1% of the season cumulative sockeye harvest for two consecutive periods.
- **2008** BOF moved the Season Closing Date from August 10 to August 15 to harvest pinks and late run sockeye under the Pink Salmon management plan. Adopted windows under the Umbrella Plan of the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management plan to provide "predictability" in the sport and personal use fisheries.
- **2011** BOF established an allocation of sockeye to personal use and sport fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet. Increased Kenai in river sport allocation by 33 percent, specified expansion of a window to 36 hours, and specified that during runs of 2.3 and 4.6 million sockeye the 24 hour floating period will be a fixed date on Tuesday. Drift Fishery decoupled from Eastside Set Net Fishery. No fishing within 600' from shore during fishing periods while fishing under the Pink Salmon Management plan.
- **2012** Due to low King Salmon abundance during this season and fishery closures during the heart of the sockeye run to the Kenai River, the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries Task Force was formed with the following mission statement; "The Mission of this task force is to identify a set of recommended adjustments to the Kenai Late-Run Salmon Management Plan (5AAC 21.359) that would result in the best mix of in-river (sport, guided sport, personal use) and Upper Subdistrict set gill net fishing opportunity while providing the best means of attaining the escapement goal for Kenai River late-run Chinook Salmon during times of low King Salmon abundance as experienced in the 2012 season."

Data from Alaska Board of Fisheries Findings and Meetings.

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