

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STAFF COMMENTS
ON COMMERCIAL, PERSONAL USE, SPORT, AND GUIDED SPORT
FINFISH REGULATORY PROPOSALS

FOR THE UPPER COOK INLET MANAGEMENT AREA

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

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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 1-12, 2008 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 (ADF&G) staff comments on commercial, personal use, sport, and guided sport finfish regulatory proposals for the Upper Cook Inlet Management Areas. These comments were prepared by ADF&G for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 1–12, 2008 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, staff comments, Upper Cook Inlet, finfish, management, regulatory proposals, personal use, sport, guided sport, commercial fisheries.

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Summary of Department Positions for the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Proposals

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76	N	Modify drift gillnet area for Kasilof Section	3
77	O	Redefine demarcation of Kenai and Kasilof sections	4
78	N	Reopen the Southside of Chinitna Bay to gillnetting	23
79	N	Remove restrictions from drift and set gillnet fisheries for coho protection	5
80	N	Modify the dates of the Central District for the Kenai and East Forelands sections	7
81	N	Change season dates for Kenai and East Forelands Sections	8
82	N	Open Kenai and East Forelands sections	9
83	N	Extend the Upper Subdistrict late-run sockeye salmon season to August 15	10
84	N	Allow set gillnet fishing until August 15	11
85	N	Delay season closure for Kenai and East Forelands sections	12
86	N	Specify that the set net fishery will close by emergency order	13
87	N / O	Clarify transition between sockeye management and coho management	14
88	N	Delete prescribed sockeye salmon harvest closures	15
89	N	Close Central District commercial fishery by executive order	80
90	N	Change weekly fishing periods to 3 periods per week after August 10	19
91	N	Repeal mandatory July 17 and 26 restrictions for the Kenai and Kasilof rivers	84
92	O	Repeal Kenai River coho plan	259
93	N	Use 25,000 sockeye salmon for the trigger point to open the Kasilof Section prior to June 20 (author noted June 15)	16
94	N	Reopen set gillnet season south of Blanchard line after June 15	17
95	N	Change weekly fishing periods from Mondays/Thursdays to Mondays/Fridays	20
96	N	Increase the number of fishing periods from two to per week to three periods per week.	21
97	N	Allow commercial harvests of salmon from time specified on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Central District	21
98	N / S	Restrict drift gillnet use in Upper Subdistrict	17
99	N / S	Clarify drift gillnet closure areas	18
100	N	Open a commercial fishery in Tuxendni Bay	37
101	N	Open a commercial fishery in Tuxendni Bay	37
102	N	Provide flexibility in regulation for the use of single filament gillnet web	23
103	N	Allow additional use of monofilament gillnets	25
104	N	Prohibit use of monofilament nets in Cook Inlet	26
105	N	Increase drift gillnet to 200 fathoms in the Upper Cook Inlet	27
106	N	Increase maximum drift gillnet depth to 60 meshes	27
107	N	Allow up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear and allow joint ventures with concurrent fishing from one vessel by permit	28
108	N	Increase aggregate set gillnet gear length	29
109	O	Limit east side set gillnet gear to 3 strands	29
110	O	Allow commercial use of reef net gear for harvest of live fish in Cook Inlet	22
111	O	Change distance offshore for set gillnets in Cook Inlet	30
112	N	Allow set gillnet fishing in any district after 48-hour waiting period	31
113	N	Eliminate area registration for vessel for Cook Inlet and Kodiak salmon fisheries	32
114	N	Renumber Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan to put umbrella plan first in the regulations	61
115	N	Return Upper Cook Inlet management plan to 1995 wording	70
116	N	Add personal use, sport and guided sport use to the priority for management purposes in Upper Cook Inlet	72
117	O	Amend umbrella salmon management plan to clarify escapement goals based on wild fish	73

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**Summary of Department Positions for the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Proposals
(Continued)**

Proposal No.	Dept. Position	Issue	Page No.
118	N	Return to 1996 Kenai River sockeye plan	97
119	O	Identify Susitna River and Fish Creek as stocks with a yield concern under the Sustainable Salmon Policy and create conservation corridor	33
120	O	Designate Cook Inlet chum salmon as a Stock of Concern	34
121	NA	Increase the Yentna/Susitna escapement goals	45
122	NA	Increase the Yentna/Susitna escapement goals	46
123	NA	Eliminate Fish Creek stocking program until escapement goal met	60
124	N	Reorganize the Upper Cook Inlet Management plans by species	62
125	N	Revise the Upper Cook Inlet area management plans to address quality, sustainability and revitalize the industry	74
126	N	Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan to clarify board intent regarding the commissioner's emergency order authority	63
127	N/S	Authorize the commissioner to issue EO openings to ensure escapement ranges are met	64
128	N/S	Clarify the intention to manage fisheries in season to meet the escapement goals	65
129	N/S	Clarify the BOF intent that achieving escapement goals supersedes specific time and area managers flexibility	66
130	N/S	Clarify that achieving the established escapement goals is the primary management objective in the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management plan	67
131	N/S	Manage to achieve in-river goals	68
132	N/O	Implement priorities among salmon management plans for Upper Cook Inlet	69
133	N	Specify from June 20 to August 20, Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks will be primarily managed for high quality	75
134	N	Delete portions of Northern District management plan	47
135	N	Amend Northern District salmon management plan	48
136	N/S	Direct department to manage chum, pink, and sockeye salmon primarily for commercial uses	49
137	N/S	Eliminate the regulatory language from plans that direct the department to minimize harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho in order to provide personal use, sport	50
138	N/O	Reinstate the pre-2005 Northern District Salmon Management Plan	52
139	O	Close commercial fishing to protect Alexander Creek stocks	53
140	N	Clarify escapement goal priorities regarding the Yentna and Kenai rivers	54
141	N	Allow longer sockeye season in Northern District	55
142	N	Allow additional coho fishing time after August 10 in Northern District	56
143	N	Manage Northern District Eastern Subdistrict by regular periods not tied to Yentna River escapement	57
144	N	Allow the commissioner to selectively close specific statistical areas in the Northern District commercial salmon fishery	58
145	N	Manage the east side of the Northern District independently	59
146	N	Remove reference to specific commercial fishing periods in the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan	38
147	N	Add Thursday to the allowed king salmon fishing periods in the Northern District	39
148	N	Increase maximum king salmon net length mesh size in the Northern District	41
149	N	Allow additional fishing time for the area located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River	43
150	N	Modify fishing periods in the Northern District	40
151	N	Allow drift gillnets during May and June in west side fishery	44
152	N	Modify the plan to provide for the following:	36
153	S	Define the pink salmon commercial fishing area in UCI	86
154	N	Allow earlier and more fishing periods for pink salmon harvest and delete permit requirements	86
155	N	Allow set gillnet use for harvesting pink salmon	87
156	N	Add set and drift gillnet opportunities to harvest pink salmon	88

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**Summary of Department Positions for the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Proposals
(Continued)**

Proposal No.	Dept. Position	Issue	Page No.
157	N	Amend the Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan for commercial uses	89
158	N	Allow department to open set gillnet periods in Cook Inlet	89
159	N	Delete Cook Inlet Pink Salmon plan	90
160	N	Modify the Central District Gillnet Fishery Management plan to allow the area managers flexibility	76
161	N	Repeal the Central District Drift Gillnet fishery management plans	77
162	N	Delete Central District Gillnet plan	78
163	N / O	Amend the Central District drift gillnet fishery management plan	81
164	O	Clarify August fishing periods in the Central District	82
165	N	Reinstate sunset provision for directed Cook Inlet west side drift gillnet fishery	83
166	N / S	Amend the Kasilof River Salmon Management plan	130
167	N / S	Revise Kasilof River management plan	131
168	N / S	Modify the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan	133
169	N / O	Increase OEG based on updated data in the Kasilof and modify fishing periods	135
170	N / O	Open South Kenai Beach district whenever necessary to harvest in the Kasilof terminal area	152
171	S	Move guided sport fishing regulations out of commercial fishing regulations	153
172	N	Specify use of Kasilof River Special Harvest Area	146
173	N	Limit use of Kasilof Special Harvest Area	147
174	O	Eliminate Kasilof River Special Harvest Area	148
175	O	Establish corridor or time limits on nets to increase number of kings entering the Kasilof River during July	149
176	O	Modify Kasilof River late-run king salmon periods	150
177	N	Direct department to manage the Kasilof River sockeye salmon primarily for commercial uses	136
178	N / O	Modify OEG for Kasilof River sockeye	138
179	N / O	Increase Kasilof River OEG	139
180	N	Repeal the Kasilof Salmon Management plan	137
181	N	Increase area for set gillnet use and reduce area for drift gillnet use	140
182	N	Amend Kasilof River plan to limit Kenai River sockeye harvest	141
183	N	Limit gillnetters to one half mile from shore	142
184	N	Change area for set and drift gillnet use for Kasilof River	143
185	N	Expand Kasilof River special harvest area	144
186	N	Change area for set and drift gillnet use for Kasilof River	145
187	N	Direct the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon management plan to be abundance based for all user groups	91
188	N	Modify management plan for Kenai River late run sockeye salmon	94
189	N	Modify the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Management Plan escapement goals	99
190	N	Modify Kenai River salmon escapement goals	101
191	N	Delete portions of Kenai River salmon late-run sockeye plans	104
192	N	Modify Kenai River late-run sockeye plan	107
193	N	Modify Kenai River sockeye salmon bag and possession limits	129
194	N	Set Kenai River late run sockeye escapement goal range of 400,000 to 700,000	116
195	N	Repeal regulations that require mandatory time and area closures, windows, and limit the commissioner's emergency authority	110
196	N	Modify Kenai River late run sockeye escapement goals	117
197	N	Establish Kenai River late run sockeye escapement goal range of 400,000 - 700,000	118
198	N	Amend the Kenai River late run sockeye management plan for commercial uses and establish escapement goals	119
199	N	Modify Kenai River salmon escapement goals	119
200	N	Remove windows for Kenai area	112
201	N	Modify Kenai River escapement goals	120
202	N / O	Amend windows provisions for Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Plan	114

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**Summary of Department Positions for the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Proposals
(Continued)**

Proposal No.	Dept. Position	Issue	Page No.
203	O	Limit commercial fishing prior to availability of in-season run strength estimate	121
204	N	Eliminate regulatory language from the commercial plans that direct department to minimize harvest of late run Kenai River kings in order to provide personal use, sport use	96
205	N	Revise Cook Inlet management plan and allocation	123
206	S	Allow emergency authority on bag and possession limits in a sonar passage of less than 650,000 Kenai River sockeye salmon	125
207	N	Allow the commissioner to increase the bag limit up to 12 sockeye salmon if abundance exceeds four million	126
208	N	Allow additional harvest opportunity when in-river sockeye abundance warrants	128
209	O	Open a Kenai River Special Harvest Area	123
210	O	Increase commercial allocation of Russian River sockeye	124
211	N	Prohibit dipnetting on the Kenai River until BEG is met	155
212	N	Close personal use dipnet fishery on Kenai River until escapement goals are met	156
213	N	Link personal use dipnet openings to escapement numbers	158
214	N	Extend dipnet season on Kenai River	160
215	N	Increased harvest opportunity in personal use fishery in Kenai and Kasilof Rivers	161
216	N	Increase Kasilof River personal use household limit	163
217	N	Reduce personal use fishery limit to 5 salmon per person, 25 per household	165
218	N	Lower annual limits for personal use salmon harvest to 20 for head of household and 5 for each dependent and no more than 50% of limit may be taken from the Kenai River	167
219	N	Lower annual limits for personal use salmon harvest to 15 for head of household and 5 for each dependent	168
220	N	Prohibit personal use dipnets with mesh size over 2 1/2 inches	170
221	S	Implement motor type restriction for dip net fishing from vessel	171
222	O	Restrict 2-stroke motor boat use in personal use fishery	173
223	O	Require motorized boats utilizing the personal use fishery to be anchored or without power while fishing	174
224	O	Allow rod and reel in personal use fishery and identify consumptive users as a person fishing for winter supply	176
225	S	Increase days allowed to retain naturally-produced king salmon in the Kasilof River	204
226	S	Increase bag limit for hatchery stock king salmon on Kasilof River	206
227	O	Prohibit fishing after retaining a king salmon	208
228	N	Designate portion of Kasilof River as a king salmon spawning sanctuary	209
229	O / N	Prohibit power boats on Kasilof River	211
230	O / N	Restrict motorized use on portion on Kasilof River	212
231	N	Prohibit fishing from boat, July 1 through August 15, in portion of Kasilof River	213
232	O / N	Allow motorized use during king salmon season on the Kasilof River	215
233	N	Allow anchoring of boats in portion of Kasilof River	216
234	N	Modify Kasilof River sockeye bag limit	217
235	O	Open Chickaloon River to king salmon fishing	218
236	O	Modify rainbow trout bag limits for Kenai River drainage lakes and ponds	177
237	O	Modify rainbow trout bag limits for Kenai River drainage lakes and ponds	178
238	S	Expand rainbow trout spawning closure from the outlet of Skilak Lake to the Upper Killey River to include Dolly Varden	180
239	O	Reduce spawning closure season for rainbow trout	182
240	O	Prohibit all sport fishing during the rainbow trout spawning closure	183
241	S	Prohibit removing rainbow trout from the water during spawning closure	185
242	N	Prohibit removing rainbow trout or Dolly Varden from the water in catch and release fishing	186
243	O	Require single, barbless hooks in Kenai River upstream of Lower Killey River from August 21 - June 10	188
244	O	Require barbless hooks for rainbow trout or Dolly Varden in the Kenai River	191

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**Summary of Department Positions for the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Proposals
(Continued)**

Proposal No.	Dept. Position	Issue	Page No.
245	O	Restrict gear for rainbow trout and Dolly Varden in portion of Kenai River	193
246	N	No fishing from anchored vessel in the swan sanctuary area, Skilak Lake /Kenai River from June 15 – December 31	195
247	O	Eliminate size restriction on Dolly Varden for Kenai River	196
248	N	Increase the bag limit for Arctic Char in the Cooper Lake	197
249	S	Amend this regulation to decrease the daily bag limit for lake trout in Hidden Lake	198
250	S	Allow up to five lines to fish for northern pike fishing in Arc Lake and Scout Lake	200
251	S	Allow up to five lines to fish for northern pike fishing in Stormy Lake	201
252	N	Prohibit releasing any northern pike while fishing in the Kenai Peninsula	202
253	O	Close fishing from 100 yards above ferry cable to 25 yards below cable on Kenai	220
254	O / S	Increase size of designated youth fishing area on the Kenai River	221
255	O	Increase size and bag limits for jack kings in Kenai River	222
256	O	Delete bag limit for king salmon under 28 inches on Kenai River	224
257	O	Increase size and bag limits for jack kings in Kenai River	225
258	O	Increase the jack king salmon size limit from 20" to 25" in Cook Inlet freshwaters	227
259	O	Modify bag limit to allow retention of hatchery stock king salmon in the Kenai River drainage	228
260	O	Modify bag limit to allow retention of hatchery stock king salmon in the Kenai River drainage	229
261	O	Eliminate Kenai River early-run king salmon slot limit	230
262	O	Eliminate Kenai River early-run king salmon slot limit	232
263	O	Amend the slot limit season for early-run king salmon on the Kenai River	233
264	O	Extend early-run king salmon slot limit below the Soldotna Bridge through July 14	235
265	S	Amend this regulation (from January 1 – July 14, a person may not possess a king salmon that has been filleted, headed, mutilated)	237
266	O	Restrict use of bait for early-run kings on portion of Kenai River	237
267	O	Allow use of bait in the early run Kenai River king salmon fishery, starting May 1 or June 1	238
268	O / N	Extend Funny River, Slikok Creek, and Lower Killey River sanctuary closures through July 31	239
269	O / N	Extend Funny River, Slikok Creek, and Lower Killey River sanctuary closures through July 31 and expand Killey area	241
270	O	Extend Kenai River king salmon season through August 7	243
271	O	Extend late-run king salmon sport fishing season through August 10	244
272	NA	Increase escapement goal for Kenai River late-run king salmon	244
273	N	Delete portions of Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon	245
274	N	Delete section (e) of the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan	246
275	N	Limit non-resident permits for king salmon on Kenai River	247
276	N	Establish annual limits for salmon fishing by non-resident anglers	248
277	O / N	Prohibit non-residents from exporting more than 125 pounds of fish	249
278	O / N	Allow retention of sockeye salmon unintentionally hooked in the Kenai, Kasilof and Russian Rivers	250
279	O / N	Increase bag limit for coho salmon in Kenai Peninsula freshwater streams	251
280	O / N	Increase coho bag limit in Cook Inlet Area rivers	253
281	O / N	Increase bag limit for coho salmon in the Kenai River	256
282	N	Extend the coho salmon fishing season through November on Lower Kenai River and Skilak Lake	258
283	N	Add one drift boat only day on the Kenai River	261
284	N	Add one drift boat only day on the Kenai River	262
285	N	Add one drift boat only day on the Kenai River	264
286	N	Add one additional non-guided drift only day on the Kenai River	265
287	N	Add one additional non-guided drift only day on the Kenai River	266
288	N	Make Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday drift-only days on Kenai River	268

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**Summary of Department Positions for the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Proposals
(Continued)**

Proposal No.	Dept. Position	Issue	Page No.
289	N	Phase-in additional drift boats only days on Kenai River	269
290	N	Prohibit fishing from motorized watercraft in Kenai River	271
291	NA	Require 4-stroke or direct fuel injection motors on the Kenai River	272
292	NA	Require 4-stroke or direct fuel injection motors on the Kenai River	273
293	NA	Require 4-stroke or direct fuel injection motors on the Kenai River	274
294	NA	Regulate motorized use for fishing on the Kenai River to reduce hydrocarbon pollution	275
295	N	Reduce fishing hours or restrict motorized use to reduce hydrocarbon discharge into Kenai River	277
296	NA / N	Restrict outboard motors to 35 hp on the Kenai River	278
297	N	Prohibit king salmon fishing from boats during a 48 hour period on lower Kenai River	280
298	N	Prohibit non-residents from fishing from a vessel unless accompanied by a relative between 6pm and 6am on the Kenai River	281
299	O	Open Kenai River below Soldotna Bridge to fishing from boats during king salmon season	282
300	NA	Require course for powerboat operation on Kenai River	283
301	N	Restrict use of motorized vessel for fishing on the Upper Kenai River near Kenai Lake	284
302	NA	Institute a limited entry program for guides on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers	285
303	N	Modify existing Kenai River guide hours from 6am - 6pm, to 7am - 7pm	286
304	N	Modify existing Kenai River guide hours from 6am - 6pm, to 7am - 7pm	287
305	N	Modify existing Kenai River guide hours from 6am - 6pm, to 8am - 8pm	288
306	N	Prohibit guide boats with clients in fishing holes 10 minutes prior to opening times	289
307	N	Prohibit guides with clients from being on the river prior to 1/2 hour before start time	290
308	N	Separate the guided and unguided sport fishers in the lower Kenai river by day and time	291
309	N	Prohibit Kenai River guiding on Thursdays in June and July	292
310	N	Prohibit guides from fishing on Kenai River on Sundays	294
311	N	Prohibit guides from fishing on Kenai River on Sundays	295
312	N	Restrict licensed guides while fishing during non-guide hours on Kenai River	296
313	N	Limit guides on the Kenai River to only one client or group of clients per day during July	297
314	N	Open Kenai River guiding to one trip per day	298
315	N	Restrict Kenai River and Kasilof River guides to one trip per day on either river	299
316	N	Limit guides to only one client or group of clients per day for Upper Cook Inlet Rivers	300
317	N	Restrict guides from registering for both Kenai and Kasilof rivers	302
318	N	Restrict same day guiding on both Kenai and Kasilof rivers	302
319	N	Prohibit Kasilof River guided fishing when the Kenai River is closed to guided fishing	303
320	N	Restrict Kasilof River guided fishing on Mondays	304
321	N	Allow Kenai River guides to operate on Sundays in May and June, and no hour restrictions in May	305
322	N	Repeal the guide boat prohibition on Mondays in the Kenai River	307
323	N	Allow guides to fish from drift boats on the Kenai River in July	309
324	N	Allow a guide boat on the Kenai River to carry six persons instead of five during the month of July	310
325	N	Designate one day per week on the Kenai late run to guided anglers only	311
326	O	Allow guided fishing 7 days per week with each individual guide allowed 5 days per week on the Kenai	313
327	N	Eliminate Sunday closure for guides on the Kasilof River	305
328	S	Modify regulation prohibiting fishing by sport fishing guides when clients are present on the Kenai River	314
329	S	Align vessel registration regulations with DNR requirements that allow for un-registering guide vessels	315

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**Summary of Department Positions for the 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Proposals
(Continued)**

Proposal No.	Dept. Position	Issue	Page No.
330	O	Reduce open periods for king salmon sport fishing in Alexander Creek drainage	316
331	S	Close king salmon fishing on Alexander Creek	317
332	S	Close king salmon fishing on Alexander Creek	318
333	S	No fishing in Alexander Creek for a few years	319
334	S	Close king salmon fishing on Alexander Creek	320
335	O	Allow 24 hour fishing for king salmon in Unit 1 of the Susitna River drainage	321
336	O	Allow use of bait for king salmon fishing in Unit 1 of the Susitna River drainage	323
337	O	Raise daily bag limit for king salmon in Deshka River	324
338	O	Allow 24-hour fishing in Deshka River	325
339	O	Extend king salmon season in the Deshka River based upon escapement counts	327
340	O	Amend season dates for king salmon fishing in Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage	328
341	O	Allow multiple hooks two weeks earlier for king salmon fishing in Unit 2 of the Susitna River drainage	329
342	O/N	Increase bag limit of coho salmon for Alaskan residents in Parks Highway streams and Talkeetna River	330
343	O	Delay bait restrictions on Talkeetna River	331
344	O	Close Chuitna River to sport fishing above old cable crossing	332
345	O	Require unbaited, artificial lures year-round on the Little Susitna River	333
346	O	Allow use of bait in the Little Susitna River king salmon fishery from July 1 -13	334
347	N	Apply vessel restriction for fishing on Little Susitna River	335
348	S/O	Extend waters open to king salmon fishing near Eklutna Tailrace	336
349	O	Allow use of bait on Big Lake	337
350	S	Establish a spawning closure and decrease bag limit for burbot in Big Lake	338
351	S	Decrease bag limit for burbot in Big Lake	339
352	S	Amend these regulations (sport fishing through the ice for northern pike using five lines)	340
353	S	Increase number of lines allowed for pike fishing in Shell Lake	342
354	O	Allow up to 12 lines for pike while ice fishing in Northern Cook Inlet	343
355	O	Liberalize methods and means for Northern pike in fishing Deshka, Yenta and Susitna drainages	345
356	O/N	Establish personal use fisheries in selected Upper Cook Inlet drainages	346
357	O	Establish a limit for hooligan harvest in Cook Inlet	347
358	O/N	Open a personal use salmon fishery in the Beluga area	348

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COMMITTEE A - COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING (38 PROPOSALS)

Central District Herring

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Central District Herring

PROPOSAL 73: 5 AAC 27.409. Central District Herring Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would rewrite the Central District Herring Management Plan to simplify and correct errors that have occurred in the regulation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Herring fishing in the Central District occurs only in the waters of Upper Subdistrict, Kalgin Island Subdistrict, Western Subdistrict, and Chinitna Bay Subdistrict. A person must register in the department's Soldotna Office no later than April 10 of the year in which the person intends to participate. From April 20 through May 31, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, herring fishing periods by emergency order for one fishing period per week, beginning on Monday 6:00 a.m. and closing Friday 6:00 p.m. Guideline harvest range is 0 - 40 tons of herring in the Upper Subdistrict.

In the Chinitna Bay, Kalgin Island, and Western Subdistricts, from April 20 through May 31, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, two 30-hour fishing periods per week. The guideline harvest ranges are: Chinitna Bay Subdistrict is 0 - 40 tons of herring, Western Subdistrict is 0 - 50 tons of herring, and the Kalgin Island Subdistrict is 0 - 20 tons of herring.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would have no affect on harvests.

BACKGROUND: In 1993, all herring fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet were closed to rebuild those stocks. The commercial fishery prior to 1993 operated 7 days a week, with as many as 374 permits issued each year, reaching a peak harvest of 482 tons. Fishing was allowed in both the Central and Northern Districts. The open season was from April 15 to June 30. In 1998, the department reopened a limited commercial fishery along the

eastside of Cook Inlet allowing only 2 days per week by emergency order from April 20 to May 20. In 1999, the department submitted several proposals to restructure this fishery to reduce the effort, harvest, and intensity of the harvest. These proposals were amended and adopted as the Central District Herring Recovery Management Plan. The fishing season under this plan was from April 20 until May 20 with two 30-hour fishing periods per week. The first 600 feet from mean high tide is closed to reduce the incidental harvest of salmon and Dolly Varden. The current restricted mesh size of between 2-1/8 to 2-1/2 inches in the commercial fishery effectively eliminates any significant harvest of salmon. The 600-foot closure from mean high tide further reduces the likelihood of any incidental harvest of salmon or Dolly Varden. This management plan was designed to reduce the harvest and participation in this fishery, to stabilize the fishing effort, and harvest herring at a consistent and sustainable level. When this plan was enacted, the Northern District as well as the Kustatan and Kalgin Island Subdistricts were closed because harvests in these areas were not ongoing at that time. In 2005 the BOF changed the fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict to a single 108 hour period per week and allowed a modest harvest in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. This proposal is considered housekeeping in nature.

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.

Aerial Spotting

PROPOSAL 74: 5 AAC 21.378. Prohibition on the use of aircraft.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Kempf

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would prohibit the use of spotter pilots in the Upper Cook Inlet area for one hour before, during, and one hour after a commercial salmon fishing period.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The use of aircraft to locate salmon for commercial fishermen is allowed without restrictions in the Upper Cook Inlet Area.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? It is likely that drift gillnet fishermen currently using aircraft may see a decline in their portion of the harvest.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1996 spotters were employed by many drifters in Cook Inlet. When salmon prices declined in the early 1990's the use of spotter planes also declined. Spotter planes were banned during open periods beginning in 1996. The regulation was worded exactly as in this proposal. At the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting, the use of spotter planes was again allowed during open periods.

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

PROPOSAL 75: 5 AAC 21.378. Prohibition on the use of aircraft.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel R. Hakkinen

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would prohibit the use of spotter pilots in the Upper Cook Inlet area for one hour before, during, and one hour after a commercial salmon fishing period.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The use of aircraft to locate salmon for commercial fishermen is allowed without restrictions in the Upper Cook Inlet Area.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? It is likely that drift gillnet fishermen may see a decline in their portion of the harvest.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1996 spotters were employed by many drifters in Cook Inlet. When salmon prices declined in the early 1990's the use of spotter planes also declined. Spotter planes were banned during open periods beginning in 1996. The regulation was worded exactly as in this proposal. At the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting, the use of spotter planes was again allowed during open periods.

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

Fishing Districts, Subdistricts

PROPOSAL 76: 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(C). Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Owen Geer

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would redefine the current fishing area back to what it was prior to the previous Board of Fisheries meeting by changing the current regulations to 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(C) Kasilof Section: to a point at 60 degrees 27.10' N. lat. 151 degrees **25.05 W. long.** [25.70]. The northwest point of the Kasilof Section/Southwest point of the Kenai Section would be moved approximately seven tenths of a mile shoreward.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof Section is defined as all waters enclosed by a line from a point on the beach at 60 degrees 27.10' N. lat., to a point at 60 degrees 27.10' N. lat., 151 degrees 25.70' W. long., to a point at 60 degrees 12.75' N. lat., 151 degrees 32.05' W. long., to a point at 60 degrees 04.02' N. lat., 151 degrees 46.60' W. long., to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60 degrees 04.02' N. lat., 151 degrees 38.90' W. long.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would reduce the area open to drift fishing and likely result in a lower harvest by drift gillnets and an increase in set gillnet harvest. It would also require drifters to fish closer to Karluk Reef just north of the Kasilof River in order to stay within open waters.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1999 the Kasilof Section was defined in regulation as that area within three nautical miles of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline. This area was difficult to fish or enforce as the only effective measure was with radar. In 1999 the areas were redefined using GPS points. At that time the point in question was delineated as 60 degrees 27.10' N. lat. 151 degrees 25.00 W. long. In 2002 this point was moved offshore to 151 degrees 25.50 W. long because of the effects of this line near Karluk Reef. In 2005 the point was again moved offshore by the BOF two tenths of a mile to (151 degrees 25.70 W. long.) allow more area in the Karluk Reef area for drifting as a means of making it a more orderly fishery.

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.

PROPOSAL 77: 5 AAC 21.200(b)(c) Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would reduce the size of the Kasilof Section by moving the northern boundary south within ½ mile of the northern shore of the mouth of the Kasilof River. This area within one-mile of the Kasilof River is currently within the closed area at the stream mouth so in effect this proposal would be closing that area north of the Kasilof River to fishing for Kasilof Stocks, which is the majority of the fish within this area. By reducing the size of the Kasilof Section this proposal would also increase the size of the Kenai Section by approximately 4 miles.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof Section extends from one mile north of the Ninilchik River to 4.5 miles north of the Kasilof River, a distance of approximately 30 miles (straight line). The area is managed prior to July 8th primarily for

the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks, after July 8th it is managed for sockeye salmon stocks of both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Moving the northern boundary south would reduce the fishing power of the Kasilof Section and likely result in: 1) increased fishing time in the remainder of the section, 2) a reallocation of harvest to nets south of the Kasilof River mouth, 3) significantly increased escapement into the Kasilof River and 4) increase the king salmon harvest in the remainder of the 26 miles of open area with the increase in fishing time necessary to achieve the Kasilof Sockeye escapement goal. It would also increase the size of the Kenai Section and therefore include a large section of beach within the Kenai Section where the primary stock harvested would not be of Kenai River origin.

BACKGROUND: 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 Kalifonsky Beach that 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 showing in the district the entire area is opened or closed based on Kasilof run strength. By July 15th when Kenai stocks are commingled in the area, this area is managed for both Kenai and Kasilof stocks. If Kasilof stocks warrant additional harvest but Kenai stocks do not, the area is reduced to within one-half mile of shore instead of 1-1/2 miles and drift fishing is closed. If the harvest of Kenai River sockeye salmon stocks may be excessive in this reduced area, then the entire area is closed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Moving the northern boundary of the Kasilof Section to the mouth of the Kasilof River would decrease rather than improve the department's ability to manage for the escapement goals for the Kasilof or Kenai Rivers, and would tend to increase the king salmon harvest in the remaining area of the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery.

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.

Fishing Seasons

PROPOSAL 79: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would return the opening and closing dates in the Upper Subdistrict set and drift gillnet fishery in the Kasilof, 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 closing date would be August 15 instead of August 10 and the 1 percent rule would also be deleted. The open area for drift gillnets after August 10 would also change. Currently after August 10 the drift area is restricted to Drift areas three and four on the west side of the inlet. Under this proposal the drift area would return to what was open historically. From 1978 until 1996 the open area for drifting was all waters of the Central District more than 5 miles offshore of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof Section opens on June 25 unless the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25. The Department may then open the fishery prior to June 25, but not earlier than June 20. The Kenai and East Foreland Sections open July 8 for commercial fishing. The Kasilof, Kenai and East Foreland Sections close August 10 or when 1 percent of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during 2 consecutive fishing periods after July 31. The drift gillnet fishery closes by emergency order, except that fishing with drift gillnets may only occur in drift areas three and four after August 10.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would lengthen the commercial salmon fishing season in the Kenai and East Forelands Sections by up to 12 days and in the Kasilof Section by 5 days. Harvests of king and sockeye salmon would increase but would be dependent upon management actions. Allowing the harvest of later run sockeye salmon in the Kenai and East Forelands sections would likely increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River.

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.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 80: 5 AAC 21.310. 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 closing date would be August 15 instead of August 10. This closing date of August 15 may also apply to the Kasilof Section although not specifically included in this proposal. This proposal would also delete the current closed mandatory windows.

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 10 or when 1 percent of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during 2 consecutive fishing periods after July 31. At Kenai River run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, there are no mandatory commercial fishing closures (windows). At run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 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 management week. At run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 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 IS ADOPTED? This proposal would lengthen the commercial salmon fishing season in the Kenai and East Forelands Sections by up to 12 days and in the Kasilof Section by 5 days. Harvests of king and sockeye salmon would increase but would be dependent upon management actions. Allowing the harvest of later run sockeye salmon in the Kenai and East Forelands sections would likely increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River.

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 the season, reallocated fish to in-river users, restricted additional commercial fishing time and areas, and instituted mandatory closed windows. These changes have made it difficult to manage for the Kenai or Kasilof sockeye salmon escapement goals in years with large runs.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 81: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would extend the current fishing season for the Kenai and East Foreland sections by 7 days earlier and 5 days later. It would also allow the season to start prior to July 1, but not earlier than June 25, under the circumstance that 100,000 sockeye salmon have passed the sonar at River Mile 19. Because the Kenai sonar counter is not installed until July 1 the early starting option will never occur.

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 10 or when 1 percent of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during 2 consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would lengthen the commercial salmon fishing season in the Kenai and East Forelands Sections by up to 12 days and in the Kasilof Section by 5 days. Harvests of king and sockeye salmon would increase but would be dependent upon management actions. Allowing the harvest of later run sockeye salmon in the Kenai and East Forelands sections would likely increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River.

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 the season, reallocated significant numbers

of fish to in-river users, restricted additional commercial fishing time and areas, and instituted mandatory closed windows. These changes have made it difficult to manage for the Kenai or Kasilof sockeye salmon escapement goals in years with large runs.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 82: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Gary L. Hollier

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would return the season opening date to July 1, extending the current fishing season by opening the Kenai and East Foreland sections 7 days earlier.

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 10 or when 1 percent of the set gillnet harvest is harvested during 2 consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would lengthen the commercial salmon fishing season in the Kenai and East Forelands Sections by up to 7 days. Harvests of king and sockeye salmon would increase but would be dependent upon management actions.

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.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 83: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would extend the current fishing season for the Kenai, Kasilof and East Foreland sections by 5 days, closing on August 15.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof Section opens on June 25 unless the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25. The Department may then open the fishery prior to June 25, but not earlier than June 20. The Kenai and East Foreland Sections open July 8 for commercial fishing. The Kasilof, Kenai and East Foreland Sections close on August 10 or when less than 1 percent of the set gillnet harvest is harvested for 2 consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of sockeye salmon and would likely increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River.

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.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times,

and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 84: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, while not clearly written, would extend the current fishing season for the Kenai, Kasilof and East Foreland sections to close on August 15.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof Section opens on June 25 unless the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25. The Department may then open the fishery prior to June 25, but not earlier than June 20. The Kenai and East Foreland Sections open July 8 for commercial fishing. The Kasilof, Kenai and East Foreland Sections close on August 10 or when less than 1 percent of the set gillnet harvest is harvested for 2 consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of sockeye salmon and would likely increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River.

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.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been

exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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

PROPOSAL 85: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Gary L. Hollier

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would extend the current fishing season for the Kenai and East Foreland sections by something less than 10 days.

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 on August 10 or when less than 1 percent of the set gillnet harvest is harvested for 2 consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of sockeye salmon and would likely increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River.

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.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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

PROPOSAL 86: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would change the current fixed date closure for the Kenai, Kasilof and East Foreland sections to close by emergency order.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai, Kasilof and East Foreland Sections close on August 10 or when less than 1 percent of the set gillnet harvest is harvested for 2 consecutive fishing periods after July 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of sockeye salmon and would likely increase the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Kenai River.

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.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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

PROPOSAL 87: 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(c)(iii). Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would change the formula that could close the sockeye salmon fishing season for the Kenai and East Foreland sections earlier than August 10 from less than one percent to less than five percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods. It would also modify the definition of a "fishing period" to mean a time period open to commercial fishing without closure for at least 12 and not more than 24 hours and therefore restrict a commercial fishing period length.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections will close on August 10, unless closed earlier by emergency order after July 31, after the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods. 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 IS ADOPTED? This proposal would most likely end the commercial salmon fishing season earlier than what the current regulations mandate in the Kasilof, Kenai and East Foreland sections. The season would close after July 31 when less than 5 percent of the seasons harvest has been taken during two consecutive fishing periods. Under the proposed formula the commercial fishery would very likely close on the second fishing period after July 31 or fishing periods of less than 12 hours would be necessary. A shorter season would decrease the ability of the area manager to achieve sockeye salmon goals in 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.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, it is **OPPOSED** to this proposal on the biological issues it raises with regards to harvesting evenly throughout the run and management for escapement goals.

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.

PROPOSAL 88: 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(c)(iii). Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete current regulatory language that closes the season on August 10 and prescribes a harvest closure based on a percentage of sockeye salmon harvested in the commercial fishery after July 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections will close on August 10, unless closed earlier by emergency order after July 31, when the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods. 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 IS ADOPTED? By deleting this section the season closure would occur by emergency order and the one percent provision would no longer be in regulation. This proposal may increase the commercial harvest of sockeye, coho, chum, and pink salmon by an unknown amount.

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.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 93: 5 AAC 21.310.(b)(2)(C)(i). Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow commercial fishing to begin as early as **June 15** [June 20] in the Kasilof Section if the department estimates that **25,000** [50,000] sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River by that date.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof Section opens on June 25 unless the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25. The department may then open the fishery prior to June 25, but not earlier than June 20.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would open the Kasilof Section earlier in some years, allowing the harvest of earlier run sockeye and king salmon returning to the Kasilof River. The harvest of Kenai River early-run king salmon would increase by an unknown amount. This proposal would also reduce the harvest rate and increase conflicts with the Kasilof River Personal Use set gillnet fishery which operates from June 15 to June 24. However since the Kasilof Sonar generally is not put in until June 15 the likelihood of fishing prior to June 20 would be low. Because the harvests in the tails of the run are small, starting fishing earlier is not likely to offset the effects of the windows and fishing limitations.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The Kasilof River sonar project currently begins June 15 so there is little chance of a fishery prior to June 18 or 20. The Kasilof Section has a 48-hour closed window and 48 hours of additional fishing time each week from the start of the season until July 8. Beginning July 8, closed windows and allowable fishing time are dictated by the Kenai River sockeye salmon return.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans. An earlier starting date is not likely to solve the problem of consistently exceeding the Kasilof River escapement goal.

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.

PROPOSAL 94: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow commercial fishing to begin on the first Monday or Thursday period after June 15 in the Kasilof Section.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof Section opens on June 25 unless the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25. The department may then open the fishery prior to June 25, but not earlier than June 20.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would open the Kasilof Section earlier in some years, allowing the harvest of earlier run sockeye and king salmon returning to the Kasilof River. The harvest of Kenai River early-run king salmon would increase by an unknown amount. This proposal would also reduce the harvest rate and increase conflicts with the Kasilof River Personal Use set gillnet fishery which operates from June 15 to June 24. However since the Kasilof Sonar generally is not put in until June 15 the likelihood of fishing prior to June 20 would be low. Because the harvests in the tails of the run are small, starting fishing earlier is not likely to offset the effects of the windows and fishing limitations.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The Kasilof River sonar project currently begins June 15 so there is little chance of a fishery prior to June 18 or 20. The Kasilof Section has a 48-hour closed window and 48 hours of additional fishing time each week from the start of the season until July 8. Beginning July 8, closed windows and allowable fishing time are dictated by the Kenai River sockeye salmon return.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans. An earlier starting date is not likely to solve the problem of consistently exceeding the Kasilof River escapement goal.

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.

PROPOSAL 98: 5 AAC 21.310(b)(3). Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would not allow drift fishermen to fish within two miles of shore once the set gillnet fishery closes in the Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland Sections.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? For drift gillnets in the Central District, from the start of the season fishing with drift gillnets may not occur within two miles of the mean high tide mark on the eastern side of the Upper Subdistrict until those locations have been opened for fishing with set gillnets. No part of a commercial drift gillnet or set gillnet may be set or operated within 600 feet of any part of another commercial set gillnet. During the season, if a window or emergency order limitation meant that the set gillnet fishery was not open but the drift fishery was open in the Kenai, Kasilof or east Forelands sections the department closes the drift gillnet fishery within the normally open set gillnet area to provide for an orderly fishery. If however during even years when the drift fleet is fishing for pink salmon after the Upper Subdistrict set gillnets are closed the department has not closed the area normally open to set gillnets.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The drift gillnet fishery would have a clear open or closed area defined in regulation that would not require an emergency order. Effects would be dependent on fishing time, weather, and the migration patterns of salmon.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1996, the season closed in the Upper Subdistrict for set gillnets on August 15. After August 15 drift gillnets were not allowed within 5 miles of the eastern shoreline. In 1996, the BOF changed the closing date of the drift fishery to August 9 and the set gillnet fishery to one period after August 10. In 1999 and 2000, the set gillnet closing was changed to August 7. When the drift gillnet fishery closes after the set gillnet fishery, the drift fleet fishes near the beach and can destroy set gillnet buoys and running lines that are left in the water.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **SUPPORTS** the BOF clarifying and resolving this issue.

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.

PROPOSAL 99: 5 AAC 21.310(b)(3). Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Beaudoin

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would not allow drift fishermen to fish within two miles of shore at any time in the Kasilof, Kenai, and East Foreland Sections.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? For drift gillnets in the Central District, from the start of the season fishing with drift gillnets may not occur within two

miles of the mean high tide mark on the eastern side of the Upper Subdistrict until those locations have been opened for fishing with set gillnets. No part of a commercial drift gillnet or set gillnet may be set or operated within 600 feet of any part of another commercial set gillnet. Set gillnets are allowed out to 1.5 miles south of the Kenai River and 1 mile north of the Kenai River. During the season, if a window or emergency order limitation meant that the set gillnet fishery was not open but the drift fishery was open in the Kenai, Kasilof or east Forelands sections the department closes the drift gillnet fishery within the normally open set gillnet area to provide for an orderly fishery. If however during even years when the drift fleet is fishing for pink salmon after the Upper Subdistrict set gillnets are closed the department has not closed the area normally open to set gillnets.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The drift gillnet fishery would have a clear open or closed area defined in regulation that would not require an emergency order. Effects would be dependent on fishing time, weather, and the migration patterns of salmon.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1996, the season closed in the Upper Subdistrict for set gillnets on August 15. After August 15 drift gillnets were not allowed within 5 miles of the eastern shoreline. In 1996 the BOF changed the closing date of the drift fishery to August 9 and the set gillnet fishery to one period after August 10. In 1999 and 2000 the set gillnet closing was changed to August 7. When the drift gillnet fishery closes after the set gillnet fishery the drift fleet fishes near the beach and can destroy set gillnet buoys and running lines that are left in the water.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **SUPPORTS** the BOF clarifying and resolving this issue.

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.

Weekly Fishing Periods

PROPOSAL 90: 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the current regulatory fishing periods after August 10 from two periods per week to three periods per week.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Salmon may be taken in the Northern and Central Districts from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. In addition the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery closes on August 10, and the drift fishery is restricted to drift areas three and four after

August 10. In addition there is a directed pink salmon drift fishery during even years that does occur 3 days per week for three periods immediately after August 10.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase commercial fishing time from 24 to 36 hours per week. This fishery would likely increase the commercial harvest of sockeye, coho, pink and chum salmon by an unknown amount.

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

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.

PROPOSAL 95: 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would return the regular fishing schedule to Mondays and Fridays instead of Mondays and Thursdays. This change was made in 1999. From 1970 until 1999, the regular schedule was on Mondays and Fridays. Prior to 1970 the fishing schedule was generally 3 days per week.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the set gillnet fishery, salmon may be taken in the Northern District from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday and in the Central District, salmon may be taken from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. In the drift 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. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Fishing periods may be modified by emergency order. At run strengths of greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 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 IS ADOPTED? If adopted this change would generally make it more likely to fish additional time on Wednesdays instead of on Saturdays. However, the overall harvest rate is unlikely to change.

BACKGROUND: At statehood the commercial fishery was managed under a flexible schedule, prior to July 1 there were 2 fishing periods per week and up to 5 periods per

week after July 1. In 1961 that was changed to two 24-hour periods per week on Mondays and Thursdays. Between 1966 and 1970 the schedule was again returned to a flexible schedule at mid July, with from 2 to 3 periods per week. In 1970 the fishing schedule was fixed at 2 periods per week on Mondays and Fridays for 12 hours. That remained in effect until 1999 when it was changed to Mondays and Thursdays. There is little difference in the harvest rate except there is the perception of fishing more on weekends with the Monday/Thursday schedule.

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

PROPOSAL 96: 5 AAC 21.320(b)(1). Weekly fishing periods.

PROPOSED BY: Bob Wolfe

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the number of fishing periods in the drift gillnet fishery from two periods to three 12-hour weekly fishing periods. These periods would be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the drift 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. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Fishing periods may be modified by emergency order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would likely increase the drift fleet harvest and to a lesser extent decrease the set gillnet harvest.

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.

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.

PROPOSAL 97: 5 AAC 21.320(b)(1). Weekly fishing periods.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the number of fishing periods in the drift gillnet fishery from two periods to three weekly fishing periods. These periods would be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The BOF would establish the period length.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the drift 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. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Fishing periods may be modified by emergency order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would be dependent upon BOF actions. In general, this proposal would likely increase the drift fleet harvest and to a lesser extent decrease the set gillnet harvest.

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.

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.

Gear

PROPOSAL 110: 5 AAC 21.330. Gear

PROPOSED BY: Liz Chase

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow any Cook Inlet gillnet limited entry permit holder to substitute a reef net for gillnet gear for live fish harvest.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently only gillnets and seines are allowed in Upper Cook Inlet. Reef nets are not legal gear anywhere in the state.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Effects of this proposal would be dependent on BOF actions.

BACKGROUND: CFEC has established an optimum number of permits based on gillnet gear. A change would likely require another study by CFEC.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal.

COST STATEMENT: The department believes that the adoption of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Costs would be associated with new gear and equipment.

PROPOSAL 78: 5 AAC 21.330. Gear.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Carpenter

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would open the south side of Chinitna Bay to set gillnetting during regular periods.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current set gillnet fishing area in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict is along the north side of Chinitna Bay from 59 degrees 53.17' N. lat., 153 degrees W. long., to 59 degrees 51.52' N. lat., 153 degrees 08.17' W. long. and only within 2,500 feet of the mean high tide mark.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If this area is opened harvest would likely be small/minor and comprised of primarily chum as well as some coho salmon. Gear conflicts with seine and drift currently fishing this area could result.

BACKGROUND: The south side of Chinitna Bay would be open for set gillnets. Currently this area is open to drift gillnets and seines, only by emergency order. Harvests in Chinitna Bay are currently almost non-existent because there is currently no tender service from any processor. The only stock with an escapement goal in this area is chums in Clearwater Creek. This goal is currently being exceeded most years. For approximately 30 years the current open set gillnet area has been in effect. It was arrived at as a compromise between users as a means of ending a long-standing gear dispute. The persons involved in this dispute are no longer involved in the fishery.

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.

Gillnet specifications and operations

PROPOSAL 102: 5 AAC 21.331 (h). Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Gabrys

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would continue to allow the use of monofilament mesh by deleting the sunset provision and triple the useable amount of monofilament mesh web allowed in the fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Cook Inlet Area, fishermen may use up to 50 fathoms of monofilament mesh web in a drift gillnet or up to 35 fathoms of monofilament mesh web in a set gillnet(one third of legal amount). Before a person uses monofilament, they must register with the department. If the use of monofilament mesh web is causing an adverse effect, the department may disallow its use. This regulation had a sunset clause as of December 31, 2007 and no longer applies.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? It is unclear what the differences in harvest between multi-filament and monofilament have been since the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting. Personal contacts of commercial fishermen who used monofilament indicated there was little middle ground. Either fishermen liked it or disliked it.

BACKGROUND: Monofilament gillnets are used to harvest salmon in Puget Sound, the Columbia River, and California. Neither Alaska nor British Columbia allows them to be used to harvest salmon. Monofilament web is used in the Alaska herring gillnet fisheries. There were several discussion topics when the first proposal was discussed at the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting. The cost of monofilament is approximately 30-40% cheaper than currently legal multifilament web. A catch efficiency study completed in Southeast Alaska by the department shows that 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. Opinion of gillnet suppliers in 2005 was that the difference in efficiency between monofilament and the current legal multifilament would be relatively insignificant.

Two other biological issues were in regards to dropouts and biodegradability. These are salmon that escape, either alive or dead, from gillnets after having been entangled. It was the personal view of the gear suppliers that monofilament gear can be expected to have a higher drop out rate, especially in rough weather, than multifilament gear. No studies could be found comparing the rate of drop out of monofilament gillnet web compared to the current Alaska legal multifilament web. Concerning biodegradability, multifilament nets used in Alaska are manufactured with the same material and the rate of decay between the current legal nets and monofilament nets would not differ significantly.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If this proposal were to pass, the department would want to maintain its current ability to

disallow its use if it is causing an adverse effect. If the BOF passes this regulation, the need to close and reopen the fishery by emergency order should be removed.

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.

PROPOSAL 103: 5 AAC 21.331 (h). Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Teague Vanek

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the useable amount of monofilament mesh web from 1/3 of the allowable aggregate length to all of it. For set gillnets it would increase to 105 fathoms and for drift it would increase to 150 fathoms.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Cook Inlet Area, fishermen may use up to 50 fathoms of monofilament mesh web in a drift gillnet or up to 35 fathoms of monofilament mesh web in a set gillnet. Before a person uses monofilament, they must register with the department. If the use of monofilament mesh web is causing an adverse effect, the department may disallow its use. This regulation had a sunset clause as of December 31, 2007 and no longer applies.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? It is unclear what the differences in harvest between multi-filament and monofilament have been since the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting. Personal contacts of commercial fishermen found it is either loved or despised with little middle ground.

BACKGROUND: Monofilament gillnets are used to harvest salmon in Puget Sound, the Columbia River, and California. Neither Alaska nor British Columbia allows them to be used to harvest salmon. Monofilament web is used in the Alaska herring gillnet fisheries. There were several discussion topics when the first proposal was discussed at the 2005 Board of Fisheries 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 shows that 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. Opinion of gillnet suppliers in 2005 was that the difference in efficiency between monofilament and the current legal multifilament would be relatively insignificant.

Two other biological issues were in regards to dropouts and biodegradability. These are salmon that escape, either alive or dead, from gillnets after having been entangled. It was the personal view of the gear suppliers that monofilament gear can be expected to have a higher drop out rate, especially in rough weather, than multifilament gear. No studies

could be found comparing the rate of drop out of monofilament gillnet web compared to the current Alaska legal multifilament web. Concerning biodegradability, multifilament nets used in Alaska are manufactured with the same material and the rate of decay between the current legal nets and monofilament nets would not differ significantly.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If this proposal were to pass, the department would want to maintain its current ability to disallow its use if it is causing an adverse effect. If the BOF passes this regulation, the need to close and reopen the fishery by emergency order should be removed.

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.

PROPOSAL 104: 5 AAC 21.331 (h). Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Alliance

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

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Cook Inlet Area, fishermen may use up to 50 fathoms of monofilament mesh web in a drift gillnet or up to 35 fathoms of monofilament mesh web in a set gillnet. Before a person uses monofilament, they must register with the department. If the use of monofilament mesh web is causing an adverse effect, the department may disallow its use. This regulation had a sunset clause as of December 31, 2007 and no longer applies.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Legal gear would return to multifilament gear only. It is unclear what the differences in harvest between multi-filament and monofilament have been since the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting.

BACKGROUND: Monofilament gillnets are used to harvest salmon in Puget Sound, the Columbia River, and California. Neither Alaska nor British Columbia allows them to be used to harvest salmon. Monofilament web is used in the Alaska herring gillnet fisheries. There were several discussion topics when the first proposal was discussed at the 2005 Board of Fisheries 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 shows that 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. Opinion of gillnet suppliers in 2005 was that the difference in efficiency between monofilament and the current legal multifilament would be relatively insignificant.

Two other biological issues were in regards to dropouts and biodegradability. These are salmon that escape, either alive or dead, from gillnets after having been entangled. It was the personal view of the gear suppliers that monofilament gear can be expected to have a higher drop out rate, especially in rough weather, than multifilament gear. No studies could be found comparing the rate of drop out of monofilament gillnet web compared to the current Alaska legal multifilament web. Concerning biodegradability, multifilament nets used in Alaska are manufactured with the same material and the rate of decay between the current legal nets and monofilament nets would not differ significantly.

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

PROPOSAL 105: 5 AAC 21.331(c). Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Bob Wolfe

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the legal length of drift gillnets from 150 fathoms to 200 fathoms.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A drift gillnet may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest in drift gillnets by an unknown amount. There would likely be an increase in sockeye harvests to some degree, but there would also be an increase in other species as well.

BACKGROUND: Legal gear for drifting has been 150 fathoms since this gear type was introduced into Cook Inlet.

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

COST STATEMENT: The department believes that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 106: 5 AAC 21.331(c). Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Gabrys

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the maximum drift gillnet depth allowance from 45 mesh to 60 mesh in depth.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A drift gillnet may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest in drift gillnets by an unknown amount. There would likely be an increase in sockeye harvests to some degree, but there would also be an increase in other species as well.

BACKGROUND: Legal gear has always been 150 fathoms and 45 meshes in depth.

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

COST STATEMENT: The department believes that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 107: 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Brent M. Western

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders to jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from the same vessel. Permit holders fishing in this manner would be required to register with the department. It would also require the vessel operating under this manner to be identified as such.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Two permit holders can fish from one boat using the allowable amount of gear. In this instance, a permit holder can act as a helper for the permit holder of the vessel. Pertaining to gear, a drift gillnet may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. This proposal seeks to institute a regulation patterned after the regulation (5 AAC 06.333) which is currently legal in Bristol Bay.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal may increase the efficiency by co-op permit holders by approximately 30 percent during some fishing periods. However many of the boats in the fleet would be unable to carry 200 fathoms or have the ability to fish that much gear. The overall effect of this proposal would depend on how many permit holders took advantage of the regulation. The increase in net length may increase the commercial harvest of salmon by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: Legal gear for drifting has been 150 fathoms since this gear type was introduced into Cook Inlet.

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.

PROPOSAL 108: 5 AAC 21.331(d). Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Alliance

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the aggregate set gillnet length from 105 fathoms to 140 fathoms in length.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A person may not operate more than four set gillnets with more than 105 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate, 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 THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest in drift gillnets by an unknown amount. There would likely be an increase in sockeye harvests to some degree, but there would also be an increase in other species as well.

BACKGROUND Legal gear for set gillnetting has been 105 fathoms in the aggregate since before statehood.

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

COST STATEMENT: The department believes that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 109: 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. (5 AAC 39.250. Gillnet specifications and operations should be the cited regulation)

PROPOSED BY: Melvin Forsyth Jr.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would change the gillnet web specifications in Upper Cook Inlet set gillnets to contain three strands or less instead of at least six strands.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Gillnet web in Cook Inlet must contain at least 30 filaments and all filaments must be of equal diameter, or the web must contain at least six filaments, each of which must be at least 0.20 millimeter in diameter. In addition, the BOF has allowed for up to 35 fathoms of monofilament gear to be used since 2005 on an experimental basis by emergency order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposed regulation is unclear as to what strand size should be used. Given that, it is also unclear what the effects would be in the commercial fishery. It appears that this proposal seeks to institute weaker nets that king salmon could break through, however this three strand net proposal would not be effective in doing so. If substantially weaker net breakage occurs, this could reduce the ability of set gillnets to catch sockeye salmon and increase dropouts rates.

BACKGROUND: Upper Cook Inlet king salmon stocks are relatively stable. The Kenai and Kasilof rivers contain both early and late-run king salmon that support major sport fisheries. Escapements for the Kenai River stocks have consistently been met or have exceeded spawning escapement goals. The Kasilof early-run king salmon have met or exceeded spawning escapement needs recently.

Since 1999, the Kenai River sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

Tides in Upper Cook Inlet are some of the strongest in the world. If gillnet webbing is reduced in size or number of filaments, substantial net breakage would occur, being costly to fishermen.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** this proposal. Three strand gear is not allowed statewide, and only in Upper Cook Inlet, monofilament gear may be used on an experimental basis. Dropout rates for all species may also increase.

COST STATEMENT: The department believes that approval of this proposal will result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. If this proposal passes, all gillnet gear would have to be replaced.

PROPOSAL 111: 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Melvin Forsyth Jr.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would not allow set gillnet fishermen to fish within 600 feet offshore from mean high tide.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Upper Subdistrict set gillnets are allowed from shore out to 1.5 miles from shore south of the Kenai River and out to one mile north of the Kenai River.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would eliminate the most productive sites in the fishery and decrease the harvest of salmon by set gillnet fishermen, which would likely increase the need for additional commercial fishing time.

BACKGROUND: Upper Cook Inlet king salmon stocks are relatively stable. The Kenai and Kasilof rivers contain both early and late-run king salmon that support sport fisheries. Escapements for the Kenai River stocks have consistently been met or have exceeded spawning escapement goals. The Kasilof early-run king salmon have met or exceeded spawning escapement needs recently.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal as it would hinder the ability to manage for sockeye salmon escapement goals.

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

Registration

PROPOSAL 112: 5 AAC 21.345. Registration.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow set gillnet fishermen to move between areas in Upper Cook Inlet after a 48-hour waiting period.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Set gillnet fishermen must register for one of three areas – Upper Subdistrict, the Northern District, or the Greater Cook Inlet Area. Once registered for an area, they cannot fish in any of the other areas during that season.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Set gillnet fishermen could fish in multiple areas during a season. This would potentially allow a

fisherman to move to another area where fishing was better, or to extend their season by fishing the early or late time periods in another area. Anticipated harvest rates and participation used to manage fisheries would be more difficult to predict. This proposal may increase the commercial harvest of salmon by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: Area registration for set gillnets went into effect in 1993 in order to prevent fishermen from moving into "hot" fishing areas at the peak of the season and then returning to their original area for the remainder of the season. At the time it was implemented, it was aimed primarily at reducing the influx of set gillnets into the Upper Subdistrict or Upper Subdistrict fishermen into the Northern District king and Big River sockeye fisheries.

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

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

PROPOSAL 113: 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels.

PROPOSED BY: Gary W. Jackinsky

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would eliminate area registration for vessels in Upper Cook Inlet and Kodiak.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under regulation 5 AAC 39.120 a vessel can only be used in one registration area of the state. In addition under 5 AAC 39.115 a person who holds more than one permit must designate "the single area in which he desires to salmon net fish in that year."

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would allow fishermen in Kodiak and Cook Inlet to use a single vessel.

BACKGROUND: Area registration for vessels went into effect before 1982 in order to prevent fishermen and vessels from moving between fishing areas in order to spread out the "wealth".

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

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

Policy for Sustainable Salmon Fisheries

PROPOSAL 119: 5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries; 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Knowles

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would identify Susitna River and Fish Creek sockeye salmon as stocks with a yield concern under the Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon and create a conservation corridor for the drift fleet.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The escapement goal for Fish Creek is 20,000 to 70,000 sockeye salmon. The escapement goal for Yentna River is 90,000 to 160,000 sockeye salmon. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

The purpose of the Northern District management plan is 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 fisherman 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would result in the department creating an action plan and presenting it to the board for consideration. Effects would depend what restrictions or other actions the BOF implemented.

BACKGROUND: There are no stocks designated as a yield concern in Cook Inlet nor is the department recommending any. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years. The Yentna River sockeye salmon goal has been exceeded once, within once, and below four times in the last 6 years. Since the last Board of Fisheries meeting, the department has used a suite of restrictions and closures of the drift fleet and Northern Cook Inlet set netters in endeavoring to achieve escapement goals in Northern Cook Inlet.

The department is just completing the second year of a three year tagging study in the Susitna River drainage to estimate total sockeye salmon spawner abundance. In addition, we are operating a series of weirs and conducting lake studies to ascertain if and where production is changing. The department also has conducted a three year genetics study to

delineate the harvest in the commercial fishery of these stocks. Results from all of these programs are not yet available, but will be by the BOF meeting in February. In Fish Creek, 70-80 percent of the return each year is of hatchery origin. Even the survival of these hatchery fish is far lower than normal.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Neither Fish Creek nor the Yentna River sockeye salmon stocks meets the criteria in 5 AAC 39.222 to consider them stocks of concern.

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

PROPOSAL 120: 5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would designate Cook Inlet chum salmon as a Stock of Concern.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The purpose of the Northern District management plan is 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 fisherman 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would result in the department creating an action plan and presenting it to the board for consideration. Effects would depend what restrictions or other actions the BOF implemented.

BACKGROUND: This proposal has been before the BOF at each of the last four meetings and been rejected. In 2001 and 2002 the department conducted a tagging study in the lower inlet to estimate the number of pink, chum and coho salmon returning to UCI. Results of that study indicated the exploitation rate in the commercial fishery of chum salmon was approximately 6 percent. Acceptable exploitation rates are in the 60-70 percent range. With this low exploitation rate, commercial harvest rates are not an issue. In addition the only stream with an established escapement goal is Clearwater Creek. There is generally no fishery on this stock until the escapement goal is achieved and the escapement goal has been consistently met or exceeded.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. The Clearwater Creek chum salmon stock does not meet the criteria in 5 AAC 39.222 to consider it a stock of concern. Chum stocks in the remainder of Cook Inlet are relatively healthy.

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

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COMMITTEE B: Northern District Salmon Management Plans (CF)

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Big River Sockeye

PROPOSAL 152: 5 AAC 21.368. Big River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Thompson

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow drift gillnets to be used to harvest sockeye salmon taken in the Big River Sockeye Salmon Fishery. It would also open the season one month earlier, allowing two gillnets instead of one, and increase the allowable king salmon harvest from 1,000 to 1,500. It would also allow nets to move offshore to the off shore boundary of the Kustatan Subdistrict and establish an exploitation rate of 40 percent.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The purpose of this management plan is to authorize a harvest of Big River sockeye salmon by set gillnets in a portion of the Kustatan and Kalgin Island Subdistricts. The open fishing season is from June 1 through June 24 and fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Salmon may be taken by set gillnets only that do not exceed 35 fathoms in length nor five and one-half inches in mesh size and may not operate more than one set gillnet at a time. The fishery shall close when the harvest of king salmon reaches 1,000 fish.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would likely increase the harvest of sockeye and king salmon bound for Big River, depending on how much effort increased. Commercial fishing opportunity would likely be reduced if current harvest rates increased with the additional participation.

BACKGROUND: The Big River king fishery began in 1989. Since area registration began in 1992, effort has been fairly small with only 6 -15 permit holders participating. Harvests have averaged 450 king salmon and 5,300 sockeye salmon each year.

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.

PROPOSAL 100: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.; and 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.

PROPOSED BY: Henry Kroll

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow commercial fishing in a portion of the Western Subdistrict to begin 4 weeks earlier on May 15 with a single net and a 1,000 king salmon harvest cap.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Western Subdistrict commercial fishing is allowed from June 16 until closed by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Fishing periods may be modified by emergency order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Additional harvest of Crescent River king and sockeye salmon stocks earlier in the season would occur. Other stocks of early returning fish would also be harvested.

BACKGROUND: There are currently two early season commercial fisheries. The Big River area, including the west side Kalgin Island opens for Monday, Wednesday and Friday periods beginning June 1. The Northern District king fishery opens on May 25 for a single Monday fishing period each week for three weeks. Both of these fisheries have a single net provision.

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.

PROPOSAL 101: 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.; and 5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.

PROPOSED BY: Jennifer J. Porter

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow commercial fishing in a portion of the Western Subdistrict to begin 4 weeks earlier on May 15 with a single net and a 2,000 king cap.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Western Subdistrict commercial fishing is allowed from June 16 until closed by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Fishing periods may be modified by emergency order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Additional harvest of Crescent River king and sockeye salmon stocks earlier in the season would occur. Other stocks of early returning fish would also be harvested.

BACKGROUND: There are currently two early season commercial fisheries. The Big River area, including the west side Kalgin Island opens for Monday, Wednesday and Friday periods beginning June 1. The Northern District king fishery opens on May 25 for a single Monday fishing period each week for three weeks. Both of these fisheries have a single net provision.

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.

Northern District King Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSAL 146: 5 AAC 21.366 (1). Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would remove the three period limit and allow king salmon fishing to occur each Monday from May 25 to June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Northern District king salmon commercial fishing season begins on the first Monday on or after May 25 and closes June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays only for three periods except in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing for the second regular Monday period only. During this fishery 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 only a single set gillnet is allowed. If any one of Theodore, Lewis, Ivan, Deshka, or Chuitna Rivers is closed to sport fishing, area restrictions to the commercial king salmon fishery in the Northern District are required.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The harvest of northern bound king salmon would increase. The number of permit holders participating in this fishery may also increase. The allowable harvest would remain at 12,500 king salmon, and the fishery would be closed when that cap is reached.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District King Salmon Management Plan was first adopted in 1986. In 2002, a limit of 3 periods was put in place and the fishery opened on Mondays after May 25 instead of June 1. Restrictions to fishing around the Theodore and Chitna Rivers were implemented in 1997 in response to low escapements in those streams. This area is now open for a single period. The king salmon harvest has not met the 12,500 harvest cap since 1986. This is due in large part to the declining participation in this fishery, not due to a decline in the northern bound king salmon runs.

Prior to 2007, king salmon escapements into the Deshka River have been relatively strong, exceeding the upper range of the biological escapement goal (13,000 – 28,000) for several years. Since 2001, the Deshka River king salmon escapement goal has been met twice and exceeded 5 times, with 2004 being the record (57,934). Because of the projected larger runs, the department has also issued emergency orders, liberalizing sport fishing in recent years prior to the opening date of the season. The 2007 Deshka River king salmon escapement was approximately 18,000 fish.

The outlook for the 2008 Deshka River king salmon run is far below average, with a projected total run of 20,300 fish. This is below the 1979-2007 average run of 38,700 fish. Management actions may be necessary to reduce sport harvest in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

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.

PROPOSAL 147: 5 AAC 21.366 (2). Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow two periods per week instead of one currently in regulation and would also remove the three period limit and allow king salmon fishing to occur each Monday and Thursday from May 25 to June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Northern District king salmon commercial fishing season begins on the first Monday on or after May 25 and closes June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays only for three periods except in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing for the second regular Monday period only. During this fishery 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 only a single set gillnet is allowed. If any one of Theodore,

Lewis, Ivan, Deshka, or Chuitna Rivers is closed to sport fishing, area restrictions to the commercial king salmon fishery in the Northern District are required.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The harvest of northern bound king salmon would increase. The number of permit holders participating in this fishery may also increase. The allowable harvest would remain at 12,500 king salmon, and the fishery would be closed when that cap is reached.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District King Salmon Management Plan was first adopted in 1986. In 2002, a limit of 3 periods was put in place and the fishery opened on Mondays after May 25 instead of June 1. Restrictions to fishing around the Theodore and Chuitna Rivers were implemented in 1997 in response to low escapements in those streams. This area is now open for a single period. The king salmon harvest has not met the 12,500 harvest cap since 1986. This is due in large part to the declining participation in this fishery, not due to a decline in the northern bound king salmon runs.

Prior to 2007, king salmon escapements into the Deshka River have been relatively strong, exceeding the upper range of the biological escapement goal (13,000 – 28,000) for several years. Since 2001, the Deshka River king salmon escapement goal has been met twice and exceeded 5 times, with 2004 being the record (57,934). Because of the projected larger runs, the department has also issued emergency orders, liberalizing sport fishing in recent years prior to the opening date of the season. The 2007 Deshka River king salmon escapement was approximately 18,000 fish.

The outlook for the 2008 Deshka River king salmon run is far below average, with a projected total run of 20,300 fish. This is below the 1979-2007 average run of 38,700 fish. Management actions may be necessary to reduce sport harvest in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

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.

PROPOSAL 150: 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Jewell

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow two periods per week instead of one currently in regulation and would also remove the three period limit and allow king salmon fishing to occur each Monday and Friday from May 25 to June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Northern District king salmon commercial fishing season begins on the first Monday on or after May 25 and closes June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays only for three periods except in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing for the second regular Monday period only. During this fishery 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 only a single set gillnet is allowed. If any one of Theodore, Lewis, Ivan, Deshka, or Chuitna Rivers is closed to sport fishing, area restrictions to the commercial king salmon fishery in the Northern District are required.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The harvest of northern bound king salmon would increase. The number of permit holders participating in this fishery may also increase. The allowable harvest would remain at 12,500 king salmon, and the fishery would be closed when that cap is reached.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District King Salmon Management Plan was first adopted in 1986. In 2002, a limit of 3 periods was put in place and the fishery opened on Mondays after May 25 instead of June 1. Restrictions to fishing around the Theodore and Chuitna Rivers were implemented in 1997 in response to low escapements in those streams. This area is now open for a single period. The king salmon harvest has not met the 12,500 harvest cap since 1986. This is due in large part to the declining participation in this fishery, not due to a decline in the northern bound king salmon runs.

Prior to 2007, king salmon escapements into the Deshka River have been relatively strong, exceeding the upper range of the biological escapement goal (13,000 – 28,000) for several years. Since 2001, the Deshka River king salmon escapement goal has been met twice and exceeded 5 times, with 2004 being the record (57,934). Because of the projected larger runs, the department has also issued emergency orders, liberalizing sport fishing in recent years prior to the opening date of the season. The 2007 Deshka River king salmon escapement was approximately 18,000 fish.

The outlook for the 2008 Deshka River king salmon run is far below average, with a projected total run of 20,300 fish. This is below the 1979-2007 average run of 38,700 fish. Management actions may be necessary to reduce sport harvest in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

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.

PROPOSAL 148: 5 AAC 21.366 (4). Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the allowable mesh size from six inches to eight inches for the Northern District king salmon fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Northern District king salmon commercial fishing season begins on the first Monday on or after May 25 and closes June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays only for three periods except in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing for the second regular Monday period only. During this fishery 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 only a single set gillnet is allowed. If any one of Theodore, Lewis, Ivan, Dëshka, or Chuitna Rivers is closed to sport fishing, area restrictions to the commercial king salmon fishery in the Northern District are required.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The harvest of northern bound king salmon would increase. The number of permit holders participating in this fishery may also increase. The allowable harvest would remain at 12,500 king salmon, and the fishery would be closed when that cap is reached.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District King Salmon Management Plan was first adopted in 1986. In 2002, a limit of 3 periods was put in place and the fishery opened on Mondays after May 25 instead of June 1. Restrictions to fishing around the Theodore and Chuitna Rivers were implemented in 1997 in response to low escapements in those streams. This area is now open for a single period. The king salmon harvest has not met the 12,500 harvest cap since 1986. This is due in large part to the declining participation in this fishery, not due to a decline in the northern bound king salmon runs.

Prior to 2007, king salmon escapements into the Dëshka River have been relatively strong, exceeding the upper range of the biological escapement goal (13,000 – 28,000) for several years. Since 2001, the Dëshka River king salmon escapement goal has been met twice and exceeded 5 times, with 2004 being the record (57,934). Because of the projected larger runs, the department has also issued emergency orders, liberalizing sport fishing in recent years prior to the opening date of the season. The 2007 Dëshka River king salmon escapement was approximately 18,000 fish.

The outlook for the 2008 Dëshka River king salmon run is far below average, with a projected total run of 20,300 fish. This is below the 1979-2007 average run of 38,700 fish. Management actions may be necessary to reduce sport harvest in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

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.

PROPOSAL 149: 5 AAC 21.366 (8). Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete the current restrictions to fishing around the Theodore and Chuitna Rivers for only one period, and allow commercial fishing in this area when the remainder of the Northern District is open.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Northern District king salmon commercial fishing season begins on the first Monday on or after May 25 and closes June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays only for three periods except in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing for the second regular Monday period only. During this fishery 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 only a single set gillnet is allowed. If any one of Theodore, Lewis, Ivan, Deshka, or Chuitna Rivers is closed to sport fishing, area restrictions to the commercial king salmon fishery in the Northern District are required.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The harvest of northern bound king salmon would increase. The number of permit holders participating in this fishery may also increase. The allowable harvest would remain at 12,500 king salmon, and the fishery would be closed when that cap is reached.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District King Salmon Management Plan was first adopted in 1986. In 2002, a limit of 3 periods was put in place and the fishery opened on Mondays after May 25 instead of June 1. Restrictions to fishing around the Theodore and Chuitna Rivers were implemented in 1997 in response to low escapements in those streams. This area is now open for a single period. The king salmon harvest has not met the 12,500 harvest cap since 1986. This is due in large part to the declining participation in this fishery, not due to a decline in the northern bound king salmon runs.

Prior to 2007, king salmon escapements into the Deshka River have been relatively strong, exceeding the upper range of the biological escapement goal (13,000 – 28,000) for several years. Since 2001, the Deshka River king salmon escapement goal has been met twice and exceeded 5 times, with 2004 being the record (57,934). Because of the projected larger runs, the department has also issued emergency orders, liberalizing sport fishing in recent years prior to the opening date of the season. The 2007 Deshka River king salmon escapement was approximately 18,000 fish.

The outlook for the 2008 Deshka River king salmon run is far below average, with a projected total run of 20,300 fish. This is below the 1979-2007 average run of 38,700 fish. Management actions may be necessary to reduce sport harvest in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

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.

PROPOSAL 151: 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Thompson

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow drift gillnets to be used to harvest Northern District king salmon during regular scheduled periods on the west side of the Northern District. The legal gear would be 2/3 of the normal amount of gear, 100 fathoms instead of 150 fathoms, and the mesh size would not change.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations do not allow drift gillnets to participate in the Northern District this fishery. The Northern District king salmon commercial fishing season begins on the first Monday on or after May 25 and closes after three periods or 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 are the only legal gear and may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh size. 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 the second regular Monday period only. If any one of Theodore, Lewis, Ivan, Deshka, or Chuitna Rivers is closed to sport fishing, area restrictions to the commercial king salmon fishery in the Northern District are required.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The harvest of northern bound king salmon would increase. The number of permit holders participating in this fishery may also increase. The allowable harvest would remain at 12,500 king salmon, and the fishery would be closed when that cap is reached.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District King Salmon Management Plan was first adopted in 1986. In 2002, a limit of 3 periods was put in place and the fishery opened on Mondays after May 25 instead of June 1. Restrictions to fishing around the Theodore and Chuitna Rivers were implemented in 1997 in response to low escapements in those streams. This area is now open for a single period. The king salmon harvest has not met the 12,500 harvest cap since 1986. This is due in large part to the declining participation in this fishery, not due to a decline in the northern bound king salmon runs.

Prior to 2007, king salmon escapements into the Deshka River have been relatively strong, exceeding the upper range of the biological escapement goal (13,000 – 28,000) for several years. Since 2001, the Deshka River king salmon escapement goal has been met twice and exceeded 5 times, with 2004 being the record (57,934). Because of the projected larger runs, the department has also issued emergency orders, liberalizing sport fishing in recent years prior to the opening date of the season. The 2007 Deshka River king salmon escapement was approximately 18,000 fish.

The outlook for the 2008 Deshka River king salmon run is far below average, with a projected total run of 20,300 fish. This is below the 1979-2007 average run of 38,700 fish. Management actions may be necessary to reduce sport harvest in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

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.

Northern District Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSAL 121: 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would modify the Yentna River sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal from 90,000 to 160,000 to 105,000 to 195,000.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The escapement goal for Yentna River is 90,000 to 160,000 sockeye salmon. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would lead to further restrictions on the sport fishery, Northern District set gillnets, subsistence fishermen, and drift gillnets in order to meet the new higher OEG.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1986, the run strength for this area was measured using sonar in the mainstem Susitna River. Because of flooding, this site became unusable. The sonar was then moved to the Yentna River in 1986. The goal range was established at 100,000-150,000 based on a relationship that was determined when the Susitna and

Yentna River projects were run concurrently. In 2002, the escapement goal in the Yentna River was changed to an SEG of 90,000-160,000. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River. Since 2002, the escapement goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The level of escapement in 2003 of approximately 181,000 was the highest observed since inception of this escapement program and the escapement in 2005 of just under 37,000 was the lowest ever observed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal. The department, not the board, has the responsibility of establishing biological and sustainable escapement goals. The board, may establish an optimal escapement goal, if deemed appropriate, which considers biological and allocative factors and may differ from the BEG or SEG.

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

PROPOSAL 122: 5 AAC 21.358(b). Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would modify the Yentna River sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal from 90,000 to 160,000 to 105,000 to 195,000.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The escapement goal for Yentna River is 90,000 to 160,000 sockeye salmon. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would lead to further restrictions on the sport fishery, Northern District set gillnets, subsistence fishermen, and drift gillnets in order to meet the new higher OEG.

BACKGROUND: The SEG for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the escapement goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The level of escapement in 2003 of approximately 181,000 was the highest observed since inception of this escapement program and the escapement in 2005 of just under 37,000 was the lowest ever observed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal. The department, not the board, has the responsibility of establishing biological and sustainable escapement goals. The board, may establish an optimal escapement goal,

if deemed appropriate, which considers biological and allocative factors and may differ from the BEG or SEG.

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

PROPOSAL 134: 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete a large amount of language from the Northern District Salmon Management Plan. Deleted language would include language pertaining to escapement goal priorities, the Yentna River optimal escapement goal, prohibition on personal use gillnetting, and habitat issues.

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 fisherman 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The primary effect of this proposal would be to delete the Yentna River OEG when the Kenai River sockeye salmon runs are over 4 million fish. The department would then manage to meet the SEG of 90,000-160,000. Much of the remainder of the deleted text would have little impact on the overall management of the fisheries as this text is not needed for management purposes.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1986, the run strength for this area was measured using sonar in the mainstem Susitna River. Beginning in 1978, the goal was 200,000 sockeye in the Susitna River at Sunshine Station. Because of flooding, this site became unusable. The sonar was then moved to the Yentna River in 1986. The goal range was established at 100,000-150,000 based on a relationship that was determined when the Susitna and Yentna River projects were run concurrently. In 2002, the escapement goal in the Yentna River was changed to an SEG of 90,000-160,000. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

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.

PROPOSAL 135: 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

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.

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 fisherman 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? It is likely that there would be no significant change as written.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1978, all salmon stocks in UCI were managed primarily for commercial uses as the recreational use of these stocks was small. In 1978, the BOF passed the first rendition of the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan as an uncodified policy. That policy was challenged in court and overturned. In 1981 however, it was passed into regulation. From 1981 to 1996 it remained relatively unchanged and directed the department to manage most stocks returning to UCI prior to July 1st "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 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 stocks. In 1996, the plan was changed to management priority by stocks; 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 Upper Cook Inlet 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. Coho salmon runs to Northern Cook Inlet increased beginning in 2000. The Board took action in 2005 to return the daily bag and possession limit to the original 3 per day/6 in possession along westside Susitna River tributaries, excluding Alexander Creek. Westside Susitna River tributaries are typically associated with relatively low harvest and use. However eastside Susitna and Talkeetna River tributaries, which are road accessible and receive high angler use, may not be able to sustain an increase in harvest during years with low or average returns. Overall exploitation rates for Kenai River coho salmon were high (84%) under the previous Kenai River Coho salmon management plan that allowed a 3 fish bag limit. Under the 2000 management plan, which included a 2 fish bag limit, exploitation ranged from 35% to 47% from 2000 to 2004. The liberalizations in 2005 are thought to have likely increased exploitation into the high 40% to low 50% range from 2005-2007.

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.

PROPOSAL 136: 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 OEG 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 fisherman 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? It is likely that there would be no significant change as written.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1978, all salmon stocks in UCI were basically managed primarily for commercial uses as the recreational use of these stocks was small. In 1978,

the BOF passed the first rendition of the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan as an uncodified policy. That policy was challenged in court and overturned. In 1981 however, it was passed into regulation. From 1981 to 1996 it remained relatively unchanged and directed the department to manage most stocks returning to UCI prior to July 1st "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 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 stocks. In 1996, the plan was changed to management priority by stocks; 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 Upper Cook Inlet 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. Coho salmon runs to Northern Cook Inlet increased beginning in 2000. The Board took action in 2005 to return the daily bag and possession limit to the original 3 per day/6 in possession along westside Susitna River tributaries, excluding Alexander Creek. Westside Susitna River tributaries are typically associated with relatively low harvest and use. However eastside Susitna and Talkeetna River tributaries, which are road accessible and receive high angler use, may not be able to sustain an increase in harvest during years with low or average returns. Overall exploitation rates for Kenai River coho salmon were high (84%) under the previous Kenai River Coho salmon management plan that allowed a 3 fish bag limit. Under the 2000 management plan, which included a 2 fish bag limit, exploitation ranged from 35% to 47% from 2000 to 2004. The liberalizations in 2005 are thought to have likely increased exploitation into the high 40% to low 50% range from 2005-2007.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **SUPPORTS** a simplified management plan.

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.

PROPOSAL 137: 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.

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 fisherman 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? It is likely that there would be no significant change as written.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1978, all salmon stocks in UCI were managed primarily for commercial uses as the recreational use of these stocks was small. In 1978, the BOF passed the first rendition of the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan as an uncodified policy. That policy was challenged in court and overturned. In 1981 however, it was passed into regulation. From 1981 to 1996 it remained relatively unchanged and directed the department to manage most stocks returning to UCI prior to July 1st "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 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 stocks. In 1996, the plan was changed to management priority by stocks; 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 Upper Cook Inlet 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. Coho salmon runs to Northern Cook Inlet increased beginning in 2000. The Board took action in 2005 to return the daily bag and possession limit to the original 3 per day/6 in possession along westside Susitna River tributaries, excluding Alexander Creek. Westside Susitna River tributaries are typically associated with relatively low harvest and use. However eastside Susitna and Talkeetna River tributaries, which are road accessible and receive high angler use, may not be able to sustain an increase in harvest during years with low or average returns. Overall exploitation rates for Kenai River coho salmon were high (84%) under the previous Kenai River Coho salmon management plan that allowed a 3 fish bag limit. Under the 2000 management plan, which included a 2 fish bag limit, exploitation ranged from 35% to 47% from 2000 to 2004. The liberalizations in 2005 are thought to have likely increased exploitation into the high 40% to low 50% range from 2005-2007.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **SUPPORTS** a simplified management plan.

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.

PROPOSAL 138: 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would rewrite the Northern District Salmon Management Plan as it was prior to the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting.

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 fisherman 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The primary changes would be to have more restrictive fishing for the drift gillnet fleet and reinsert coho restrictions on drift and set gillnet fishers. In addition, the OEG of 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in Kenai returns of over four million would be deleted.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District Salmon Management Plan directs the department to manage Northern District salmon stocks based on the abundance of Yentna River sockeye salmon and the escapement goal for the Yentna River, or other salmon abundance indices as it deems appropriate. The current escapement goal in the Yentna River is 90,000 to 160,000 sockeye. In addition in large returns of over 4 million sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there is an OEG in the Yentna River of 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye that was adopted in 2005. For the last 15 seasons, the Northern District set gillnet fishery has been closed for one or more periods except in 2000, and the drift gillnet fishery has been restricted each year for one or more periods to attempt to meet the Yentna River escapement goal. The number and severity of closures and restrictions in both fisheries is increasing each year. The department's inability to react quicker with additional restrictions in endeavoring to meet the Yentna River sockeye salmon goal is because of the time period lag from the fisheries to the sonar site. Actions taken in the drift fishery may not be observed or realized until 10 to 14 days later and actions taken in the Northern District may not be realized for 7 to 10 days. Once the effects of the first actions are observed it is generally too late to take further corrective actions.

Poor returns of coho salmon to Upper Cook Inlet 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. Coho salmon runs to Northern Cook Inlet increased beginning in 2000. The Board took action in 2005 to return the daily bag and possession limit to the original 3 per day/6 in possession along westside Susitna River tributaries, excluding Alexander Creek. Westside Susitna River tributaries are typically associated with relatively low harvest and use. However eastside Susitna and Talkeetna River tributaries, which are road accessible and receive high angler use, may not be able to sustain an increase in harvest during years with low or average returns. Overall exploitation rates for Kenai River coho salmon were high (84%) under the previous Kenai River Coho salmon management plan that allowed a 3 fish bag limit. Under the 2000 management plan, which included a 2 fish bag limit, exploitation ranged from 35% to 47% from 2000 to 2004. The liberalizations in 2005 are thought to have likely increased exploitation into the high 40% to low 50% range from 2005-2007.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to regulatory actions that would hinder the ability to manage for sockeye salmon escapement goals.

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.

PROPOSAL 139: 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kris and Marie Draper

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to close commercial fishing in Alexander Creek, establish an annual sport bag limit of one fish per year, and set a sport fishing season from June – June 30 and open only 4 hours per day.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There is no commercial fishing allowed in Alexander Creek.

King salmon in Alexander Creek from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located 400 feet upstream of its confluence with Trail Creek may be taken in the sport fishery from January 1-June 30; bag and possession limit is one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; after taking and retaining a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, a person may not sport fish for king salmon on that same day.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would reduce the sport harvest and effort for king salmon on Alexander Creek by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: The sport harvest of king salmon from Alexander Creek is no longer sustainable at current levels. It is likely that Alexander Creek lost much of its productive king salmon rearing areas as a result of northern pike infestation and predation on juvenile king salmon. Alexander Creek is a slow meandering weedy stream with many back water sloughs, oxbows channels and shallow interconnecting lakes and ponds providing ideal spawning and rearing habit for northern pike.

The escapement goal range established by the department for king salmon escapements into Alexander Creek is between 2,100 and 6,000 fish. In the four of the past six years (2002-2007), Alexander Creek has failed to achieve the escapement goal, and for two of those years escapements were only slightly above the lower end of the goal. During 2006 and 2007, the escapement of king salmon into Alexander Creek were the lowest on record with only 885 and 460 spawning fish respectively.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Since there is no commercial fishing in Alexander Creek, action to the sport fishery would be better served under Proposals 330-334 which also seek to reduce the sport harvest of king salmon in Alexander Creek.

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.

PROPOSAL 140: 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to clarify that achieving the lower end of the sockeye salmon escapement goal in the Yentna River shall take priority over any of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goals.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal seeks to eliminate confusion between which goals the board had intended to use as a priority. As written, this proposal does not clarify the regulation.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1986, the escapement goal for this area was measured in the mainstem Susitna River. Beginning in 1978, the goal was 100,000 sockeye in the Susitna River at Sunshine Station. Because of flooding, this site became unusable. The sonar was moved to the Yentna River in 1986. The goal range was established at 100,000-150,000 based on a relationship that was determined when the two projects were run

concurrently. In 2002, the escapement goal in the Yentna River was changed to an SEG of 90,000-160,000. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River. The Board also adopted a priority by stating achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. However, as written, this proposal does not provide the clarity necessary for inseason implementation.

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.

PROPOSAL 141: 5 AAC 21.358(c). Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would extend the time by an additional 6 days in which the department could reduce the gear of Northern District set gillnet fishermen instead of closing the fishery when restrictions are necessary but complete closures are not.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From July 20 through July 31, if the department's assessment of abundance indicates that restrictions are necessary to achieve the escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Northern District and immediately reopen the season during which the number of set gillnets that may be used is limited to the following options selected at the discretion of the commissioner of three set gillnets that are not more than 105 fathoms in aggregate length, two set gillnets that are not more than 70 fathoms in aggregate length, or one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would allow the department to restrict gear in the Northern District for an additional 6 days instead of closing the fishery if the Yentna River escapement is lagging but expected to meet the escapement goal. Effects of this proposal would be dependent on management actions taken during the season.

BACKGROUND: Sockeye salmon bound for the Yentna River move through Upper Cook Inlet during July. They are mixed with salmon of all species bound for Northern District as well as Central District streams. The department has used a number of management measures to reduce the harvest rate on fish bound for the Northern District, such as closures in the Central District drift gillnet fishery and the Northern District set gillnet fishery. The sockeye salmon escapement in the Yentna River has exceeded the

current range of 90,000 to 160,000 sockeye one year, been within the range one year, and been under three of the last five years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 142: 5 AAC 21.358(d). Northern District Salmon Management Plan.
(This proposal should also address 5 AAC 21.320, Weekly Fishing Periods)

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the amount of fishing time with an additional fishing period each week on Saturdays after August 10.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the set gillnet fishery, salmon may be taken in the Northern District from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. From July 20 through July 31, the department may limit the number of set gillnets that may be used. Additional fishing periods, other than the weekly fishing periods described in 5 AAC 21.320(a) (1), may not be provided when coho salmon are expected to be the most abundant species harvested during that period and after August 15, fishing periods are limited to those described in 5 AAC 21.320(a) (1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of sockeye and coho salmon in the Northern District by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: Sockeye salmon bound for the Yentna River move through Upper Cook Inlet during July. They are mixed with salmon of all species bound for Northern District as well as Central District streams. The department has used a number of management measures to reduce the harvest rate on fish bound for the Northern District, such as closures in the Central District drift gillnet fishery and the Northern District set gillnet fishery. The sockeye salmon escapement in the Yentna River has exceeded the current goal of 90,000 to 160,000 sockeye one year, within the goal one year, and below the goal three of the last five years.

Poor returns of coho salmon to Upper Cook Inlet 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. Coho salmon runs to Northern Cook Inlet increased beginning in 2000. The Board took action in 2005 to return the daily bag and possession limit to the original 3 per day/6 in possession along westside Susitna River

tributaries, excluding Alexander Creek. Westside Susitna River tributaries are typically associated with relatively low harvest and use. However eastside Susitna and Talkeetna River tributaries, which are road accessible and receive high angler use, may not be able to sustain an increase in harvest during years with low or average returns. Overall exploitation rates for Kenai River coho salmon were high (84%) under the previous Kenai River Coho salmon management plan that allowed a 3 fish bag limit. Under the 2000 management plan, which included a 2 fish bag limit, exploitation ranged from 35% to 47% from 2000 to 2004. The liberalizations in 2005 are thought to have likely increased exploitation into the high 40% to low 50% range from 2005-2007.

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.

PROPOSAL 143: 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Tom M. Rollman

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would separate management of the east side statistical areas from the west side statistical areas in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet.

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 as it deems appropriate. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If passed as written, the department would fish the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District during regular periods only and passively manage this area similarly to the way we manage the Western Subdistrict of the Central District. Effects on harvests would be dependent on management actions taken based on run strengths.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District is 50 miles long, averages 20 miles in width, and is divided into two Subdistricts, the General (west side) and the Eastern Subdistrict. Set gillnets are the only gear permitted in the Northern District. The largest stock component of fish moving through the Northern District is the Susitna River sockeye salmon stock. The escapement goal for the Susitna River measured at the Yentna River is the primary management objective for the entire Northern District. The Yentna River

count is multiplied by 1.95 to estimate the Susitna River escapement, and the Susitna River escapement is doubled to estimate the return of sockeye to the Northern District. The harvest of sockeye on the east side of the Northern district is small, generally under 15,000 fish. The stock composition of this harvest is likely dominated by Turnagain Arm, Swanson River and other non Susitna stocks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department urges caution to this approach in fishing the Northern District.

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.

PROPOSAL 144: 5 AAC 21.358(c). Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would separate management of the east side statistical areas from the west side statistical areas in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet.

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 as it deems appropriate. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If passed as written, the department would fish the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District during regular periods only, and passively manage this area similar to the way we manage the Western Subdistrict of the Central District. For the General Subdistrict we would manage for Susitna River escapements but if closures were implemented, it might be possible to fish north of the Little Susitna and Fire Island differently. Given that we have never managed this area in this way it may take some trial and error to develop a successful strategy.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District is 50 miles long, averages 20 miles in width, and is divided into two Subdistricts, the General (west side) and the Eastern Subdistrict. Set gillnets are the only gear permitted in the Northern District. The largest stock component of fish moving through the Northern District is the Susitna River sockeye salmon stock. The escapement goal for the Susitna River measured at the Yentna River is the primary management objective for the entire Northern District. The Yentna River

count is multiplied by 1.95 to estimate the Susitna River escapement, and the Susitna River escapement is doubled to estimate the return of sockeye to the Northern District. The harvest of sockeye on the east side of the Northern district is small, generally under 15,000 fish. The stock composition of this harvest is likely dominated by Turnagain Arm, Swanson River and other non Susitna stocks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department urges caution to this approach in fishing the Northern District.

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.

PROPOSAL 145: 5 AAC 21.358(b). Northern District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Betty Gilcrist

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would separate management of the east side statistical areas from the west side statistical areas in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet.

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 as it deems appropriate. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If passed as written, the department would fish the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District during regular periods only and passively manage this area similar to the way we manage the Western Subdistrict of the Central District. If catches were extremely poor or some other escapement objective was developed on the east side we would shift to active management based on that objective.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District is 50 miles long, averages 20 miles in width, and is divided into two Subdistricts, the General (west side) and the Eastern Subdistrict. Set gillnets are the only gear permitted in the Northern District. The largest stock component of fish moving through the Northern District is the Susitna River sockeye salmon stock. The escapement goal for the Susitna River measured at the Yentna River is the primary management objective for the entire Northern District. The Yentna River count is multiplied by 1.95 to estimate the Susitna River escapement, and the Susitna River escapement is doubled to estimate the return of sockeye to the Northern District.

The harvest of sockeye on the east side of the Northern district is small, generally under 15,000 fish. The stock composition of this harvest is likely dominated by Turnagain Arm, Swanson River and other non Susitna stocks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department urges caution to this approach in fishing the Northern District.

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.

PROPOSAL 123: 5 AAC 21.xxx. New section.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would eliminate the stocking program in Fish Creek until the escapement goal has been met consistently over two life cycles.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? No specific regulations are applicable.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Available sockeye salmon may be reduced for all user groups using this resource.

BACKGROUND: Since 2002, the Fish Creek sustainable escapement goal has been based on the percentile approach (Bue and Hasbrouck *Unpublished*; Hasbrouck and Edmundson 2007) applied to observed escapements from a time period prior to hatchery supplementation (1938-1978) so that the effects of supplementation on yields and subsequent escapement of this stock could be ignored. It was thought that a range of escapements from 20,000 to 70,000 fish would utilize available spawning areas, produce adequate numbers of juvenile salmon that would not tax the productive capacity of the lake, and sustain yields into the future.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game initiated the Big Lake Salmon Hatchery in 1976. In 1993, this project was transferred to the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. At that time, the brood stock being reared at the Big Lake Hatchery was moved to the Euklutna Salmon Hatchery, and in 1998 the program was transferred to the Trail Lakes Hatchery. The purpose of this project is the enhancement of sockeye salmon returning to Big Lake for common property fisheries.

Harvesting of salmon for brood stock and seeding in Cook Inlet is done by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. These actions are reviewed and approved by the Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team. A multitude of factors are taken in consideration prior to approval. Some of these factors are pathology reviews, genetic reviews, and stock availability. Below is a table of released sockeye salmon into Meadow Creek.

Meadow Creek Releases		
Year	Stage	No. Released
1998	fry	3,000,000
1999	fry	197,000
2000	fry	846,000
2001	IHNV Detected	No Releases
2002	fry	4,316,000
2003	fry	3,589,000
2004	fry	5,000,000
2005	fry	1,742,300
2006	fry	444,200
2006	pre-smolt	426,000
2007	fry	3,812,400
2007	pre-smolt	702,500
2007	smolt	315,700

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends **NO ACTION** on this proposal. The board does not have regulatory authority to direct stocking programs for non-profit organizations.

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

Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSAL 114: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would renumber 5 AAC 21.363 to 5 AAC 21.351 or 5 AAC 352.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Below is the list of plans under Chapter 21, Cook Inlet Area.

- 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan
- 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan (Even Years)
- 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.
- 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.
- 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
- 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.
- 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan
5 AAC 21.368. Big River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
5 AAC 21.370. Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal may lessen the confusion of these plans by placing 5 AAC 21.363 in a more chronological order.

BACKGROUND: The number and complexity of Upper Cook Inlet management plans has evolved over the years. Available regulatory numbers have been chosen on an adhoc basis and admittedly the chronological order is somewhat confusing.

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

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

PROPOSAL 124: 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 56.070. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Conservation Management Plan; 5 AAC 56.080. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fishermen's Coalition

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal may lessen the confusion of management plans in Upper Cook Inlet by reorganizing the Administrative Code sections into a format of an overall plan that provides information and regulation common to all fisheries.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Below is the list of plans under Chapter 21, Cook Inlet Area.

5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan
5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan (Even Years)
5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.
5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.
5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.
5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.
5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan

5 AAC 21.368. Big River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
5 AAC 21.370. Packers Creek Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal may lessen the confusion of these plans by placing 5 AAC 21.363 in a more chronological order.

BACKGROUND: The number and complexity of Upper Cook Inlet management plans has evolved over the years. Available regulatory numbers have been chosen on an adhoc basis and admittedly the chronological order is somewhat confusing.

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

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

PROPOSAL 126: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal may reduce the criteria level necessary for the commissioner to take action outside the current management plans.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? It is the intent of the board that, while in most circumstances the department will adhere to the management plans in this chapter, nothing in the management plans is intended to override the commissioner's emergency order authority under AS 16.05.060 should significant new information arise that, in the commissioner's judgment, warrants departure from the provisions in the management plans.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Effects of this proposal would depend on the commissioner's actions.

BACKGROUND: Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years.

The suite of plans that govern the management of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks have a number of complex and competing objectives. Limitations under these management

plans, such as closed windows and defined fishing time, have conflicted with the department's ability to manage for established escapement goals. It is unclear at times how to balance these restrictions and the established escapement goals which are often in conflict.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but **SUPPORTS** clarifying the BOF intent. The Department of Law may also wish to comment on this 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.

PROPOSAL 127: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.; and 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Wesley J. Humbyrd

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would direct the commissioner to manage for escapement goals using emergency order authority.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 21.363 (a) states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet 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. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries. Under this, the Board of Fisheries established provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Effects of this proposal would depend on the commissioner's actions.

BACKGROUND: Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years.

The suite of plans that govern the management of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks have a number of complex and competing objectives. Limitations under these management

plans, such as closed windows and defined fishing time, have conflicted with the department's ability to manage for established escapement goals. It is unclear at times how to balance these restrictions and the established escapement goals which are often in conflict.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but **SUPPORTS** clarifying the BOF intent. The Department of Law may also wish to comment on this 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.

PROPOSAL 128: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would clarify that escapement goals are a priority over current regulations which limit allowable fishing time, closed windows, and fishing areas. It would also direct the commissioner to use emergency order authority to manage for escapement goals.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 21.363 (a) states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet 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. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries. Under this, the Board of Fisheries established provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would direct that achieving the escapement goal is the primary objective of fisheries management.

BACKGROUND: Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years.

The suite of plans that govern the management of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks have a number of complex and competing objectives. Limitations under these management plans, such as closed windows and defined fishing time, have conflicted with the department's ability to manage for established escapement goals. It is unclear at times how to balance these restrictions and the established escapement goals which are often in conflict.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but **SUPPORTS** clarifying the BOF intent.

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.

PROPOSAL 129: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would clarify that escapement goals are a priority over current regulations which describe allowable fishing time, closed windows, and fishing areas.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 21.363 (a) states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet 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. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries. Under this, the Board of Fisheries established provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted this proposal would direct and clarify that achieving the escapement goal is the primary objective of fisheries management.

BACKGROUND: Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years.

The suite of plans that govern the management of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks have a number of complex and competing objectives. Limitations under these management plans, such as closed windows and defined fishing time, have conflicted with the department's ability to manage for established escapement goals. It is unclear at times how to balance these restrictions and the established escapement goals which are often in conflict.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but **SUPPORTS** clarifying the BOF intent.

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.

PROPOSAL 130: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would clarify that escapement goals are a priority over current regulations which describe allowable fishing time, closed windows, and fishing areas.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 21.363 (a) states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet 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. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries. Under this, the Board of Fisheries established provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted this proposal would direct and clarify that achieving the escapement goal is the primary objective of fisheries management.

BACKGROUND: Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years.

The suite of plans that govern the management of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks have a number of complex and competing objectives. Limitations under these management plans, such as closed windows and defined fishing time, have conflicted with the department's ability to manage for established escapement goals. It is unclear at times how to balance these restrictions and the established escapement goals which are often in conflict.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but **SUPPORTS** clarifying the BOF intent.

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.

PROPOSAL 131: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Gary L. Hollier

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would clarify that escapement goals are a priority over current regulations which describe allowable fishing time, closed windows, and fishing areas.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 21.363 (a) states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet 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. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries. Under this, the Board of Fisheries established provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted this proposal would direct and clarify that achieving the escapement goal is the primary objective of fisheries management

BACKGROUND: Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years.

The suite of plans that govern the management of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks have a number of complex and competing objectives. Limitations under these management plans, such as closed windows and defined fishing time, have conflicted with the department's ability to manage for established escapement goals. It is unclear at times how to balance these restrictions and the established escapement goals which are often in conflict.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but **SUPPORTS** clarifying the BOF intent.

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.

PROPOSAL 132: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would prioritize management objectives within the management plan. The proposal places the achieving the lower end of escapement goals and closed fishing periods as a higher priority than exceeding the upper end of the goal. It also creates an intent statement that fisheries shall be provided no less than 51% harvest share of species and stocks designated for management priority of that fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 21.363 (a) states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet 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. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries. Under this, the Board of Fisheries established provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal may cause escapement goals to be exceeded. Harvestable surpluses of some stocks would likely be forgone. By redefining priorities and harvest shares, there would likely be a shift in allocation and at times complete failures trying to achieve competing allocative objectives.

BACKGROUND: Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye

salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years.

The suite of plans that govern the management of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks have a number of complex and competing objectives. Limitations under these management plans, such as closed windows and defined fishing time, have conflicted with the department's ability to manage for established escapement goals. It is unclear at times how to balance these restrictions and the established escapement goals which are often in conflict.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to managing based upon harvest shares. The department is unable to manage for a harvest share inseason between the different user groups.

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.

PROPOSAL 115: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Return Cook Inlet commercial regulations to what they were in 1993-1995.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The preamble to 5 AAC 21.363 has not changed much since 1978. It states that the department should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet 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. Upper Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries. Under this, the Board of Fisheries established provisions for the management and conservation of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would revert back to a plan which had more flexibility than the current management plan. Substantial changes would be no closed windows, no hour limitations, and a season which was longer. Harvests would be dependent upon management actions taken inseason.

BACKGROUND: The Upper Cook Inlet Plan first was passed as a policy by the BOF in 1978. After being thrown out by court action it was readopted in 1981. The plan changed little between 1981 and 1995. That plan set priorities for management by time period. Prior to July 1 the inlet 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 from 1995 is printed below:

5 AAC 21.363. UPPER COOK INLET SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a) *The Department of Fish and Game should receive long-term direction in management of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks rather than being called upon to respond annually to changing management policies. Divisions within the department must receive long-term direction in order to accomplish their missions and plan management, research, administrative, and other programs. Therefore, the board establishes the following priorities for the use of upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks:*

(1) *consistent with the statutory priority for subsistence, the harvest of upper Cook Inlet salmon for customary and traditional subsistence uses will be allowed for specific species in appropriate areas, seasons, and periods to satisfy subsistence needs; other beneficial uses, to the extent they are consistent with the public interest and overall benefit of the people of Alaska, will be allowed in order to maximize the benefits of these resources;*

(2) *Northern District king, early Kenai king, and early Russian River sockeye salmon stocks, which normally move into upper Cook Inlet to spawning areas before July 1, will be managed primarily for recreational uses in order to promote the public interest and provide maximum benefits to the people of Alaska and to the extent that management is consistent with the statutory subsistence priority; and*

(3) *insofar as the following management steps are consistent with the statutory subsistence priority:*

(A) *from July 1 through August 15, salmon stocks which normally move in upper Cook Inlet will be managed primarily for commercial uses;*

(B) *after August 15, salmon stocks moving to spawning areas in Kenai Peninsula drainages will be managed primarily for recreational uses; and*

(C) *salmon stocks other than those spawning in Kenai Peninsula drainages will be managed primarily for commercial uses.*

(b) *Consistent with (a) of this section, the department shall*

(1) *manage the upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fisheries to minimize the incidental take of Susitna coho, late Kenai king and early Kenai coho salmon stocks;*

(2) *assist the board in setting optimal salmon harvest rates for all uses by monitoring upper Cook Inlet salmon fisheries to determine the interception of Susitna coho, late Kenai king, and early Kenai coho salmon stocks;*

(3) *maintain the sustained yield of more abundant pink, chum, and sockeye salmon stocks;*

(4) *insure that subsistence use priorities are met; and*

(5) *manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries, after August 15, to limit the harvest of coho salmon by limiting fishing time to regularly scheduled periods.*

(c) In this section "upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks" means those salmon that move through the Northern and Central Districts as defined in 5 AAC 21.200(a) and (b) and spawn in waters draining into those districts.

The major changes occurring since 1995 are in section (2) where the direction on allocations by time period were removed and placed into step down plans. The problem that arises is in how to weigh the allocations of sockeye, pink and chum salmon managed primarily for commercial purposes while king and coho are managed primarily for recreational purposes during the same time period.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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

PROPOSAL 116: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan; 21.360. River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would redefine the priority use of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks to allow all non-commercial users to get their "full capacity" of fish prior to any commercial fishery taking place.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under current regulations the department manages most of the sockeye, pink and chum salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses and king and coho salmon stocks primarily for recreational purposes.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal may decrease the commercial salmon harvest or even close the commercial fishery until all other users are satisfied at the "full capacity" level. This proposal may also increase the non-commercial harvest of salmon and may result in escapement goals being consistently exceeded causing a reduction in potential future yields.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1981 most salmon stocks were managed for commercial purposes, from 1981 until 1995 most stocks were managed for commercial purposes from July 1 to August 15 with certain exceptions and at other times for recreational purposes with certain exceptions. In 1996 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. Moreover the board has made several changes to the various management plans to address allocation of salmon stocks to various users.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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

PROPOSAL 117: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would create a new subsection under 5 AAC 21.363 directing the department to manage salmon runs based solely on the wild stock component. Stocks that are enhanced with hatchery supplementation include Kenai, Kasilof, and Fish Creek sockeye salmon as well as several king and coho salmon stocks.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no regulations that govern the treatment of hatchery fish with regards to escapement goals. The Policy for Sustainable Salmon Fisheries and Escapement Goal Policy also does not address this issue. The department treats these hatchery fish and escapement goals in a variety of ways, depending on circumstances and data sets available.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would have little if any effect.

BACKGROUND: Current goals for the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers include hatchery stocks. In the Kenai River, The Hidden Lake enhancement is an insignificant contribution to the inriver sonar count. The Hidden Lake hatchery contribution is subtracted from the escapement goal for the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon stocks. The harvest of Hidden Lake hatchery fish is unknown and therefore it is not subtracted. However, the contribution of Hidden Lake sockeye salmon is again insignificant in number.

In the Kasilof River, hatchery fish are included in the escapement goal. However, in January 2004, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the enhancement project occurring on Tustumena Lake was a commercial enterprise and thus, violated the Wilderness Act. As a result, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were no longer able to provide Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association with a permit to continue operations on Tustumena Lake. The last release occurred in 2004 and final hatchery fish will be returning in 2009. No broodstock has been taken since 2003.

Weir counts in Fish Creek date back to 1938. Counts during this time range from a high of 307,000 in 1940 to 3,000 in 1973. Because of a decline in escapements, a hatchery program was initiated in Fish Creek by the department's FRED division in 1975. The initial escapement goal adopted in 1982 was 50,000 fish. This goal was reviewed in 1992

and remained 50,000 fish counted through the weir. From 1975 to 1993 the state ran this hatchery program before transferring it to Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association in 1993.

Since 2002 the Fish Creek sustainable escapement goal has been based on the percentile approach (Bue and Hasbrouck *Unpublished*; Hasbrouck and Edmundson 2007) and applied to observed escapements from a time period prior to hatchery supplementation (1938-1978) so that the effects of supplementation on yields and subsequent escapement of this stock could be ignored. It was thought that a range of escapements from 20,000 to 70,000 fish would utilize available spawning areas, produce adequate numbers of juvenile salmon that would not tax the productive capacity of the lake, and sustain yields into the future.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. The Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocking program is already terminated, the effects of the Fish Creek program are still being evaluated and the program may end in the very near future.

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

PROPOSAL 125: 5 AAC 21.320(b)(1). Weekly fishing periods; 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan. 5 AAC 21.360(b)(1),(c). Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 77.525. Personal use salmon fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Brent M. Western

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to change a suite of regulations for Upper Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. These proposed changes include, but are not limited to, using 3 million sockeye salmon as a trigger point instead of the now 3 tiered regulations, increase the amount of useable gillnet gear, add a commercial fishing period, directs the department to manage for escapement goals, and changes escapement and inriver goals.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Regulations cited above are lengthy and cannot be effectively stated below. They can be found under Chapter 21, Cook Inlet Area, and Chapter 77, Personal Use Salmon Fishery.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would restructure current management plans. Depending on the actions taken, effects could range from a reallocation of sockeye salmon to all user groups, increase efficiency of commercial fishermen, prioritize use of sockeye salmon, and lower escapement goals.

BACKGROUND: The complexity of Upper Cook Inlet management plans has evolved over the years as the Board of Fisheries has struggled to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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

PROPOSAL 133: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.
(This proposal citation should be 21.310, Fishing Seasons)

PROPOSED BY: Danny Thompson

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would specify that from June 20 to August 20 salmon stocks in Cook Inlet will be managed primarily for "high quality commercial uses".

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commercial drift fishery begins on the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, and remains open until it is closed by emergency order. After August 10 the fishery is moved to the west side of the inlet.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The effects of this proposal are dependant on instructions from the BOF.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1978, all salmon stocks in UCI were managed primarily for commercial uses as the recreational use of these stocks was small. In 1978, the BOF passed the first rendition of the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan as an uncodified policy. That policy was challenged in court and overturned. In 1981 however, it was passed into regulation. From 1981 to 1996 it remained relatively unchanged and directed the department to manage most stocks returning to UCI prior to July 1st "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 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 stocks. In 1996, the plan was changed to management priority by stocks; 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.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, if passed, "high quality" would need to be defined.

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.

Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan

PROPOSAL 160: 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete mandatory restrictions during July that pertain to drift gillnet time and area. Commercial fishing would occur during regular periods and additional time or restrictions would occur by emergency order if necessary and be implemented by the department to meet escapement goals.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery is open for weekly fishing periods from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Commercial drift gillnet fishing periods may be modified by emergency order. Commercial fishing is determined by run strength, area and dates. The fishing season opens the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later. From July 9 through July 15, fishing during the two regular fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1 in order to conserve northern bound sockeye salmon. Commercial drift fishing is dependent on dates and run strength to the Kenai River. For example, from July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during the two regular 12-hour fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Effects of this proposal would be dependent on the run strength and the management actions necessary to manage the fishery.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, the BOF established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. In this plan, the Board of Fisheries 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. However, because of the poor to below average runs of sockeye salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet, the department has implemented restrictions and/or closures in each of the last three seasons. To complicate matters, average to strong runs have occurred in both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

As mentioned above, the Kenai River sockeye salmon preseason forecast and in-season run assessments determines the amount of fishing time and window closures for the start of the commercial fishing season. This preseason forecast has been correct once since these plans were implemented prior to the 1999 season. Only this past season, 2007, was in the correct tier from beginning to end.

Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal (OEG) has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 161: 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete the current management plan in regulation. Fishing periods would occur under 5 AAC 21.310 Fishing Seasons and 5 AAC 21.320 Weekly Fishing Periods and adjustments made to that fishing schedule based on in-season run assessments through emergency order authority.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery is open for weekly fishing periods from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Commercial drift gillnet fishing periods may be modified by emergency order. Commercial fishing is determined by run strength, area and dates. The fishing season opens the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later. From July 9 through July 15, fishing during the two regular fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1 in order to conserve northern bound sockeye salmon. Commercial drift fishing is dependent on dates and run strength to the Kenai River. For example, from July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing

during the two regular 12-hour fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Effects of this proposal would be dependent on the run strength and the management actions taken to manage the fishery. In essence the fishing restrictions and liberalizations would be deleted from regulation and the fishery would be managed for abundance by emergency order.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, the BOF established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. In this plan, the Board of Fisheries 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. However, because of the poor to below average runs of sockeye salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet, the department has implemented restrictions and/or closures in each of the last three seasons. To complicate matters, average to strong runs have occurred in both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

As mentioned above, the Kenai River sockeye salmon preseason forecast determines the amount of fishing time and window closures for the start of the commercial fishing season. This preseason forecast has been correct once since these plans were implemented prior to the 1999 season. Only this past season, 2007, was in the correct tier.

Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal (OEG) has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 162: 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete the current management plan in regulation. Fishing periods would occur under 5 AAC 21.310 Fishing Seasons and 5 AAC 21.320 Weekly Fishing Periods and adjustments made to that fishing schedule based on in-season run assessments through emergency order authority.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery is open for weekly fishing periods from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Commercial drift gillnet fishing periods may be modified by emergency order. Commercial fishing is determined by run strength, area and dates. The fishing season opens the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later. From July 9 through July 15, fishing during the two regular fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1 in order to conserve northern bound sockeye salmon. Commercial drift fishing is dependent on dates and run strength to the Kenai River. For example, from July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during the two regular 12-hour fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Effects of this proposal would be dependent on the run strength and the management actions taken to manage the fishery. In essence the fishing restrictions and liberalizations would be deleted from regulation and the fishery would be managed for abundance by emergency order.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, the BOF established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. In this plan, the Board of Fisheries 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. However, because of the poor to below average runs of sockeye salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet, the department has implemented restrictions and/or closures in each of the last three seasons. To complicate matters, average to strong runs have occurred in both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

As mentioned above, the Kenai River sockeye salmon preseason forecast determines the amount of fishing time and window closures for the start of the commercial fishing season. This preseason forecast has been correct once since these plans were implemented prior to the 1999 season. Only this past season, 2007, was in the correct tier for the entire season.

Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal (OEG) has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been

exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 89: 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(c)(iii). Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? It is unclear exactly what this proposal requests. However, it is thought that the proposal requests area managers to have the ability to open and close the drift gillnet fishery as necessary by emergency order.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently, 5 AAC 21.320 establishes fishing periods for drifting in UCI and 5 AAC 21.353 places restrictions on several of these regular periods and further limits open areas between July 9 and August 10. After August 10 open areas are restricted to the south west portion of the inlet and within 5 miles of shore on the west side. The commercial fishing season is currently closed by emergency order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? As written it is unclear if this proposal would have any effect on the current fishery. Harvests rates of salmon would be dependent upon management actions inseason.

BACKGROUND: From 1978 until 1996 the drift fishery in Cook Inlet was managed from June 25 until August 15 in the Central District of UCI. After August 15 the fishery was closed within 5 miles of the eastern shoreline and the remainder of the inlet was open for regular periods until closed by emergency order. Beginning in 1990, the department began restricting a single regular drift fishing period by emergency order to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections to lower the exploitation rate on Susitna River sockeye stocks. In 1996 the BOF added a second restriction in regulation to restrict a period after July 25 to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections. In 1997, as a result of a department petition for coho concerns in the Kenai River, the BOF closed the drift fishery beginning August 9. In 1999 the BOF added a second restricted period to occur immediately before July 25. In addition, the BOF placed into regulation a restriction in early July that had been previously implemented annually by emergency order. In 2005 the Board relaxed many of these restrictions and allowed the drift fishery on the west side after August 10. This was done to alleviate some of the problems the department was having managing for escapement goals and to allocate fish to the drift fishery.

Poor returns of coho salmon to Upper Cook Inlet 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. Coho salmon runs to Northern Cook Inlet increased beginning in 2000. The Board took action in 2005 to return the daily bag and possession limit to the original 3 per day/6 in possession along westside Susitna River tributaries, excluding Alexander Creek. Exploitation rates for Kenai River coho salmon were high (84%) under the previous Kenai River Coho salmon management plan that allowed a 3 fish bag limit. Under the 2000 management plan, which included a 2 fish bag limit, exploitation ranged from 35% to 47% from 2000 to 2004. The liberalizations in 2005 are thought to have likely increased exploitation into the high 40% to low 50% range from 2005-2007.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 163: 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would restrict the commercial drift gillnet fleet to the Kasilof and Kenai sections for two regular periods between July 9 and 15 and two additional periods from July 16 to July 31 in runs under 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. In returns of over 4,000,000 there would be two restrictions from July 9 to July 15 only. It would also create an area that could not be fished when the Northern District is closed to conserve Susitna River sockeye salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery is open for weekly fishing periods from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Commercial drift gillnet fishing periods may be modified by emergency order. Commercial fishing is determined by run strength, area and dates. The fishing season opens the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later. From July 9 through July 15, fishing during the two regular fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1 in order to conserve northern bound sockeye salmon. Commercial drift fishing is dependent on dates and run strength to the Kenai River. For example, from July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during the two regular 12-hour fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would return the drift restriction from July 9 to July 15 to what it was in 1999 and add an additional restriction during this time frame. In addition, it would mandate that the two restrictions from July 16 to 31 be much more restrictive than what was in effect in 1999. The drift gillnet fleet's effectiveness would be reduced and controlling escapements to the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers would be compromised. If these restrictions were adopted, the drift fleet would bear a disproportionate share of the conservation burden. In all likelihood, escapements would consistently be exceeded in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers by significant amounts absent liberalizations in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, the BOF established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. In this plan, the Board of Fisheries 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. However, because of the poor to below average runs of sockeye salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet, the department has implemented restrictions and/or closures in each of the last three seasons. To complicate matters, average to strong runs have occurred in both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

Since 1999, the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River optimum escapement goal has been below twice, within four times, and exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. The current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established in 2001 and has been exceeded 6 of 7 years. The sustainable escapement goal for Yentna River sockeye salmon is 90,000-160,000 fish. Since 2002, the goal has been exceeded once, met once, and below four times. The Fish Creek sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been exceeded twice, within three times, and below once in the last 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to regulatory actions that may hinder the department's ability to manage these fisheries to achieve established salmon escapement goals.

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.

PROPOSAL 164: 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would add specific language to the drift gillnet management plan to address the period from August 1 to August 10.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery is open for weekly fishing periods from 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. The fishing season from July 9 to July 31 has multiple restrictions based on the sockeye salmon run size to the Kenai River. After August 11, fishing is restricted to areas on the west side of Upper Cook Inlet. From August 1 to August 10, fishing periods occur under 5 AAC 21.310 Fishing Seasons and 5 AAC 21.320 Weekly Fishing Periods unless altered by Emergency Order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would allow more time to implement the drift restrictions occurring July 16 to 31 to be from July 16 to August 10. The purpose of these restrictions is primarily to pass sockeye salmon through the Central District to the Northern District.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, the BOF established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. In this plan, the BOF moved numerous restrictions that were distributed in many plans to a single plan. In addition, the BOF provided for earlier opening dates, largely in response to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs in the past nine years and additional fishing time at the end of the season in response to good coho returns.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Specific instructions outlined by the BOF during this time period is unnecessary. The time period from June 19 until July 9 is also not covered under the plan as the BOF did not institute specific instructions during this time frame. That being, the regular fishing schedule applies. In addition, by moving the drift restrictions later into August, the purpose of the current restrictions would not accomplish their goal of passing additional fish to the Northern District.

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.

PROPOSAL 165: 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to ensure the provision that allowed the Chinitna Bay commercial fishing to be opened by emergency order after August 10 will sunset after the 2007 season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Through the 2007 fishing season, Chinitna Bay may be opened by emergency order. Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for regular periods until closed by emergency order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would not affect Chinitna Bay but would impact the west side drift gillnet fishery by closing it on August 10. This proposal would reduce commercial harvests by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, the BOF established a new management plan for the drift gillnet fishery, namely the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. In this plan, the Board of Fisheries provided for earlier opening dates, largely in response to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs during the past nine years. It also relaxed the drift restrictions that were put into effect for coho conservation that were deemed to be unnecessary. After August 10 the drift fishery is relatively small scale with generally less than 20 participants. Harvests in this fishery consist of pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon. The sport fishery in this area during mid August is also relatively small, however becomes more popular as coho salmon returns build in the later portion of August and into September. Salmon escapements to these streams do not appear to be in jeopardy.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. If the BOF does not take action on this proposal, the provision to allow the Chinitna Bay commercial fishing to be opened by emergency order after August 10 will no longer exist.

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.

PROPOSAL 91: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would repeal the restrictions in the plan for drift gillnets during July 16-31. These restrictions have been moved from 5 AAC 21.360 to 5 AAC 21.353.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In 5 AAC 21.353 the drift gillnet fishery is restricted to the Kenai, Kasilof and possibly drift areas one and two, depending on run strength for two regular periods from July 16 to July 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? These two restricted periods would be rescinded, increasing the harvest of salmon stocks moving through Upper Cook Inlet during this time frame.

BACKGROUND: In 1996, the BOF added a restriction in regulation to restrict a single period immediately after July 25 to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections. In 1999 the BOF added a second restricted period to occur immediately before July 25. In 2005 the BOF

relaxed these restrictions to include the possibility of adding drift areas one and two. These actions were taken to provide the department additional tools to manage for escapement goals.

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.

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COOK INLET PINK SALMON

PROPOSAL 153: 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would add a new section that would put back into regulation the allowable fishing area for the pink salmon fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The department shall manage the Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial pink salmon fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? None. Currently, the department uses its emergency order authority to define the fishing area. This proposal would place the fishing area description into regulation so that the legal fishing area will be described and known by everyone.

BACKGROUND: This plan was put in regulation in 2002 to allow the harvest of abundant pink salmon stocks. This fishery was again adopted by the Board of Fisheries in 2005. However, at that time the description of the fishing area was omitted. Since then, the department has had to describe the open area by emergency order.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: the department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. This proposal is considered housekeeping.

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.

PROPOSAL 154: 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Dyer VanDevere

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would open the Cook Inlet pink salmon season roughly 9 days earlier and would add three additional fishing periods to

the three now currently allowed in regulation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In even-numbered years, after August 10, the department will open, by emergency order, three additional fishing periods for Upper Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks. These periods occur from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday, Wednesday, or Friday after August 9. The participating permit holder must register by obtaining a pink salmon permit from the department by August 9 at the department office in Soldotna or Homer.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS 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: This 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. Since the restrictions were put in place, coho returns have been sustainable.

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.

PROPOSAL 155: 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the use of set gillnets to harvest pink salmon in Upper Cook Inlet and would return the regular season closing date on the east side for set gillnets back to August 15. It is unclear if three additional periods are requested or if the season is extended to August 15.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no set gillnet regulations for pink salmon management in Upper Cook Inlet.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS 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: This 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. Since the restrictions were put in place, coho returns have typically been sustainable.

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.

PROPOSAL 156: 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Alliance

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the use of set gillnets to harvest pink salmon in Upper Cook Inlet under the Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no set gillnet regulations specific for pink salmon management in Upper Cook Inlet other than what harvests occur during the regular season. The Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan addresses pink salmon harvest by drift gillnets only.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS 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: This 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. Since the restrictions were put in place, coho returns have been sustainable.

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.

PROPOSAL 157: 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete all aspects of this plan other than the first sentence of the language that is already in regulation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The department shall manage the Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial pink salmon fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would delete the three periods currently in regulation for drift gillnets which have generated little if any additional pink salmon harvest as the area is not conducive to harvesting pink salmon which are generally closer to the beaches along the east side. The effects of this proposal could result in additional fishing time along the east side of the Central District during even years increasing the harvest of pink and coho salmon.

BACKGROUND: In 1999 the BOF restricted any pink salmon fisheries until a pink plan was developed. This plan was formulated and put in regulation in 2002 to allow the harvest of abundant pink salmon stocks during even years only. This plan allocated all the additional pink salmon harvest to drift gillnets during three periods in a specified area of the Central District. These pink 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. Since the restrictions were put in place, coho returns have been sustainable.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, if passed as written without further instructions, a more appropriate placement would be in the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

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.

PROPOSAL 158: 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas F. Bloom

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the use of set gillnets to harvest pink salmon in Upper Cook Inlet and would not restrict drift gillnets from fishing near shore.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no set gillnet regulations for pink salmon management in Upper Cook Inlet. Pertaining to drift gillnets, in even-numbered years, after August 10, the department will open, by emergency order, three additional fishing periods for Upper Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks. These periods occur from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday, Wednesday, or Friday after August 10. The participating permit holder must register by obtaining a pink salmon permit from the department by August 9 at the department office in Soldotna or Homer.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest rate of pink salmon in even-numbered years and allow for a set gillnet fishery in addition to drift gillnets currently allowed. It would also increase the harvest of sockeye, coho and chum salmon.

BACKGROUND: This 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. Since the restrictions were put in place, coho returns have been sustainable.

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.

PROPOSAL 159: 5 AAC 21.356. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete 5 AAC 21.356, Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan, in its entirety.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The department shall manage the Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial pink salmon fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would delete the three periods currently in regulation for drift gillnets which have generated little if any additional pink salmon harvest as the area is not conducive to harvesting pink salmon which are generally closer to the beaches along the east side. The

effects of this proposal could result in additional fishing time along the east side of the Central District during even years increasing the harvest of pink and coho salmon.

BACKGROUND: This 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. Since the restrictions were put in place, coho returns have been sustainable.

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.

KENAI LATE RUN SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROPOSAL 187: 5 AAC 21.360 (b)(1), (c). Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make substantial changes to the current management plan. Significant changes would be to change the current three tiers to two and within those tiers, change the inriver goals and create allocations to sport and P/U fishers below the sonar counter at mile 19. It would also ask the board to nullify the current optimal escapement goal in language, and for the board to adopt an optimal escapement goal of 400,000 to 700,000 sockeye salmon.

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 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 is 500,000 to 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 to 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 optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River. In the personal use fishery salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai River as follows: from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 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 million 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would change the three tiers to two tiers. Under the three tiered management plan, the department's forecast and scripted management plan based on that forecast has been correct once in 9 years by the end of the season. If those same forecasts were to be applied to the proposed two tier plan, the department's forecast and scripted management plans would have been correct 7 of those 9 years (78%). Management strategies implemented at the beginning of the season of these 9 years would only have been changed twice.

Another significant change would be an allocation of sockeye salmon to sport and personal use fishers below the sonar counter based on the preseason forecast. The proposed inriver goal would also increase the allocation of sockeye salmon to

commercial users and decrease the allocation to sport fisheries above the sonar site and would result in closures to the sport fishery above the sonar site. It may also require a sport fish creel census survey below the sonar site.

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 in-river 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. From 2001 to 2006, the SEG has been below once, within once, and exceeded in the past four years.

A biological escapement goal (BEG) of 500,000-800,000 spawners for Kenai River sockeye salmon was adopted by the department in 1999. The goal was met or exceeded three of the past four years. In 2005 the department's escapement goal review committee recommended no change to the escapement goal range of 500,000-800,000 fish; however, the committee recommended changing the goal type from a BEG to a SEG.

Kenai River late run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985-2006 have ranged from 57,213 to 294,287 fish, with a 10-year average (1997-2006) of 224,758 fish. The harvest above the sonar site hasn't been below 100,000 fish since 1986. Sockeye salmon harvest from 2004 to 2006 averaged 228,652 fish for the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery. Effort and harvest in the 2006 Kenai River inriver fisheries was atypical due to a later than expected late return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. This resulted in closure and subsequent late season liberalization of the dip net fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 188: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Wesley J. Humbyrd

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make substantial changes to the current management plan. Significant changes would be to change the current three tiers to two and within those tiers, change the inriver goals and create allocations to sport and P/U fishers below the sonar counter at mile 19. It would also ask the board to nullify the current optimal escapement goal in language, and for the board to adopt an optimal escapement goal of 400,000 to 700,000 sockeye salmon.

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 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 is 500,000 to 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 to 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 optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River. In the personal use fishery salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai River as follows: from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 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 million 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would change the three tiers to two tiers. Under the three tiered management plan, the department's forecast and scripted management plan based on that forecast has been correct once in 9 years by the end of the season. If those same forecasts were to be applied to the proposed two tier plan, the department's forecast and scripted management plans would have been correct 7 of those 9 years (78%). Management strategies implemented at the beginning of the season of these 9 years would only have been changed twice.

Another significant change would be an allocation of sockeye salmon to sport and personal use fishers below the sonar counter based on the preseason forecast. The proposed inriver goal would also increase the allocation of sockeye salmon to commercial users and decrease the allocation to sport fisheries above the sonar site and would result in closures to the sport fishery above the sonar site. It may also require a sport fish creel census survey below the sonar site.

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 in-river 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. From 2001 to 2006, the SEG has been below once, within once, and exceeded in the past four years.

A biological escapement goal (BEG) of 500,000-800,000 spawners for Kenai River sockeye salmon was adopted by the department in 1999. The goal was met or exceeded three of the past four years. In 2005 the department's escapement goal review committee recommended no change to the escapement goal range of 500,000-800,000 fish; however, the committee recommended changing the goal type from a BEG to a SEG.

Kenai River late run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985-2006 have ranged from 57,213 to 294,287 fish, with a 10-year average (1997-2006) of 224,758 fish. The harvest above the sonar site hasn't been below 100,000 fish since 1986. Sockeye salmon harvest from 2004 to 2006 averaged 228,652 fish for the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery. Effort and harvest in the 2006 Kenai River inriver fisheries was atypical due to a later than expected late return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. This resulted in closure and subsequent late season liberalization of the dip net fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 204: 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 regulatory language from the management plan preamble that directs the department to manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest 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 IS 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.

BACKGROUND: This minimized language first appeared in the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan in 1981. It has changed slightly over the years as the BOF has struggled to balance the allocation needs and desires of the various user groups.

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.

PROPOSAL 118: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would return the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan commercial regulations to what they were in 1996.

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 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 is 500,000 to 800,000 sockeye salmon and is determined by the department.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would return Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management to a plan where the inriver goal was 550,000 to 800,000 fish. No closed window(s) or a determined amount of fishing time were in effect at that time either. In the sport fishery, the department would manage the fishery consistent with achieving the BEG that was in effect at that time and the sport fish bag limit would be six fish. If additional liberalizations are allowed more Northern and Central district fish would likely be harvested. Estimates of less than 650,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar site would likely result in closure to the sport fishery.

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 in-river 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. From 2001 to 2006, the SEG has been below once, within once, and exceeded in the past four years.

Kenai River late run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985-2006 have ranged from 57,213 to 294,287 fish, with a 10-year average (1997-2006) of 224,758 fish. The harvest above the sonar site hasn't been below 100,000 fish since 1986. Sockeye salmon harvest from 2004 to 2006 averaged 228,652 fish for the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery. Effort and harvest in the 2006 Kenai River inriver fisheries was atypical due to a later than expected late return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. This resulted in closure and subsequent late season liberalization of the dip net fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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

PROPOSAL 189: 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 make substantial changes to the current management plan. It would remove windows and fishing hours within the plan, replace the optimum escapement goal with the sustainable escapement goal, delete the different tiers based on run strength, lower the minimum inriver goal, and require the in-river sport and personal use fisheries to be subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the in-river goal.

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 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 is 500,000 to 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 to 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 optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River. In the personal use fishery salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai River as follows: from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 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 million 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal is fairly broad in its scope and seeks to remove all restrictions to fishing time and mandatory closed windows. In years of abundant sockeye salmon returns there would be additional fishing in the drift fishery and the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to manage for escapement goals. Many of these management actions would likely occur when sockeye salmon are concentrated along the east-side beaches. It is likely there would be changes to harvest patterns, which would increase sockeye harvests to achieve the escapement goal.

Changing the trigger point for liberalizing the sport fishery to a projection that the upper end of the escapement goal will be exceeded will result in fewer occasions that the sport fishery would be liberalized. A reduction in the inriver goal of 50,000 sockeye salmon may lead to an increased occurrence of sport fish restrictions or closures above the sonar site.

If these regulations were amended in this fashion, the department would manage for the various escapement goals as established in the various management plans without any direction from the board on specific management measures intended to allocate the harvest among the various users. The board and public need to understand this approach results in user group allocations becoming incidental to management directed at achieving a certain level of escapement in each system with a goal.

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 in-river 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. From 2001 to 2006, the SEG has been below once, within once, and exceeded in the past four years.

Kenai River late run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985-2006 have ranged from 57,213 to 294,287 fish, with a 10-year average (1997-2006) of 224,758 fish. The harvest above the sonar site hasn't been below 100,000 fish since 1986. Sockeye salmon harvest from 2004 to 2006 averaged 228,652 fish for the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery. Effort and harvest in the 2006 Kenai River inriver fisheries was atypical due to a later than expected late return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. This resulted in closure and subsequent late season liberalization of the dip net fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 190: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Hollier

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make substantial changes to the current management plan. It would remove windows and fishing hours within the plan, replace the optimum escapement goal with the sustainable escapement goal, delete the different tiers based on run strength, lower the minimum inriver goal, and require the in-river sport and personal use fisheries to be subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the in-river goal.

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 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 is 500,000 to 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 to 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 optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River. In the personal use fishery salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai River as follows: from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 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 million 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal is fairly broad in its scope and seeks to remove all restrictions to fishing time and mandatory closed windows. In years of abundant sockeye salmon returns there would be additional fishing in the drift fishery and the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to manage for escapement goals. Many of these management actions would likely occur when sockeye salmon are concentrated along the east-side beaches. It is likely there would be changes to harvest patterns, which would increase sockeye harvests to achieve the escapement goal.

Changing the trigger point for liberalizing the sport fishery to a projection that the upper end of the escapement goal will be exceeded will result in fewer occasions that the sport fishery would be liberalized. A reduction in the inriver goal of 50,000 sockeye salmon may lead to an increased occurrence of sport fish restrictions or closures above the sonar site.

If these regulations were amended in this fashion the department would manage for the various escapement goals as established in the various management plans without any direction from the board on specific management measures intended to allocate the harvest among the various users. The board and public need to understand this approach results in user group allocations becoming incidental to management directed at achieving a certain level of escapement in each system with a goal.

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 in-river king salmon 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 million the number of additional hours is

restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times.

A biological escapement goal (BEG) of 500,000-800,000 spawners for Kenai River sockeye salmon was adopted by the department in 1999. The goal was met or exceeded three of the past four years. In 2005 the department's escapement goal review committee recommended no change to the escapement goal range of 500,000-800,000 fish; however, the committee recommended changing the goal type from a BEG to a SEG.

Kenai River late run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985-2006 have ranged from 57,213 to 294,287 fish, with a 10-year average (1997-2006) of 224,758 fish. The harvest above the sonar site hasn't been below 100,000 fish since 1986. Sockeye salmon harvest from 2004 to 2006 averaged 228,652 fish for the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery. Effort and harvest in the 2006 Kenai River inriver fisheries was atypical due to a later than expected late return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. This resulted in closure and subsequent late season liberalization of the dip net fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 191: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make substantial changes to the current management plan. It would remove windows and fishing hours within the plan, replace the optimum escapement goal with the sustainable escapement goal, delete the different tiers based on run strength, lower the minimum inriver goal, and require the in-river sport and personal use fisheries to be subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the in-river goal.

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 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 is 500,000 to 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 to 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 optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River. In the personal use fishery salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai River as follows: from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 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 million 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal is fairly broad in its scope and seeks to remove all restrictions to emergency order authority and mandatory closed periods. If this proposal were adopted as written, the various restrictions to the department's emergency order authority would be deleted from regulation. In years of abundant sockeye salmon returns there would be additional fishing in the drift fishery and the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to manage for escapement goals. Many of these management actions would likely occur when sockeye are concentrated along the east-side beaches. It is likely there would be changes to harvest patterns, which would increase sockeye harvests to achieve the escapement goal.

Changing the trigger point for liberalizing the sport fishery to a projection that the upper end of the escapement goal will be exceeded will result in fewer occasions that the sport fishery would be liberalized. A reduction in the inriver goal of 50,000 sockeye salmon may lead to an increased occurrence of sport fish restrictions or closures above the sonar site.

If these regulations were amended in this fashion the department would manage for the various escapement goals as established in the various management plans without any direction from the board on specific management measures intended to allocate the harvest among the various users. The board and public need to understand this approach results in user group allocations becoming incidental to management directed at achieving a certain level of escapement in each system with a goal.

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 in-river king salmon 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times.

A biological escapement goal (BEG) of 500,000-800,000 spawners for Kenai River sockeye salmon was adopted by the department in 1999. The goal was met or exceeded three of the past four years. In 2005 the department's escapement goal review committee recommended no change to the escapement goal range of 500,000-800,000 fish; however, the committee recommended changing the goal type from a BEG to a SEG.

Kenai River late run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985-2006 have ranged from 57,213 to 294,287 fish, with a 10-year average (1997-2006) of 224,758 fish. The harvest above the sonar site hasn't been below 100,000 fish since 1986. Sockeye salmon harvest from 2004 to 2006 averaged 228,652 fish for the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery. Effort and harvest in the 2006 Kenai River inriver fisheries was atypical due to a later than expected late return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. This resulted in closure and subsequent late season liberalization of the dip net fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 192: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make substantial changes to the current management plan. It would remove windows and fishing hours within the plan, replace the optimum escapement goal with the sustainable escapement goal, delete the different tiers based on run strength, lower the minimum inriver goal, and require the in-river sport and personal use fisheries to be subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the in-river goal.

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 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 is 500,000 to 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 to 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 optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River. In the personal use fishery salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai River as follows: from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 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 million fish; the annual limit for each personnel use salmon fishing permit is 25 salmon for the head of a household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal is fairly broad in its scope and seeks to remove all restrictions to fishing time and mandatory closed periods. In years of abundant sockeye salmon returns there would be additional fishing in the drift fishery and the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to

manage for escapement goals. Many of these management actions would likely occur when sockeye salmon are concentrated along the east-side beaches. It is likely there would be changes to harvest patterns, which would increase sockeye harvests to achieve the escapement goal. Elimination of an inriver goal may result in restrictions or closures to the inriver sport and personal use fisheries depending on commercial fishing activities. Eliminating the trigger point for liberalizing the sport fishery would prevent the bag and possession limit from increasing regardless of run size.

If these regulations were amended in this fashion, the department would manage for the various escapement goals as established in the various management plans without any direction from the board on specific management measures intended to allocate the harvest among the various users. The board and public need to understand this approach results in user group allocations becoming incidental to management directed at achieving a certain level of escapement in each system with a goal.

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 in-river 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. From 2001 to 2006, the SEG has been below once, within once, and exceeded in the past four years.

A biological escapement goal (BEG) of 500,000-800,000 spawners for Kenai River sockeye salmon was adopted by the department in 1999. The goal was met or exceeded three of the past four years. In 2005 the department's escapement goal review committee

recommended no change to the escapement goal range of 500,000-800,000 fish; however, the committee recommended changing the goal type from a BEG to a SEG.

Kenai River late run sockeye salmon sport fish harvests from 1985-2006 have ranged from 57,213 to 294,287 fish, with a 10-year average (1997-2006) of 224,758 fish. The harvest above the sonar site hasn't been below 100,000 fish since 1986. Sockeye salmon harvest from 2004 to 2006 averaged 228,652 fish for the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery. Effort and harvest in the 2006 Kenai River inriver fisheries was atypical due to a later than expected late return of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River. This resulted in closure and subsequent late season liberalization of the dip net fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 195: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Wesley J. Humbyrd

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Remove 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. It would also delete the three tiers of regulations related to run size and the in-river goals associated with those tiers.

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 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 to 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 IS ADOPTED? This proposal is fairly broad in its scope and seeks to remove all restrictions to fishing time and mandatory closed periods. It would also delete the three tiers of regulations related to run size. If this proposal were adopted as written, the various restrictions to the department's emergency order authority would be deleted from regulation. In years of abundant sockeye returns, there would be additional fishing in the drift fishery and Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to manage for escapement goals. Many of these management actions would likely occur when sockeye are concentrated along the east-side beaches. It is likely there would be changes to harvest patterns, which would increase sockeye salmon harvests to achieve the escapement goal. Elimination of an inriver goal may result in restrictions or closures to the inriver sport and personal use fisheries depending on commercial fishing activities.

If these regulations were amended in this fashion the department would manage for the various escapement goals as established in the various management plans without any direction from the board on specific management measures intended to allocate the harvest among the various users. The board and public need to understand this approach results in user group allocations becoming incidental to management directed at achieving a certain level of escapement in each system with a goal.

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 in-river 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the

optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. From 2001 to 2006, the SEG has been below once, within once, and exceeded in the past four years.

A biological escapement goal (BEG) of 500,000-800,000 spawners for Kenai River sockeye salmon was adopted by the department in 1999. The goal was met or exceeded three of the past four years. In 2005 the department's escapement goal review committee recommended no change to the escapement goal range of 500,000-800,000 fish; however, the committee recommended changing the goal type from a BEG to a SEG.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 200: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Remove 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. It would also delete the three tiers of regulations related to run size and the in-river goals associated with those tiers.

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 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 to 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 IS ADOPTED? This proposal is fairly broad in its scope and seeks to remove all restrictions to fishing time and mandatory closed periods. It would also delete the three tiers of regulations related to run size. If this proposal were adopted as written, the various restrictions to the department's emergency order authority would be deleted from regulation. In years of abundant sockeye returns, there would be additional fishing in the drift fishery and Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to manage for escapement goals. Many of these management actions would likely occur when sockeye are concentrated along the east-side beaches. It is likely there would be changes to harvest patterns, which would increase sockeye salmon harvests to achieve the escapement goal. Elimination of an inriver goal may result in restrictions or closures to the inriver sport and personal use fisheries depending on commercial fishing activities.

If these regulations were amended in this fashion the department would manage for the various escapement goals as established in the various management plans without any direction from the board on specific management measures intended to allocate the harvest among the various users. The board and public need to understand this approach results in user group allocations becoming incidental to management directed at achieving a certain level of escapement in each system with a goal.

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 in-river 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. From 2001 to 2006, the SEG has been below once, within once, and exceeded in the past four years.

A biological escapement goal (BEG) of 500,000-800,000 spawners for Kenai River sockeye salmon was adopted by the department in 1999. The goal was met or exceeded three of the past four years. In 2005 the department's escapement goal review committee recommended no change to the escapement goal range of 500,000-800,000 fish; however, the committee recommended changing the goal type from a BEG to a SEG.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 202: 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 increase the duration and number of closed windows currently in regulation for runs less than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai River. This proposal would prescribe when windows would occur, namely a 48 hour window on Thursday into Friday and a 36 hour window between Monday and Thursday. In runs of between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 there would be two mandated windows of 36 hours each.

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 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 to 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 IS ADOPTED? There would be a reallocation of sockeye salmon to sport and personal use fishers and a reduction in commercial harvest by an unknown amount. It is likely that the Kenai River sockeye salmon in-river and escapement goals would be frequently exceeded. There are 168 hours in a regulatory week. In runs of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, only 48 hours of commercial fishing may occur. Therefore, there are already 120 hours closed to commercial fishing.

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 in-river 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 million the number of additional hours is restricted to no more than 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. For runs between 2 and 4 million 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 million 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 of Fisheries meeting.

Since 1999 the Kenai River in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. From 2001 to 2006, the SEG has been below once, within once, and exceeded in the past four years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but is **OPPOSED** to this proposal on the biological issues it raises. Such

a regulation change may lead to situations where the escapements far exceed established escapement objectives in many run scenarios.

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.

PROPOSAL 194: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Wesley J. Humbyrd

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would change the current optimum escapement goal from 500,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye salmon to 400,000 – 700,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an optimum escapement goal 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 sustainable escapement goal is 500,000 to 800,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Reducing the optimum escapement goal by 100,000 fish from the lower and upper end of the sustainable escapement goal would allow the department to increase harvest rates by all users groups. In establishing an escapement goal of 400,000 to 700,000, the BOF would be creating an OEG. Estimates of less than 650,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar site would likely result in closure to the sport fishery.

BACKGROUND: The current escapement goal range of 500–800 thousand spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1999. The department is not recommending a change to this goal. Stock-recruit data has been extensively modeled in historic reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this BOF meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 1999 Board of Fisheries meeting, the board adopted an optimal escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance based goals. If this proposal were passed, it is assumed that the inriver harvest above the sonar counter would be added to the 400,000 or 700,000 fish level to account for fish harvested above the sonar counter.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. Under the Policy For Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, the Board may set an optimal escapement goal different from the SEG set by the department.

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.

PROPOSAL 196: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Wesley J. Humbyrd

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would change the current escapement goal range to 400,000 – 700,000 sockeye. In order to establish the correct inriver sonar goal the inriver harvest above the sonar counter would be added to these numbers. In practice that would be approximately 550,000 to 850,000 at the river mile 19 sonar counter.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an optimum escapement goal 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 sustainable escapement goal is 500,000 to 800,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Reducing the escapement goal by 100,000 fish from the lower and upper end of the sustainable escapement goal would allow the department to increase harvest rates by all users groups. In establishing an escapement goal of 400,000 to 700,000 the BOF would be creating an OEG. Estimates of less than 650,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar site would likely result in closure to the sport fishery.

BACKGROUND: The current escapement goal range of 500–800 thousand spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1999. The department is not recommending a change to this goal. Stock-recruit data has been extensively modeled in historic reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this BOF meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting, the board adopted an optimal escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance based goals. If this proposal were passed it is assumed that the inriver harvest above the sonar counter would be added to the 400,000 or 700,000 fish level to account for fish harvested above the sonar counter.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. Under the Policy For Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, the Board may set an optimal escapement goal different from the SEG set by the department.

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.

PROPOSAL 197: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Wesley J. Humbyrd

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would change the current escapement goal range to 400,000 – 700,000 sockeye. In order to establish the correct inriver sonar goal the inriver harvest above the sonar counter would be added to these numbers. In practice that would be approximately 550,000 to 850,000 at the river mile 19 sonar counter.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an optimum escapement goal 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 sustainable escapement goal is 500,000 to 800,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Reducing the escapement goal by 100,000 fish from the lower and upper end of the sustainable escapement goal would allow the department to increase harvest rates by all users groups. In establishing an escapement goal of 400,000 to 700,000 the BOF would be creating an OEG. Estimates of less than 650,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar site would likely result in closure to the sport fishery.

BACKGROUND: The current escapement goal range of 500–800 thousand spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1999. The department is not recommending a change to this goal. Stock-recruit data has been extensively modeled in historic reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this BOF meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting, the board adopted an optimal escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance based goals. If this proposal were passed it is assumed that the inriver harvest above the sonar counter would be added to the 400,000 or 700,000 fish level to account for fish harvested above the sonar counter.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. Under the Policy For Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, the Board may set an optimal escapement goal different from the SEG set by the department.

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.

PROPOSAL 198: 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 change the current optimum escapement goal from 500,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye salmon to an escapement goal of 400,000 – 700,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an optimum escapement goal 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 sustainable escapement goal is 500,000 to 800,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Reducing the escapement goal by 100,000 fish from the lower and upper end of the sustainable escapement goal would allow the department to increase harvest rates by all users groups. In establishing an escapement goal of 400,000 to 700,000 the BOF would be creating an OEG. Estimates of less than 650,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar site would likely result in closure to the sport fishery.

BACKGROUND: The current escapement goal range of 500–800 thousand spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1999. The department is not recommending a change to this goal. Stock-recruit data has been extensively modeled in historic reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this BOF meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting, the board adopted an optimal escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance based goals. If this proposal were passed it is assumed that the inriver harvest above the sonar counter would be added to the 400,000 or 700,000 fish level to account for fish harvested above the sonar counter.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. Under the Policy For Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, the Board may set an optimal escapement goal different from the SEG set by the department.

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.

PROPOSAL 199: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sara Pellegrom

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete the current optimal escapement goal of 500,000 – 1,000,000 sockeye salmon and have the department manage for a single inriver goal range of 600,000 to 900,000 salmon that allows for an inriver harvest of 100,000 to 300,000 fish above the sonar counter to still meet the minimum SEG of 500,000. It would also delete the three tier management regime.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an optimum escapement goal 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 sustainable escapement goal is 500,000 to 800,000 sockeye salmon. There are also three tiers of in-river sonar goals the department strives to manage.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If passed, this proposal would result in a much simplified management plan that removed the tiers of the current management goals. It would reduce the inriver sonar goal at the lower end by 50,000 and at the upper end by 300,000 sockeye salmon and the OEG to SEG at the lower end by 50,000 and at the upper end by 200,000 sockeye salmon, which would allow the department to increase harvest rates by all users groups. Estimates of less than 650,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar site would likely result in closure to the sport fishery.

BACKGROUND: The current escapement goal range of 500–800 thousand spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1999. The department is not recommending a change to this goal. Over the past 39 years, estimated escapements have ranged from about 50,000 to 1.3 million sockeye salmon. Estimates of recruits from these levels of escapement ranged from a low of about 2 recruits per spawner to a high of about 16 recruits per spawner. These stock-recruit data have been extensively modeled in historic reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this BOF meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting, the board adopted an optimal escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance based goals.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. Under the Policy For Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, the Board may set an optimal escapement goal different from the SEG set by the department.

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.

PROPOSAL 201: 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 current escapement goal range to 450,000 – 750,000 sockeye salmon. In order to establish the correct inriver sonar goal the inriver harvest above the sonar counter would be added to these numbers. In practice that would be approximately 550,000 to 850,000 at the river mile 19 sonar counter.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon fisheries shall be managed to meet an optimum escapement goal 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 sustainable escapement goal is 500,000 to 800,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Reducing the escapement goal by 50,000 fish from the lower and upper end of the sustainable escapement goal would allow the department to increase harvest rates by all users groups. In establishing an escapement goal of 450,000 to 750,000 the BOF would be creating an optimal escapement goal. Estimates of less than 650,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar site would likely result in closure to the sport fishery.

BACKGROUND: The current escapement goal range of 500–800 thousand spawners for the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stock was adopted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1999. The department is not recommending a change to this goal. Stock-recruit data has been extensively modeled in historic reports and again in the escapement goal report presented at this BOF meeting in an effort to identify an appropriate escapement goal. At the 2005 BOF meeting, the board adopted an optimal escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye salmon. This goal is achieved by managing for one of three abundance based goals. If this proposal were passed, it is assumed that the inriver harvest above the sonar counter would be added to the 450,000 or 750,000 fish level to account for fish harvested above the sonar counter.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. Under the Policy For Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, the Board may set an optimal escapement goal different from the SEG set by the department.

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.

PROPOSAL 203: 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan; 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow only one commercial fishing period per week prior to July 20 or when the department re-analyzes

the preseason projection around July 22. After July 20, additional fishing periods would be based upon inseason abundance information supplied by the Kenai River sonar project.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Fishing time is based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return. There are two regular periods per week. Additional fishing time is allowed and the amount of fishing time allowed is dependent on the forecasts and run strength. Close fishing windows are also mandated under all tiers. The length and number of windows is also determined by the forecasts and inseason run strengths. In the drift gillnet fishery, two, weekly 12-hour fishing periods per week are scheduled, with the fishing season opening the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later. From July 9 through July 31, the drift gillnet fishery utilized a variety of described fishing areas. Available fishing area is determined by the run strength.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Reducing the amount of available fishing time to only one period per week would lead to escapements above sustainable and biological escapement goals. In all likelihood, exceeding the goals would lead to reduced future production. Although inriver harvests would increase for a few years, reduced future production would likely lead to reduced fishing opportunities for all users in the future.

BACKGROUND: The set gillnet fishery in the Kenai and East Foreland section begins July 8 based upon the preseason projection of sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai River. The department then reevaluates the Kenai River sockeye salmon run strength using information from an off shore test fishery, Kenai River sonar counts from the project at mile 19, and drift test fish catches. Typically, this projection occurs the fourth Tuesday or Wednesday after the Monday drift period. Management strategies are then adjusted to the new inseason run projection.

Since 1999 the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon in-river run goal has been exceeded 5 of 9 years and within the goal four times. During that same time period, the Kenai River was below the optimum escapement goal (OEG) twice, within the OEG four times, and was exceeded three times. The Kasilof River biological escapement goal has been exceeded 8 of 9 years. Since 2001, when the current OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon was established, the OEG has been exceeded 6 of 7 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Such a regulation change would lead to situations where the escapements far exceed established escapement objectives in many run scenarios.

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.

PROPOSAL 205: 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Monte Roberts

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? There is no proposed regulatory language therefore it is unknown what this proposal would do. However, this proposal appears to develop a management plan that would change the allocation of sockeye salmon to result in equal harvest shares between commercial and sport users.

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 IS ADOPTED? It would be dependent on actions taken by the BOF. However, it would be expected that there would be a reduction in commercial fisheries harvests and an increase in harvests by all other users.

BACKGROUND: There are numerous regulations and management plans that establish the current allocation scheme.

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.

PROPOSAL 209: AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Mary Holler

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would open the Kenai River Special Harvest Area once the lower end of the in-river goal has been achieved.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently there is a Kenai River Special Harvest Area that cannot be used unless an inriver return of 40,000 king salmon is projected. At run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the inriver goal is 650,000-850,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19. At run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000, the in-river goal is 750,000-950,000 sockeye salmon past the

sonar counter and at run strengths greater than 4,000,000, the in-river goal is 850,000-1,100,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Effects of this proposal would be dependent upon the usage of the Kenai River Special Harvest Area. When the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is open, numerous issues can, and have, arise such as enforcement, channel blockage, and other social issues that can lead to an unorderly fishery. This proposal would increase the social conflicts between the commercial and personal use fisheries operating in the same location.

BACKGROUND: The closed waters at the mouth of the Kenai River has not been used since 1988. Currently this area can only be used if over 40,000 late-run king salmon are inriver.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this 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.

PROPOSAL 210: 5 AAC 57.150. Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allocate one-half of the early run Russian River sockeye salmon to the commercial fleet.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The purpose of this 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 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.

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, 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 IS ADOPTED? This proposal would open a commercial fishery directed on a stock that historically has been allocated to the sport fishery. Sport fish harvest and effort would decrease by an unknown amount. The commercial harvest of Kenai River early-run king salmon would likely increase and potentially cause inriver sport fishery closures or restrictions.

BACKGROUND: 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. Early Russian River sockeye salmon stocks have been harvested primarily by the sport fishery since 1974. The escapement goal for early Russian River sockeye salmon is 14,000-37,000 sockeye salmon.

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 is determined from harvests estimated by creel surveys as well as the SWHS and weir counts. From 1965 – 2006 the total return has averaged approximately 60,484 sockeye salmon. The escapement was 27,298 sockeye salmon in 2007. 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 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 in-season restrictions during 7 of those years in order to ensure that the final spawning escapement goals were achieved.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to the biological aspects of this proposal because of its potential to overexploit the Russian River early-run sockeye salmon stock and the Kenai River early-run king salmon stock. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this 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.

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 21.360(h). Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the department to reduce the sockeye salmon bag limit in the Kenai River sport fishery rather than close the Kenai River to fishing when the projected inriver goal of sockeye salmon is less than 650,000.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would allow for some inriver harvest opportunity of sockeye salmon while still achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal. It would slow the sport fishery down and may allow the fishery to remain open with a restricted bag limit instead of closing it totally. If the optimal escapement goal will not be met, the fishery would still be closed.

BACKGROUND: The Kenai River late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan provides direction to the department for liberalizing the inriver sockeye salmon sport fishery based upon the inseason evaluation of sockeye salmon abundance, a commensurate sliding scale of inriver goals, and a bag limit of three to six sockeye salmon. However there are no step-down provisions to allow limited harvest opportunity that would still achieve the OEG of 500,000-1,000,000 fish by reducing the sockeye salmon bag limit before it is closed. At run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the Alaska Board of Fisheries established an inriver goal range of 650,000-850,000 late-run sockeye salmon to help ensure that the OEG of 500,000-1,000,000 fish is met after harvest by the sport fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Adding this provision will allow for a limited fishery in years when the department projects that the in river goal of 650,000-850,000 late-run sockeye salmon will not be met but the optimum escapement goal (OEG) of 500,000-1,000,000 late-run sockeye salmon above the River Mile 19 ADFG sockeye salmon sonar site could be met if the sport fishing sockeye salmon bag and possession limit is lowered below three fish.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in the fishery.

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 77.525. Personal use salmon fishery; and 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the department to increase the sockeye salmon bag and possession limit in the Kenai River recreational fishery to 12 fish and increase the personal use salmon fishing permit limit of 25 salmon for the head of a household to 35 salmon for the head of household, and allow dip netting from a boat from the Kenai City Dock upstream to the Kenai River king salmon sonar station at river mile 8.5 when the abundance of late-run sockeye salmon is projected to exceed 4,000,000 fish.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

In the personal use fishery salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai River as follows: from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 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 million 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.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would result in more harvest opportunity for inriver recreational and personal use users during years of large late-run sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River. Inriver exploitation of sockeye salmon would increase. It could result in conflict between personal use fishers and inriver sport anglers upstream of the Warren Ames Bridge due to crowding and conflicting gear types. Increased boat traffic may result in more interference with the department's inriver king salmon gillnetting program immediately below the sonar station at river mile 8.5. Participation in the personal use fishery may increase due to increased bag limits and crowded conditions may be exacerbated.

BACKGROUND: The Kenai River late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan provides direction to the department for liberalizing the inriver sockeye salmon sport fishery and personal use fishery based upon the inseason evaluation of sockeye salmon abundance, a commensurate sliding scale of inriver goals, and a bag limit of three to six sockeye salmon. However there are no provisions to allow an increase in harvest opportunity for inriver users when the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds 4,000,000. At run strengths of greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon, the Alaska Board of Fisheries established an inriver goal range of 850,000-1,100,000 late-run sockeye

salmon to help ensure that the OEG of 500,000-1,000,000 fish is met after harvest by the sport fishery.

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

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in the fishery.

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 21.360(h)(2). Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the department to increase the sockeye salmon possession limit in the Kenai River sport fishery to 12 fish when the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds 2,000,000 fish. In addition, when the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds 4,000,000 this proposal would allow the department to increase the sockeye salmon bag limit to 9 fish and possession limit to 18 fish.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would result in more harvest opportunity for inriver sport anglers during years of late-run sockeye salmon returns exceeding 2 million to the Kenai River. Inriver exploitation of sockeye salmon would increase. Participation in the sport fishery may increase due to increased bag and possession limits and crowded conditions may be exacerbated.

BACKGROUND: The Kenai River late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan provides direction to the department for liberalizing the inriver sockeye salmon sport fishery and personal use fishery based upon the inseason evaluation of sockeye salmon abundance, a commensurate sliding scale of inriver goals, and a bag limit of three to six sockeye salmon. However there are no provisions to allow an increase in harvest opportunity for inriver users when the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds 4,000,000. At run strengths of greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon, the Alaska Board of Fisheries established an inriver goal range of 850,000-1,100,000 late-run sockeye

salmon to help ensure that the OEG of 500,000-1,000,000 fish is met after harvest by the sport fishery.

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

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in the fishery.

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Rod and Randy Berg

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the department to increase the Kenai River sockeye salmon bag and possession limit when liberalizations to the commercial fishery exceed those provided by the management plan. This proposal would also increase the bag and possession limit from 3 to 6 fish when sockeye salmon abundance exceeds 4,000,000 fish.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, 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 to six sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would allow additional harvest opportunity for inriver sport anglers at all levels of sockeye salmon abundance if the allowable emergency order hours of commercial fishing periods exceed provisions outlined in the management plan. The bag limit increase from three to six sockeye salmon currently allowed by the plan at sockeye salmon abundance in excess of 2,000,000 fish would not occur unless allowable commercial fishing periods exceeded those hours outlined in the plan. During years when sockeye salmon abundance exceeds 4,000,000 fish the sport fishery would be liberalized at the start of the season and again if commercial fishing exceeded those hours outlined in the plan.

BACKGROUND: The Kenai River late-run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan provides direction to the department for liberalizing the commercial fishery, inriver sockeye salmon sport fishery and personal use fishery. These provisions are based upon three levels of sockeye salmon abundance that are linked with a commensurate sliding scale of inriver goals. Within each level of sockeye salmon abundance the allowable hours of extra commercial fishing periods per week increases however provisions allow for just

one increment for liberalization to the sport fishery (a bag limit increase from 3 to 6) when sockeye abundance exceeds 2,000,000 fish. At run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, the Alaska Board of Fisheries established an inriver goal range of 650,000 – 850,000 sockeye salmon with allowable extra commercial fishing periods of no more than 24-hours per week; at run strengths of 2,000,000 – 4,000,000 sockeye salmon the board established an inriver goal range of 750,000 – 950,000 sockeye salmon with allowable extra commercial fishing periods of no more than 51-hours per week and at run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon, the board established an inriver goal range of 850,000 - 1,100,000 late-run sockeye salmon with allowable extra commercial fishing periods of no more than 84-hours per week. These goals help ensure that the OEG of 500,000-1,000,000 fish is met after harvest by the inriver sport fishery.

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

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

KASILOF SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROPOSAL 166: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would clarify that meeting the escapement goal is the primary objective for management, delete the currently required 48 hour closed window, allow the department to manage Kasilof River sockeye salmon independent of the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, and delete the regulatory language that specifies that 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 optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon.

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 of Fisheries 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 upper Cook Inlet salmon and with the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section will be managed as specified in Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon 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 optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon. The commercial set gillnet fishery in the

Kasilof Section shall be managed will be opened for two weekly 12 hour periods. From the beginning of the fishing season through July 7, additional fishing periods or extend regular weekly fishing periods may be used, up to a maximum of 48 hours of additional fishing time per week. The fishery shall remain closed for at least one continuous 48-hour period per week. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section will be managed in concert with the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. In addition, fishing may be limited during the regular weekly periods and any extra fishing periods to those waters 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;

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon. Harvest rates of salmon would be dependent on management actions taken inseason. Incidental harvests of Kenai River sockeye and king salmon stocks would also likely occur.

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. The stocking of fry into this system ceased after 2004 as a result of a court decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to this decision, approximately 6 million fry had been planted annually. Prior to 1988, as many as 17 million fry were planted into Tustumena Lake. However this stocking level was reduced to 6 million beginning in 1988. In recent years, this hatchery production contributed approximately 10 percent to the total return. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal of 150,000-250,000, established in 1987, has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the OEG (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department does **SUPPORTS** the BOF clarifying management priorities and the development of a more flexible management plan.

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.

PROPOSAL 167: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: John Higgins

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make substantial changes to the current management plan. Significant changes would be to clarify that meeting the escapement goal is the primary objective, delete the currently required 48 hour closed window, allow the department to manage Kasilof River sockeye salmon independent of

the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, and delete the regulatory language that specifies that 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 optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon. It asks the department to limit its use of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area and deletes the sport fishing regulations which prohibit guides from fishing while clients are present and limit guides to one set of clients per day.

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 of Fisheries 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 upper Cook Inlet salmon and with the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section will be managed as specified in Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon 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 optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon. The commercial set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section shall be managed will be opened for two weekly 12 hour periods. From the beginning of the fishing season through July 7, additional fishing periods or extend regular weekly fishing periods may be used, up to a maximum of 48 hours of additional fishing time per week. The fishery shall remain closed for at least one continuous 48-hour period per week. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section will be managed in concert with the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. In addition, fishing may be limited during the regular weekly periods and any extra fishing periods to those waters 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;

A sport fishing guide may not sport fish while a client is present or is within the sport fishing guide's control or responsibility. During any one day, a sport fishing guide may guide only that client or group of clients initially guided by the sport fishing guide that day; different or additional clients may not be guided.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon. Harvest rates of salmon would be dependent on management actions taken inseason. Incidental harvests of Kenai River sockeye and king salmon stocks would also likely occur. This proposal would also increase the sport harvest of king salmon by allowing guides to fish while clients are present and to fish more than one set of clients in a day.

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. The stocking of fry into this system ceased after 2004 as a result of a court decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to this decision, approximately 6 million fry had been planted annually. Prior to 1988, as many as 17 million fry were planted into Tustumena Lake. However this stocking level was reduced to 6 million beginning in 1988. In recent years, this hatchery production contributed approximately 10 percent to the return. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the OEG (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department does **SUPPORTS** the BOF clarifying management priorities and the development of a more flexible management plan.

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.

PROPOSAL 168: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Alliance

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make substantial changes to the current management plan. Significant changes would be to clarify that meeting the escapement goal is the primary objective, delete the currently required 48 hour closed window, allow the department to manage Kasilof River sockeye salmon independent of the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, and delete the regulatory language that specifies that 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 optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon. It would also eliminate the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area and the sport fishing regulations which prohibit guides from fishing while clients are present and limit guides to one set of clients per day.

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 of Fisheries 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 upper Cook Inlet salmon and with the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section will be managed as specified in Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon plan.

A sport fishing guide may not sport fish while a client is present or is within the sport fishing guide's control or responsibility. During any one day, a sport fishing guide may guide only that client or group of clients initially guided by the sport fishing guide that day; different or additional clients may not be guided.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon. Harvest rates of salmon would be dependent on management actions taken inseason. Incidental harvests of Kasilof River king salmon and Kenai River sockeye and king salmon stocks would also likely occur. This proposal would also increase the sport harvest of king salmon by allowing guides to fish while clients are present and to fish more than one set of clients in a day.

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. The stocking of fry into this system ceased after 2004 as a result of a court decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to this decision, approximately 6 million fry had been planted annually. Prior to 1988, as many as 17 million fry were planted into Tustumena Lake. However this stocking level was reduced to 6 million beginning in 1988. In recent years, this hatchery production contributed approximately 10 percent to the return. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the OEG (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

The numbers of naturally-produced king salmon in the escapement exceeded the goal in 2005 (1,903) and achieved the goal in 2006 (1,516) and 2007 (993), while escapement of surplus hatchery king salmon ranged from 652 to 1,052 king salmon. Total escapement of king salmon during 2002-2007 averaged over 3,300 fish.

There is no escapement goal for Kasilof River late-run king salmon. In 2005 the department began a late-run king salmon assessment program to estimate run-timing and spawning distribution. Information gained from this first year allowed the department to add a mark-recapture phase to the program to estimate abundance of late-run Kasilof River king salmon in 2006-2007. During the history of this fishery, king salmon runs into the Kasilof River have been sustaining.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department does **SUPPORTS** the BOF clarifying management priorities and the development of a more flexible management plan.

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.

PROPOSAL 169: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make substantial changes to the current management plan. It would ask the Board of Fisheries to increase the current optimum escapement goal by 50,000 sockeye salmon, decrease the size of the Kasilof Special Management Harvest Area, increase the threshold in order to fish the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area, manage the fishery in conjunction with the Kenai Section after July 8 to increase the current 48 hour closed window to two 36 hour windows, and close the season nine days earlier on August 1.

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 of Fisheries 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 upper Cook Inlet salmon and with the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. Beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section will be managed as specified in Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon plan and closes August 10.

In the Kasilof Section there are window and emergency order limits in place. Prior to July 8 there is a single 48 hour window and 48 hours of additional fishing time. After July 8 restrictions are dependant on the size of the Kenai return. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened to the taking of salmon when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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 and waters open to set gillnetting. This area is currently not included in the window closures in the Upper Subdistrict.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the likelihood of exceeding the current Kasilof River escapement goals. Although the closure of 48 hours is reduced from July 8 forward, the closure of the fishery on August 1 would increase the likelihood of exceeding goals, especially in recent years when the runs are returning later. Increased escapements result in a loss of yield in current year and a reduction of the future production of Kasilof River sockeye salmon. This proposal may increase the sport effort and harvest of king and sockeye salmon and the personal use harvest of 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. The stocking of fry into this system ceased after 2004 as a result of a court decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to this decision, approximately 6 million fry had been planted annually. Prior to 1988, as many as 17 million fry were planted into Tustumena Lake. However this stocking level was reduced to 6 million beginning in 1988. In recent years, this hatchery production contributed approximately 10 percent to the return. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the OEG (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

There is no escapement goal for Kasilof River late-run king salmon. In 2005 the department began a late-run king salmon assessment program to estimate run-timing and spawning distribution. Information gained from this first year allowed the department to add a mark-recapture phase to the program to estimate abundance of late-run Kasilof River king salmon in 2006-2007. During the history of this fishery, king salmon runs into the Kasilof River have been sustaining.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but is **OPPOSED** to this proposal on the biological issues it raises. Such a regulation change may lead to situations where the escapements far exceed established escapement objectives in many run scenarios. The department would lose its ability to manage most runs to meet the established OEG and SEG for sockeye salmon in the Kasilof River.

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.

PROPOSAL 177: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would direct the department to manage Kasilof River sockeye salmon primarily for commercial uses and to meet the biological escapement goal of 150,000 to 250,000 instead of the optimal escapement goal of 150,000-300,000. This proposal would also eliminate all window and emergency order restrictions.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Kasilof Section there are window and emergency order limits in place. Prior to July 8 there is a single 48 hour window and 48 hours of additional fishing time. After July 8 restrictions are dependant on the size of the Kenai return. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened to the taking of salmon when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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 and waters open to set gillnetting. This area is currently not included in the window closures in the Upper Subdistrict.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted the department would manage the fishery as it had prior to the creation of these aspects of the plan. Effects would be dependent on management actions based on the run strength. In larger runs, there would be an increase of Kasilof River sockeye salmon. Incidental harvests of Kasilof River king salmon and Kenai River sockeye and king salmon stocks would also likely occur.

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. The stocking of fry into this system ceased after 2004 as a result of a court decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to this decision, approximately 6 million fry had been planted annually. Prior to 1988, as many as 17 million fry were planted into Tustumena Lake. However this stocking level was reduced to 6 million beginning in 1988. In recent years, this hatchery production contributed approximately 10 percent to the return. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the OEG (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans.

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.

PROPOSAL 180: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would repeal the priority directing the department to meet the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon.

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 optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would have little effect on harvests unless other changes in the plan are made such as liberalization of the current windows or an increase in the number of hours that can be fished.

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. The stocking of fry into this system ceased after 2004 as a result of a court decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to this decision, approximately 6 million fry had been planted annually. Prior to 1988, as many as 17 million fry were planted into Tustumena Lake. However this stocking level was reduced to 6 million beginning in 1988. In recent years, this hatchery production contributed approximately 10 percent to the return. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the OEG (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

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.

PROPOSAL 178: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Robert L. Ball, Jr.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the optimal escapement goal by 25,000 sockeye salmon at the lower end and 50,000 sockeye salmon at the upper end.

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 optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Escapement goals are established to provide maximum sustained yield. Increasing the optimal escapement goal would lead to reduced future production. Although inriver harvests

would increase for a few years, reduced future production would likely lead to reduced fishing opportunities for all users 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. The stocking of fry into this system ceased after 2004 as a result of a court decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to this decision, approximately 6 million fry had been planted annually. Prior to 1988, as many as 17 million fry were planted into Tustumena Lake. However this stocking level was reduced to 6 million beginning in 1988. In recent years, this hatchery production contributed approximately 10 percent to the return. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the OEG (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

There is no escapement goal for Kasilof River late-run king salmon. In 2005 the department began a late-run king salmon assessment program to estimate run-timing and spawning distribution. Information gained from this first year allowed the department to add a mark-recapture phase to the program to estimate abundance of late-run Kasilof River king salmon in 2006-2007. During the history of this fishery, king salmon runs into the Kasilof River have been sustaining.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to such a regulation change that may lead to situations where the escapements far exceed established escapement objectives in many run scenarios.

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.

PROPOSAL 179: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jim McKenzie

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the current optimal escapement goal by 50,000 sockeye salmon at the lower and upper end.

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 optimal escapement goal range of 150,000 to 300,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Escapement goals are established to provide maximum sustained yield. Increasing the optimal escapement goal would lead to reduced future production. Although inriver harvests would increase for a few years, reduced future production would likely lead to reduced fishing opportunities for all users 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. The stocking of fry into this system ceased after 2004 as a result of a court decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to this decision, approximately 6 million fry had been planted annually. Prior to 1988, as many as 17 million fry were planted into Tustumena Lake. However this stocking level was reduced to 6 million beginning in 1988. In recent years, this hatchery production contributed approximately 10 percent to the return. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the OEG (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

There is no escapement goal for Kasilof River late-run king salmon. In 2005 the department began a late-run king salmon assessment program to estimate run-timing and spawning distribution. Information gained from this first year allowed the department to add a mark-recapture phase to the program to estimate abundance of late-run Kasilof River king salmon in 2006-2007. During the history of this fishery, king salmon runs into the Kasilof River have been sustaining.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to such a regulation change that may lead to situations where the escapements far exceed established escapement objectives in many run scenarios.

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.

PROPOSAL 181: 5 AAC 21.365(f)(3). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the amount of fishing area in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area available to set gillnet fishermen by 600 feet and reduce the amount of fishing area available to drift gillnet fishermen by 600 feet.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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. Set gillnets may be operated only within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark and drift gillnets may not be operated in waters within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark. There is no minimum distance between gear, except that a gillnet may not be set or operated within 600 feet of a set gillnet located outside of the special harvest area.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal may increase set gillnet harvests and reduce drift gillnet harvests. In general however, it is unknown what effect this change may have on overall harvest rates of sockeye and king salmon.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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.

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.

PROPOSAL 182: 5 AAC 21.365(c)(4). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Brent Johnson

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would provide another option for the department by fishing within 600 feet of shore instead of one-half mile when the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run strength is projected to be less than two million fish and the 300,000 optimal escapement goal for the Kasilof River sockeye salmon may be exceeded.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? After July 15, if the department determines that the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run strength is projected to be less than two million fish and the 300,000 optimal escapement goal for the Kasilof River sockeye salmon may be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open

fishing for an additional 24-hours per week in the Kasilof Section within one-half mile of shore.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks while minimizing Kenai River king and sockeye salmon harvests.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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 prior years the department opened the entire Kasilof Section within ½ mile of shore as a means of minimizing Kenai river sockeye harvests for conservation. The department continues to implement this strategy whenever window or hourly limits do not preclude this option. However the KRSHA use in 2006 has been viewed as a major reallocation by set gill-netters in the Kasilof Section.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department does support the development of flexible management plans. The department does have experience with opening the Kasilof Section within ½ mile of shore as a means of minimizing Kenai river sockeye harvests for conservation. The department continues to implement this strategy whenever window or hourly limits do not preclude this option. The department has the authority to reduce this area from ½ mile to 600 feet by emergency order.

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.

PROPOSAL 183: 5 AAC 21.365(f)(5). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Brent Johnson

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the department to reduce the open area of the KRSHA or terminal area to within ½ mile of shore for conservation reasons. The department currently has this authority and has reduced this area when it appears it is necessary.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? After July 15, if the department determines that the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run strength is projected to be less than two million fish and the 300,000 optimal escapement goal for the Kasilof River sockeye salmon may be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open fishing for an additional 24-hours per week in the Kasilof Section within one-half mile of

shore. Under subsection (f), set gillnets may be operated only within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark and drift gillnets may not be operated in waters within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? There would be little change as we already have this authority.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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 Kasilof River Special Harvest Area 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 Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

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.

PROPOSAL 184: 5 AAC 21.365(f)(1),(3). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Hollier

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the amount of fishing area available to set gillnet fishermen by 2,400 feet and reduce amount of fishing area available to drift gillnet fishermen by 2,400 feet.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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. Set gillnets may be operated only within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark and drift gillnets may not be operated in waters within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark. There is no minimum distance between gear, except that a gillnet may not be set or operated within 600 feet of a set gillnet located outside of the special harvest area.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The open area for set gillnets would increase to 3,000 feet from 600 feet and the drift open area would be reduced by 2,400 feet and would be 5,000 feet. In effect, the first 3,000 feet would be open to set gillnets only and the area from 3,000 to 1.5 miles would be open for drift gillnets only. This proposal may increase set gillnet harvests and reduce drift gillnet

harvests. In general however, it is unknown what effect this change may have on overall harvest rates of sockeye and king salmon.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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. The KRSHA boundaries are within 1.5 miles from shore, the first 600 feet is open to set gillnets only and the remainder is open to drift gillnets only.

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.

PROPOSAL 185: 5 AAC 21.365(f)(1),(3). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chuck Smith

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would add the area within one-half mile of the mean high tide mark of the Kasilof Section to the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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. Set gillnets may be operated only within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark and drift gillnets may not be operated in waters within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark. There is no minimum distance between gear, except that a gillnet may not be set or operated within 600 feet of a set gillnet located outside of the special harvest area.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest rates of sockeye salmon bound for the Kasilof River while helping protect Kenai River bound stocks. It would still harvest Kenai River bound sockeye salmon but not to the extent they would be if the fishing area was one and one-half mile from shore. The effect on the harvest rate of king salmon is unknown.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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 Kasilof River Special Harvest Area 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 Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

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.

PROPOSAL 186: 5 AAC 21.365(f)(3). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sarah Pellegrom

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the amount of fishing area available to set gillnet fishermen by 600 feet and reduce amount of fishing area available to drift gillnet fishermen by 600 feet.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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. Set gillnets may be operated only within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark and drift gillnets may not be operated in waters within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark. There is no minimum distance between gear, except that a gillnet may not be set or operated within 600 feet of a set gillnet located outside of the special harvest area.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal may increase set gillnet harvests and reduce drift gillnet harvests. In general however, it is unknown what effect this change may have on overall harvest rates of sockeye and king salmon.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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 below average. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area 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 Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

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.

PROPOSAL 172: 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would clarify how the department could use the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. It also reduces the closed window and allows for additional fishing time in an area within one-half mile of the shore in order to harvest Kasilof River sockeye during times when Kenai River sockeye are in need of protection.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened to the taking of salmon when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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 and waters open to set gillnetting.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted, the department would manage the Kasilof Section for Kasilof River stocks as it was prior to the windows and hourly limitations being placed in regulation. In general, the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area would be used less, reducing conflicts observed in the past. It would also allow the department to fish the Kasilof Section within one-half mile of shore, which most likely would maintain current harvest rates of Kasilof River bound sockeye salmon but reduce the harvest rate of Kenai River bound sockeye salmon. This proposal would increase the harvest rates of sockeye salmon bound for the Kasilof River while helping protect Kenai River bound stocks. It would still harvest Kenai River bound sockeye salmon but not to the extent they would be if the fishing area was one and one-half mile from shore.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the optimal escapement goal (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The KRSHA is a valuable tool in years of average to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs and weak Kenai River sockeye salmon runs. In prior years, the department opened the entire Kasilof Section within ½-mile of shore as a means of minimizing Kenai river sockeye salmon harvests for conservation. The department continues to implement this strategy whenever window or hourly limits do not preclude this option.

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.

PROPOSAL 173: 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Joel Doner

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would clarify how the department could use the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. It also reduces the closed window and allows for additional fishing time in an area within one-half mile of the shore in order to harvest Kasilof River sockeye during times when Kenai River sockeye are in need of protection.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened to the taking of salmon when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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 and waters open to set gillnetting.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted, the department would manage the Kasilof Section for Kasilof River stocks as it was prior to the windows and hourly limitations being placed in regulation. In general, the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area would be used less, reducing conflicts observed in the past. It would also allow the department to fish the Kasilof Section within one-half mile of shore, which most likely would maintain current harvest rates of Kasilof River bound sockeye salmon but reduce the harvest rate of Kenai River bound sockeye salmon. This proposal

would increase the harvest rates of sockeye salmon bound for the Kasilof River while helping protect Kenai River bound stocks. It would still harvest Kenai River bound sockeye salmon but not to the extent they would be if the fishing area was one and one-half mile from shore.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the optimal escapement goal (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The KRSHA is a valuable tool in years of average to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs and weak Kenai River sockeye salmon runs. In prior years, the department opened the entire Kasilof Section within ½-mile of shore as a means of minimizing Kenai river sockeye salmon harvests for conservation. The department continues to implement this strategy whenever window or hourly limits do not preclude this option.

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.

PROPOSAL 174: 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Robert L. Ball, Jr.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete subsection (f), regulations governing the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area, of the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened to the taking of salmon when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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 and waters open to set gillnetting.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? In years when the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is poor but the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is average or above, exploitation rates of sockeye salmon would decrease and exceeding the Kasilof River escapement goal would increase. Elimination of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area would reduce conflicts between set and gill net fishermen that have been observed in the past. This proposal may increase the sport effort and harvest of king and sockeye salmon and the personal use harvest of sockeye salmon.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the optimal escapement goal (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. The KRSHA is a valuable tool in years of average to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs and weak Kenai River sockeye salmon runs. In prior years, the department opened the entire Kasilof Section within ½-mile of shore as a means of minimizing Kenai river sockeye salmon harvests for conservation. The department continues to implement this strategy whenever window or hourly limits do not preclude this option.

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.

PROPOSAL 175: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Craig

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would create corridors or place limits on the amount of time that can be fished in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. This proposal also would require nets to be manned and picked in a timely manner.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened to the taking of salmon when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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 and waters open to set gillnetting.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Because the corridors and time restrictions is not defined, in is unclear to the exact effects this proposal would have. However, in years when the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is poor but the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is average or above, exploitation rates of sockeye salmon would decrease and exceeding the Kasilof River escapement goal would increase. This proposal may increase the sport effort and harvest of king and sockeye salmon and the personal use harvest of sockeye salmon.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the optimal escapement goal (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. The KRSHA is a valuable tool in years of average to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs and weak Kenai River sockeye salmon runs. In prior years, the department opened the entire Kasilof Section within ½-mile of shore as a means of minimizing Kenai river sockeye salmon harvests for conservation. The department continues to implement this strategy whenever window or hourly limits do not preclude this option.

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.

PROPOSAL 176: 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Robert L. Ball, Jr.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would place two 24 hour windows in the Kasilof Section, including the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area when it is used.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Kasilof Section there are window and emergency order limits in place. Prior to July 8 there is a single 48 hour window and 48 hours of additional fishing time. After July 8 restrictions are dependant on the size of the Kenai return. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened to the taking of salmon when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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 and waters open to set gillnetting. This area is currently not included in the window closures in the Upper Subdistrict.

After July 15, if the department determines that the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run strength is projected to be less than two million fish and the 300,000 optimal escapement goal for the Kasilof River sockeye salmon may be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open fishing for an additional 24-hours per week in the Kasilof Section within one-half mile of shore.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? In years when the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is poor but the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is average or above, exploitation rates of sockeye salmon would most likely decrease and the likelihood of exceeding the Kasilof River escapement goal would increase. This proposal may increase the sport effort and harvest of king and sockeye salmon and the personal use harvest of sockeye salmon.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the optimal escapement goal (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

There is no escapement goal for Kasilof River late-run king salmon. In 2005 the department began a late-run king salmon assessment program to estimate run-timing and

spawning distribution. Information gained from this first year allowed the department to add a mark-recapture phase to the program to estimate abundance of late-run Kasilof River king salmon in 2006-2007. The current management plan is more restrictive than what it historically has been during the history of this fishery and king salmon runs into the Kasilof River have been sustainable.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. The KRSHA is a valuable tool in years of average to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs and weak Kenai River sockeye salmon runs. In prior years, the department opened the entire Kasilof Section within ½-mile of shore as a means of minimizing Kenai river sockeye salmon harvests for conservation. The department continues to implement this strategy whenever window or hourly limits do not preclude this option.

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.

PROPOSAL 170: 5 AAC 21.365(f). Kasilof River Salmon Management plan.

PROPOSED BY: South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Alliance

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require the South K-Beach statistical area (244-31), located just north of the Kasilof River to the Blanchard Line, to be open when the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is open.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area may be opened to the taking of salmon when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 275,000 fish. 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 and waters open to set gillnetting.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the harvest of sockeye salmon bound for the Kasilof River, which are migrating from the north. It would also increase harvests of sockeye and king salmon bound for the Kenai River.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was developed by the Board of Fisheries 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. During the past three seasons, the KRSHA has been opened by emergency order to the taking of salmon by gillnets when it was projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement would exceed 275,000 fish. 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. Although 680,000 sockeye salmon were commercially harvested in the terminal harvest area in 2006, the Kasilof River OEG of 150,000 to 300,000 was exceeded by 67,000 sockeye salmon. The king salmon harvest was 2,518 in this same area. Concerning escapements, the Kasilof River biological escapement goal (150,000-250,000) has been exceeded 8 of 9 years since 1999, and since the optimal escapement goal (150,000-300,000) was adopted prior to the 2002 season, that goal has been met once and exceeded 5 of 6 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but is **OPPOSED** to management measures that are not necessary and would possibly increase the harvest of Kenai River sockeye and king salmon while other areas of the Kasilof Section are closed for conservation. In prior years, the department opened the entire Kasilof Section within ½ mile of shore as a means of minimizing Kenai River sockeye salmon harvests for conservation. The department continues to implement this strategy whenever window or hourly limits do not preclude this option. Opening the area north of the river only would be a major reallocation.

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.

PROPOSAL 171: 5 AAC 21.365(e). Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Beaudoin

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would delete subsection (e), which addresses sport fishing regulations, from the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In addition to the provisions of 5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57.160 applicable to the Kasilof River, from January 1 through July 31, the guided sport fishery for early-run and late-run Kasilof River king salmon will be managed so that a sport fishing guide may not sport fish while a client is present or is within the sport fishing guide's control or responsibility. A sport fishing guide may provide assistance to a client with a disability. During any one day, a sport fishing guide may guide only that client or group of clients initially guided by the sport fishing guide that day; different or additional clients may not be guided.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? There would be no effect on the sport fishery if these provisions were moved to Chapter 56.

BACKGROUND: The Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan was first adopted following the 1985 season. In 2002 many other provisions were added including the sport fish regulations. The department considers this a housekeeping proposal.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** moving, not deleting, the sport fishing regulations identified in this proposal. Sport fishing regulations under 5

AAC 21.365 would be better served with other Kasilof River sport fishing regulations found under 5 AAC 56.XXX. The sport fish definitions in (g) should also accompany the realignment.

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.

**COMMITTEE D – KENAI PENINSULA PERSONAL USE/KENAI RIVER
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