



**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON
PUBLIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS
KENAI AND KASILOF RIVERS' EARLY-RUN KING SALMON
MANAGEMENT PLANS**

KPC 1

RECOMMENDATION: No guided angling on Saturday and Sunday.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Under current regulations, guided anglers may not fish on Sundays during the early-run fishery. Reducing guided angling by one additional day would likely have little effect on exploitation in the early-run fishery because those anglers typically choose to schedule fishing for another open day. Reductions of more than one day are typically necessary to make a significant reduction in harvest.

RECOMMENDATION: Mondays closed to all fishing. *(Similar to KPC 9 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This recommendation would reduce the amount of time available to non-guided anglers by an additional day. Current regulations provide for non-guided drift boat only fishing on that day. Although data are not available to estimate early-run season harvest during drift-only Mondays during May-June, it would be substantially less than the harvest on drift-only Mondays in July. During the July fishery, drift-only Mondays account for 2%-3% of the total harvest.

RECOMMENDATION: Outlaw the practice of dragging anchor as a means of slowing the vessel for fishing purposes.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The use of an anchor to slow the vessel while fishing would not by itself result in an appreciable decrease in exploitation. Banning dragging an anchor to slow a vessel while fishing would be unenforceable.

RECOMMENDATION: Anglers are restricted to one trip per day on the Kasilof River.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation. Guided anglers are restricted to one trip per day on the Kasilof River as part of the management plan currently in effect for the Kasilof River.

RECOMMENDATION: Limit the number of fishermen per boat to no more than two fishermen on a drift boat and no more than four on a powerboat.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation. Limiting the number of fishermen in a boat (drift and power) may reduce overall effort in the fishery, but it could also increase the number of boats on the river.

KPC 2

RECOMMENDATION: No mandatory catch and release regulations.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. Catch and release is a management tool that can be used as a step down plan to avoid complete closures. The BOF has recognized this approach in 5 AAC 75.003. EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORITY. (1)(B).

RECOMMENDATION: Apply regulations equally and provide equal opportunity for guided and non-guided anglers.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Kenai and Kasilof River anglers may not retain early-run king salmon 48 inches or longer.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The length threshold of 48 inches would not protect a sufficient number of older, 5-ocean king salmon in the Kenai River fishery. This recommendation would remove from harvest approximately 10% of the available return in any given year in the Kenai River. There are no compiled size data for the Kasilof River. Protection of larger, older-aged fish has not been identified as a problem on the Kasilof River and is therefore an unnecessary loss of harvest opportunity for anglers.

RECOMMENDATION: Restrict harvest to hatchery king only between January 1 and June 30 on the Kasilof River. *(Similar to KPC 30 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation. This recommendation meets the department's stated position of requiring a hatchery fish retention only fishery to ensure that the department is likely to achieve the SEG for Crooked Creek. Under current stocking levels, the average available harvest may likely decline by 50%. However, given that only fin-clipped fish may be retained, anglers may choose to release fewer legal early-run king salmon, which could result in a smaller decline in total harvest. The department would like at least two additional years of unexploited natural escapement before we recommend a harvest strategy for hatchery and naturally produced early-run kings.

RECOMMENDATION: Close the Kenai River above Soldotna Bridge to king fishing (no specified dates).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation as it would likely result in an unnecessary loss of harvest opportunity for both early and late run king salmon. Historically, the total early run harvest from Jan. 1 through June 30 in this area of the Kenai River has averaged about 36% of the seasonal total, or about 2,200 early-run kings per year from this river section. Current spawning closure areas are located at the Kenai River confluences with Funny River and Killey River. These sanctuary areas were established to protect staging early run fish. Complete closure of this area of the river during the early-run fishery (January 1- June 30) and during the late-run fishery (July 1-July 31) is unnecessary to achieve the early-run BEG.

RECOMMENDATION: Close the Kenai River to king fishing 100 yd above and below all spawning tributaries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The current early run management plan for the Kenai River provides for adequate protection

of returning king salmon to the major tributary locations. Current spawning closure areas are located at Slikok Creek, Funny River and Killey River. The current closed areas surrounding these tributary locations are considerably greater than the proposed 100 yards upstream and downstream of the tributaries. Therefore, this recommendation would reduce the total distance of the closed waters near these tributary locations.

KPC 3

RECOMMENDATION: Institute a daily fee based system for fishing access to the Kenai/Kasilof Rivers for all users.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. Instituting a fee-based fishing access program is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Institute lower harvest levels on threatened fisheries with an emphasis on keeping the fishery open at all times, to be liberalized by managers using in-season bio-data.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the concepts in this recommendation. Managing fisheries to achieve escapement objectives, allowing sport fishing opportunity and using in-season data to liberalize harvest opportunity when warranted are objectives that are included in every department management program.

RECOMMENDATION: Increase resident guide and rental boat permit fees.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. Regulating guide or rental boat permit fees is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Increase or improve public access on both rivers, financed in part by new fees.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. Implementing a fee-based program for the funding of public access programs is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Make the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers separate permits and fees.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. Requiring permits and fees is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Reduce the general fishing hours (i.e. 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) to reduce illegal angling activity.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The Department is OPPOSED to this recommendation. While the department recognizes that potential illegal angling during late night hours may affect the management objectives for the Kenai River early-run king salmon fishery, we believe illegal angling problems are best managed and corrected through education and enforcement programs, not by eliminating angling opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION: Freeze new guide permits until managers have implemented a long term, comprehensive, and equitable management plan.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. Regulating the number of angling guide permits is not within the board's authority.

KPC 4

RECOMMENDATION: Base management plans for both the Kenai and Kasilof on allocating at least 50% of the early run king harvest to resident anglers and non-guided anglers.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Based upon the Statewide Harvest Survey, on average (1996-2001), non-guided anglers (resident and non-resident) harvest about 40% of the early-run king salmon on the Kenai River and resident anglers (guided and non-guided) harvest 35-40%. On the Kasilof River non-guided anglers (resident and non-resident) harvest 40% of the early-run king salmon on the Kenai River and resident anglers (guided and non-guided) harvest 35-40%.

KPC 5

RECOMMENDATION: Single hook, no bait until escapement is assured; liberalize with emergency orders. *(Similar to KPC 10, 15, 18/19, 21, 23, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the concepts in this recommendation. This recommendation is similar to the department's recommendation to limit the fishery to single hook, no bait use from January 1 through June 30. Liberalization to bait would occur whenever the department could project that the upper limit of the escapement goal would be exceeded. Use of bait could also increase participation by unguided (and possibly resident) angler. Although this recommendation would not specifically afford protection of 5-ocean early-run king salmon, it could be combined with a slot or no retention zone to afford protection to 5-ocean kings.

RECOMMENDATION: No guided boat angling on Sundays and Mondays; no guided angling from motorized boats on Tuesdays; No guided angling except between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday. If escapement is projected to exceed the upper end of the range, the Department may open the fishery on closed days to guided anglers using non-motorized boats. *(Similar to KPC 18/19, 23, 24, 29, & 30 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on these allocative recommendations. This measure would duplicate part of the existing regulation prohibiting guided fishing on Sundays (unguided only) and Mondays (unguided and non-motorized only). It would additionally require guided anglers to fish from drift boats only on Tuesdays and reduce the total number of hours available for guides to fish each day by 2 hours. The net effect of these recommendations on harvest of Kenai River early-run kings cannot be accurately estimated but would likely reduce harvest by less than 5%.

RECOMMENDATION: During the months of May and June, non-guided anglers may not fish from a motorized boat on Monday. However, if the Department projects that the upper end of the escapement goal will be exceeded the Department may open the fishery to non-guided boat anglers on Mondays.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This measure would duplicate the current, existing regulation for non-guided anglers on the Kenai River on Mondays with a minor provision that the fishery could be liberalized to include powerboats for non-guided fishermen if the upper end of the escapement goal can be projected to be exceeded. The department supports the flexibility to liberalize regulations by EO in the event escapement will exceed the BEG range. This recommendation would not change the potential harvest unless the fishery was liberalized to include the use of powerboats.

RECOMMENDATION: During May and June, fish over 48 inches in length may not be retained unless the Department projects that the percent of 5-ocean fish in the total return will exceed 5 percent or 500 fish and that the over-all escapement goal or 7,200 – 14,000 fish will be achieved. If these conditions are met then the Department may open the fishery to the retention of fish larger than 48 inches in length.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The size restriction in this recommendation would not provide sufficient protection for 5-ocean king salmon in the overall return. This recommendation would remove from harvest approximately 10% of the available return in any given year in the Kenai River. The department would also have considerable uncertainty in projecting a specific abundance or percentage of 5-ocean fish during the season. An accurate projection of this type would likely occur very late in the season or be prone to management error.

RECOMMENDATION: For the month of July the area above the Soldotna Bridge is closed to the taking of king salmon greater than 48 inches unless the Department removes the restrictions on size per the requirements of the above paragraph. If the escapement objectives are not met, then this area shall be closed to king salmon fishing until 21 July and the size limit maintained throughout July.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. This recommendation would remove from harvest less than 10% of the available return, on average, in any given year in the Kenai River. Refer to specific comments under previous recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: For the month of July, the area above the Soldotna Bridge is closed to guided anglers using motorized boats.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Restricting guided anglers to drift-boats only during July, above the Soldotna Bridge would likely reduce the total harvest during the July fishery by 5% - 10%, and would likely result in changes to the lower river fishery as a consequence of restrictions in this area.

RECOMMENDATION: From May 1 through June 30 only one king salmon may be harvested from the Kenai River. However, if the Department projects that the upper end of the escapement goal will be exceeded, the Department may allow the retention of an

additional king salmon. However, the season bag and possession limit for the Kenai River will remain at two. *(Similar to KPC 18/19, 23, & 24 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation. This recommendation would reduce the current limit of 2 king salmon allowed in the early run to 1 fish with the provision that the department may allow an additional fish to be harvested if the upper end of the escapement goal range is projected to be exceeded. This measure would affect non-resident anglers more than resident anglers. About 5% of non-resident anglers harvested two early-run Kenai kings in 1999 and about 6% harvested two in 2001. Less than 1% of resident anglers harvest two early run Kenai kings in 1999 and 2001. The department estimates that this recommendation would reduce harvest by no more than 5% for the early-run fishery and it would not specifically afford protection of 5-ocean early-run king salmon.

RECOMMENDATION: Other regulations already in place that limit the number of guided anglers fishing per boat, number of rods fishing, restrictions on guides fishing, registration of guides, etc. shall remain in place.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation.

KPC 6

RECOMMENDATION: From January 1 to June 30 or until the escapement is projected to meet 7,200 all fish with the exception of those 20 inches or less will be released. No bait or multiple hooks will be allowed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. While the department supports the concept of starting the fishery conservatively until we know the size of the run, we support other methods (no bait, single hook, and a slot limit that affords harvest opportunity) to accomplish this without the use of catch-and-release. Currently, the department is able to project with reasonable accuracy and precision the final escapement between June 5 and June 10.

RECOMMENDATION: When the escapement is projected to reach 7,200, king salmon less than 50 inches in length may be retained.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The size restriction in this recommendation would not provide sufficient protection for 5-ocean king salmon in the overall return. After such time that a projection can be made, approximately 96% of the available king salmon in the return would be exposed to harvest. The department supports management tools such as catch-and-release or trophy fishing to step down the fishery prior to total closure. The department supports total closure when, after stepping down the fishery, we are unable to meet the minimum escapement of 7,200.

KPC 7

RECOMMENDATION: Reduce the bag limit for kings to one king from the Kenai and one king from the Kasilof for non-residents.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This measure would affect non-resident anglers more than resident anglers. About 5% of non-resident anglers harvested two early-run Kenai kings in 1999

and about 6% harvested two in 2001. Less than 1% of resident anglers harvest two early run Kenai kings in 1999 and 2001. In Kasilof River, about 4% of non-residents harvested more than 1 early-run king in 1999 and about 9% harvested more than one early run king in 2001. Limiting all anglers to harvest of one early-run Kenai River king salmon may reduce harvest by approximately 5% overall. Limiting non-resident anglers to a harvest of one early-run Kasilof River king salmon may reduce harvest by about 6% overall.

KPC 8

RECOMMENDATION: From May 1 through June 30, guides should be limited to three days per week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and only one trip per day on either the Kenai or Kasilof.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This recommendation would reduce the current 5 days per week fishing opportunity allowed to guided anglers in the Kenai River during May and June to 3 days per week. This would reduce the opportunity of guided anglers by 40% and possibly reduce overall harvest by some unknown amount. This recommendation would also reduce the current 7 days per week fishing opportunity for guided anglers on the Kasilof River to 3 days. This would result in an overall reduction of 57% of the available fishing opportunity for guided anglers on the Kasilof River and reduce overall harvest by some unknown amount. Reducing Kenai River guides to one trip (one set of clients) per day may reduce harvest overall by 2% or less.

RECOMMENDATION: Catch and release should be prohibited until minimum escapement goals are achieved; provided however, no fish exceeding 45 inches in length may be retained regardless of escapement.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES the prohibiting catch-and-release until the minimum escapement goals are achieved for the reasons stated under the KPC 2 recommendation. The department SUPPORTS the concept of size limit as an option to provide sufficient protection for 5-ocean king salmon in the overall return, although this recommendation does not provide for the department's recommended opportunity to harvest a trophy fish greater than 55 inches. A 45-inch maximum size retention limit would protect approximately 75% of the 5-ocean king salmon return and 22% of the total returning king salmon from harvest in the early-run.

RECOMMENDATION: From June 1 through July 14, no king fishing should be allowed above the bridge in Soldotna. *(Similar to KPC 10 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. Such a restriction would unnecessarily eliminate harvest opportunity in that area of the Kenai River, when sufficient protection is afforded by tributary sanctuaries already in regulation. The existing management plan currently provides protection with the fishing closures at Morgans Hole (closed to fishing from boats May 15-July 31) and above and below the mouths of the Funny River (January 1-July 14), and the Killey River (June 25-July 14). Closing the fishery above the Soldotna Bridge from January 1 through July 14 would achieve an overall early-run king salmon harvest reduction of approximately 36%,

or 1,800 early-run king salmon per year. In addition, anglers would likely forgo a harvest of approximately 1,000 late-run king salmon during this time period.

RECOMMENDATION: Establish a no-guiding zone from Eagle Rock through Beaver Creek from May 1 through July 31.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Beaver Creek is located at approximately river mile 10 and Eagle Rock is approximately river mile 11.5. The department does not have data to estimate the likely reduction in guided effort or harvest in this area of the Kenai River. It is likely that reducing crowding in this area of the Kenai may cause crowding in another area of river.

RECOMMENDATION: Make the early-run of kings a resident only fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Currently non-resident harvest accounts for 55-60% of the early-run king salmon harvest. This level of harvest reduction is not necessary to meet any of the current management objectives for the Kenai River early-run king salmon fishery.

KPC 9

RECOMMENDATION: Allow even-numbered boats (Registration Number) to fish in the morning one week, with the odd-numbered fishing in the afternoon. The following week, reverse the process.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. This recommendation would seek to lower overall effort and harvest in the fishery by reducing “boat” participation. However, this measure would reduce effort only if the total number of boat anglers and angling boats were to remain static. Given the popularity of the Kenai River fishery, reducing boat densities on the river would likely encourage additional participation in the absence of a limitation on total boat numbers allowed on the river. Such an outcome would likely be self-defeating for the objectives of this proposal. Regulating even numbered boats to fish during morning hours one week and odd numbered boats during the afternoon would create even greater complexity to an already complex framework of regulations for the Kenai River. No data is available to determine if this recommendation would result in a reduction of effort that would provide sufficient protection for 5-ocean king salmon in the overall return.

RECOMMENDATION: Close the Kenai River to fishing on Mondays. (*Similar to KPC 1 recommendation*)

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 1 recommendation.

KPC 10

RECOMMENDATION: No retention of kings from 45 inches in length to 55 inches in length from January 1 through June 30.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation. This recommendation matches the department’s recommendation to provide for harvest of king salmon in the fishery while protecting 5-ocean early-run king salmon. This

recommendation would protect from harvest approximately 75% of the 5-ocean early-run king salmon in the Kenai, on average, in any given year. In addition, it would provide for the possibility of retaining a very large king salmon that may be 55 inches or greater which during the early run comprise less than 0.23% of the total return. This recommendation is one of several methods that could be adopted by the Board of Fisheries to reduce overall exploitation and afford protection of 5-ocean early-run king salmon.

RECOMMENDATION: Single hooks, no bait from January 1 through June 30. *(Similar to KPC 5, 15,18/19, 21, 23, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS The department SUPPORTS this recommendation. This recommendation matches the department's recommendation to limit the fishery to single hook, no bait use from January 1 through June 30. Refer to specific comments under KPC 5 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: No king fishing above the Soldotna Bridge from January 1 through July 15. *(Similar to KPC 8 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 8 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Single hooks, no bait from July 15 through July 20 above Soldotna Bridge. *(Similar to KPC 5, 15,18/19, 23, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. This recommendation would extend the current regulatory framework provided during May and June into that area of the Kenai River above the Soldotna Bridge during July 15 through July 20. The restriction against using bait for a 5-day period in July would add an unnecessarily complex element to the management of Kenai River king salmon for the likely very small reduction in overall exploitation. In addition, any harvest reduction would be an unnecessary loss of harvest opportunity for any late run king salmon in that area of the Kenai River.

KPC 11

RECOMMENDATION: If after using a conservation tag system, the early-run king salmon is unable to reach the minimum escapement goal, the department could then use a 28-55 inch slot to prevent harvest.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION regarding the conservation tag recommendation. The creation of a conservation tag is not within the board's authority. It is unknown what the effect of reducing overall exploitation a conservation tag would have on the fishery. The department OPPOSES the 28-55 inch slot limit recommendation. Reducing the size limit for retention of only those fish less than 28 inches or those fish greater than 55 inches would remove approximately 90% or more of the early-run king salmon from the fishery. Such a restriction would reduce harvest opportunity beyond what the department believes is necessary to protect 5-ocean fish and lower overall exploitation rate in the Kenai River.

KPC 12

RECOMMENDATION: Reduce the amount of fishing guides on the Kenai River.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. The reduction of registered guides is not within the board's authority.

KPC 13

RECOMMENDATION: The Kenai River early run king salmon fishery shall be managed for a sustainable baseline exploitation rate of 20%.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES the use of a fixed exploitation rate to manage the early run king salmon fishery. The sustainable salmon management policy (5 AAC 39.222) and the statewide salmon escapement goal policy (5 AAC 39.223) specify that salmon in Alaska be managed under the concept of an escapement goal. However, the department supports lowering of the overall exploitation rate in the early run king fishery through the use of management measures that are tied to the achievement of the 7,200 to 14,400 fish BEG range.

RECOMMENDATION: No bait, single hook artificial lure, no retention of Kenai River early-run king 42 inches or more in length.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the no bait, single hook artificial lure recommendation and OPPOSES the 42 inch non-retention limit. Refer to KPC 5 recommendation for specific no bait, single hook artificial lure comments. Staff analysis of harvest management strategies necessary to provide adequate protection of 5-ocean Kenai River early run king salmon and reduce the overall exploitation rates suggest that a 42 inch or larger non-retention restriction may be unnecessarily restrictive, but would achieve those objectives. A 42 inch non-retention limit would make available for harvest approximately 42%, on average, of the available king salmon returning to the Kenai River during the early run. While protecting most 5-ocean king salmon from harvest, it would likely decrease harvest of 4-ocean king salmon by 50%.

RECOMMENDATION: If the Kenai River early run escapement is projected to fall short of the BEG, the fishery shall be closed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the closure of the fishery if the escapement goal range will not be achieved, but also supports the use of inseason management measures to step down the fishery before total closure.

RECOMMENDATION: If the Kenai River early run escapement is projected to exceed the BEG, the fishery shall be liberalized in a stepwise fashion to 1) allow bait, 2) add extra fishing days, or 3) relax the non-retention restriction to achieve maximum harvest of stock in excess of an escapement of 14,400.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation, although at this time we do not support dropping a slot limit or non-retention restriction intended to protect 5-ocean kings.

KPC 14

RECOMMENDATION: Close the Kenai River early run fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. This would be an unnecessary measure to meet the management goals and objectives we have identified for the sustainable management of this fishery.

RECOMMENDATION: No Kenai River guided angling on Sundays.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NETURAL on this recommendation. This recommendation duplicates the current regulation for the Kenai River early-run king salmon.

RECOMMENDATION: Kenai River guided angling restricted to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation. This recommendation duplicates the current regulation for the Kenai River early-run king salmon.

RECOMMENDATION: Kenai River closed to fishing from boats on Mondays.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. The current regulation in effect for the Kenai River provides that only non-guided anglers from non-motorized boats may fish on Mondays. Closing the Kenai River to fishing on Mondays would provide a mechanism towards achieving the department's stated management objective of lowering overall exploitation in the early-run king salmon fishery. However it would likely reduce only a small amount of fishing effort by non-guided drift boat anglers who may fish on Mondays

KPC 15

RECOMMENDATION: January 1 – June 7 artificial lure only, no retention by anglers fishing from a boat, bank anglers are allowed retention of fish 45 inches and under, only 1 king allowed from the early run by bank anglers.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This recommendation would provide for a conservative prosecution of the fishery until a date that department staff typically is able to make the first inseason estimate of total in-river return, harvest, and escapement. Department staff believes this is unnecessarily restrictive and would add unnecessary complexity to the regulations, but would contribute to the objective of reducing the overall exploitation rate in the fishery. This recommendation would essentially create a catch and release fishery during the January 1 - June 7 timeframe because the harvest of king salmon by bank anglers is less than 1% of the total harvest. Reducing the seasonal bag and possession limit to one fish may reduce the total harvest or early-run kings by no more than 5%.

RECOMMENDATION: June 8 – June 30 artificial lures only, 1 per day/1 in possession, no retention of fish over 45 inches in length, only one king allowed from the early run. (*Artificial lures similar to KPC 5, 10, 18/19, 21, 23, & 29 recommendations*)(*Bag limit similar to KPC 5, & 7*)

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the concepts of this recommendation for artificial lures and no retention of fish over 45 inches and OPPOSES the daily/season possession limit recommendation. Refer to specific comments on artificial lures under KPC 5 recommendation. The bag limit recommendation would go into effect after approximately 38% of the average seasonal harvest has occurred (May-early June) and based upon a 45 inch maximum retention size limit would protect approximately 22% of the fish in the return although it does not provide for the department's recommended opportunity to harvest a trophy fish greater than 55 inches. . About 5% of non-resident anglers harvested two early-run Kenai kings in 1999 and about 6% harvested two in 2001. Less than 1% of resident anglers harvest two early run Kenai kings in 1999 and 2001. Reducing the seasonal bag and possession limit to one fish may reduce the total harvest or early-run kings by no more than 5%. The department recommends maintaining the no bait, single hook artificial lure currently in effect from January 1 through June 30 to achieve a conservative overall exploitation rate.

RECOMMENDATION: January 1 – June 30 a king salmon 58 inches or greater in length may be retained.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation, but supports the use of slot limit to protect 5-ocean king salmon while providing the rare opportunity to keep a trophy king salmon. Combined with the no retention of fish over 45 inches in length, this would create a slot limit similar to the department's recommended 45 – 55 inch slot limit, although it does not extend the slot limit into the middle river beyond June 30. The proportion of king salmon that are 58 inches or greater is typically less than 0.1% of the total return during the early run to the Kenai River. This recommendation is one of several methods that could be adopted by the Board of Fisheries to reduce overall exploitation and afford protection of 5-ocean early-run king salmon.

RECOMMENDATION: Develop limited entry for Kenai and Kasilof River guides. *(Similar to KPC 12 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. The reduction of registered guides is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Allow only one trip per day by guides on the Kenai River.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Limiting Kenai River fishing guides to one trip per day during the early-run fishery would achieve a small reduction in harvest and would contribute very little to an overall reduction in the exploitation rate in this fishery. Although data are not available to estimate the effect of this proposal on harvest, currently about 22% of guided trips in the early-run are "double" trips.

RECOMMENDATION: After harvesting a king salmon 20 inches or longer on the Kasilof River, an angler may not fish for any species of fish in the Kasilof River on the same day.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the concept of this recommendation, although we recommend an adipose fin-clip harvest fishery. This

recommendation is similar to the department's recommendation that after harvesting a king on the Kasilof River, anglers may not continue to fish for that day. This requirement would likely reduce fish sorting and encourage anglers to cycle through the fishery, reducing hooking mortality and angler crowding.

KPC 16

RECOMMENDATION: Reduce the number of guides on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. *(Similar to KPC 12 & 15 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. The reduction of registered guides is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Require catch & release for all guided anglers.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on the allocative recommendation, but OPPOSES any unnecessarily severe reductions in harvest opportunity until the size of the return has been determined. If non-guided angler effort did not increase, this proposal would likely reduce harvest potential by up to 80%, creating an unnecessarily severe reduction in harvest.

KPC 17

RECOMMENDATION: Institute a trophy king locking tag and fee. *(Similar to KPC11 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. The creation of a trophy king locking tag is not within the board's authority. It is unknown what the effect of reducing overall exploitation a tag and fee would have on the fishery.

RECOMMENDATION: Maintain sanctuaries all year and extend boundaries, including closing the Kenai River from Poachers Cove upstream July 15.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. This recommendation would unnecessarily restrict fishing in sanctuary areas during times when early run king salmon are not present and would unnecessarily reduce fishing opportunities for late run king salmon upstream of Poacher's Cove. Current sanctuary areas and dates are sufficient to provide protection to early run king salmon once the late run begins.

KPC 18 & KPC 19

RECOMMENDATION: From January 1 through June 30, only one king salmon may be harvested from the Kenai River. If the Department projects that the upper end of the escapement goal will be exceeded the Department may allow the retention of an additional king salmon. The season bag and possession limit for the Kenai River will remain at two. *(Similar to KPC 5, 23, & 24 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 5 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: The Kenai River fishery shall be prosecuted without the use of bait, require the use of single hook artificial lures until escapement objectives for this stock are projected to be met. *(Similar to KPC 5, 10, 15, 21, 23, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation in combination with a slot limit. Refer to specific comments under KPC 5 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: In the event the Department determines that the upper end of the escapement (14,400) will be exceeded the Department may liberalize the fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation in combination with a slot limit. This recommendation would readopt a management provision that was previously in effect during the 1999-2001 seasons.

RECOMMENDATION: In the event the Department determines that the escapement objective will be met within the desired range (7,200-14,400) the Department may continue the fishery with single hook, artificial lures only and only fish over 55 inches in length may be retained.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation as a potential step down to achieve the escapement goal range.

RECOMMENDATION: In the event the Department determines that the escapement will fall below the desired range (7,200-14,400) the fishery shall be closed to fishing for king.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS management tools such as catch-and-release or trophy fishing to step down the fishery prior to total closure. The department supports total closure when, after stepping down the fishery, we are unable to meet the minimum escapement of 7,200.

RECOMMENDATION: During the early run of king in the Kenai River, the guided angler may fish only between the hours of 6 a.m.-2 p.m. *(Similar to KPC 5, 23, 24, 29 & 30 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This recommendation would reduce the current guided fishing day of 6:00 am to 6:00 pm by 33% and may or may not increase non-guided participation and harvest. This reduction in guided angler hours may result in harvest reduction of roughly 3%. Harvest and effort information indicates that 93% of guided trips are 8 hours or less and approximately 3% of total guided harvest is from guided anglers fishing longer than eight hours.

RECOMMENDATION: As long as there are significant harvestable surpluses there shall be no mandatory catch and release fishing for king on the Kenai River during the early run.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation. The RM survey indicated that the public overwhelmingly supports the maintenance of harvest opportunities in this fishery. However, the department also requires inseason management tools, such as catch-and-release, to step down the fishery to achieve the escapement goal range in the event that harvestable surpluses are not sufficient to provide for harvest opportunity throughout the season.

RECOMMENDATION: From July 1 to August 1, in the area upstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located below Slikok Creek, the king salmon fishery shall be prosecuted without the use of bait with single hook artificial lures unless the Department projects the Kenai River early run king salmon escapement will exceed 14,400. If the projected escapement is below 14,400 the existing sanctuary closures will be extended to 20 July.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The department does not believe that this recommendation is necessary to achieve current spawning escapement objectives for the Kenai River early king salmon run or to provide pre-cautionary protection for early-run 5-ocean kings. The department maintains that the available data support a conclusion that Kenai River early run king salmon are adequately protected by the current management plan guidelines. Therefore, this recommendation unnecessarily restricts harvest opportunity in that portion of the Kenai River during the July fishery.

RECOMMENDATION: During the months of May and June, all Sunday and Monday regulatory restrictions presently in regulation will remain in place.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: No more than two king salmon 20 inches or longer may be taken each year from the Kasilof River by non-residents, and only one of these may be taken before July 1.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This recommendation would create a differential bag limit for residents and non-residents. In Kasilof River, about 4% of non-residents harvested more than 1 early-run king in 1999 and about 9% harvested more than one early run king in 2001. It would also likely result in anglers directing additional harvest of late run king salmon should they want to retain a seasonal limit from the Kasilof River. The department does not have adequate information to determine the size or stability of the Kasilof River late king salmon run, or the exploitation rate of the late run fishery. The department opposes a seasonal bag and possession limit that would likely increase angling effort and exploitation on the Kasilof River late run king salmon stock until we have a better understanding of the status of that stock.

RECOMMENDATION: No more than three king salmon 20 inches or longer may be taken each year from the Kasilof River by residents, and only two of these may be taken before July 1.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This recommendation would create a differential bag limit for residents and non-residents. In Kasilof River, about 3% of residents harvested more than two early-run king salmon in 1999 and about 1% harvested more than two early-run king salmon in 2001.

RECOMMENDATION: In addition: the fishery shall be prosecuted as a single hook fishery and when an angler retains a fish they have to cease fishing. *(Similar to KPC 15 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation, although we additionally recommend an adipose fin-clip harvest fishery in addition to the single hook and cease fishing options. Refer to specific comments under KPC 15 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Anglers in boats be allowed the use of electric motors from Trujillo's Landing downriver.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation. The use of electric trolling motors would be only for transiting through the lower river area for safety reasons; not for use while fishing. This recommendation would not likely have an impact on the total harvest or total effort in the Kasilof River fishery and would provide a safe means of getting to the boat landing at Kasilof Kabins.

KPC 20

RECOMMENDATION: Additional days with no guides.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. This proposal would likely reduce the overall exploitation in the fishery as guided anglers typically harvest 60% to 65% of the total early run harvest. However, further reducing the number of guide days per week could very well create a situation with days of the week that would have very few people and the remaining days of the week becoming more crowded as guides would shift all their clients to the remaining days available to them.

RECOMMENDATION: Close season as necessary to protect runs as biologically necessary.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation. This recommendation would duplicate the current, existing regulation for the Kenai River early-run king salmon.

RECOMMENDATION: No catch and release seasons.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 2 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Only resident Alaskan guides be allowed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. The ability to restrict guides to only Alaskan residents is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Powerboats should be eliminated above the tide line on the river or at least above the Soldotna Bridge to prevent habitat degradation.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. This recommendation would severely restrict the fishery and significantly decrease the opportunity to harvest early run king salmon. This drastic measure is not necessary to sustain the fishery and protect 5-ocean king salmon. Powerboat use on the Kenai River generally occurs over a 6 month timeframe during any given year. The most intense period of use is during June, July and August. Given the limited timeframe of powerboat

use on the Kenai River, the degree of possible habitat change that may occur is not considered to be as encompassing as the natural processes (i.e., flooding, ice scouring, etc.) that normally affect the riparian areas of the river. Additionally, water levels during May and June are generally much lower than those experienced in July and August. Therefore, the use of boats during May and June would likely have a significantly reduced effect on bank erosion than the use of boats during the July and August fisheries. Therefore, the loss of public access to and utilization of the fishery resources of the Kenai River for a minimal effect upon habitat is unwarranted.

KPC 21

RECOMMENDATION: Use single hook, no bait until June 10. If the escapement is below 5,000 king salmon, close the fishery. If the escapement is above 10,000 king salmon, open the fishery to bait and single hook. If the escapement is between 5,000 and 10,000 king salmon, continue the fishery with no bait, single hook. *(Similar to KPC 5, 10, 15, 18/19, 23, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the concepts embodied in this recommendation in combination with a 45-55" slot limit. The department agrees that single hook and no bait should be used and will close the fishery if the minimum escapement goal of 7,200 fish will not be achieved despite step down actions. The department also agrees that the fishery can be liberalized (use of bait) if the escapement goal range will be exceeded.

KPC 22

RECOMMENDATION: Direct the department to relocate the enhancement project to upstream of the Kasilof River Bridge.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The ability to manage for sustainability of natural returns of king salmon in Crooked Creek while maximizing the harvest of hatchery produced king salmon requires accurate measurement of escapement of each component (natural and hatchery). Release of smolt into areas upstream of Crooked Creek would jeopardize the department's ability to manage for these two objectives because hatchery returns could not be accurately monitored. This recommendation would be contrary to current departmental policies regarding stocking of anadromous species and may pose significant biological risks for late run Chinook salmon in the Kasilof River.

KPC 23

RECOMMENDATION: Establish a system for limiting the number of king salmon tags available to non-resident anglers.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends that the board take NO ACTION on this proposal. Establishing a system for king salmon tags and limiting the number of tags that are available to non-resident anglers is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Restrict the use of bait and require the use of single hooks. *(Similar to KPC 5, 10, 15, 18/19, 21, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 5 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Restrict the hours guides can fish from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *(Similar to KPC 5, 18/19, 24, 29, & 30 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 18/19 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Extend closures of certain spawning areas. *(Similar to KPC 2 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 2 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Limit the season bag and possession limit for king salmon on the Kenai River from January 1 through June 30 to one fish per year. *(Similar to KPC 5, 18/19, 24, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 5 recommendation.

KPC 24

RECOMMENDATION: From the beginning of the early run until an escapement projection is made around June 15: single hook, artificial lures only. *(Similar to KPC 5, 10, 15, 18/19, 21, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation, although we recommend the current management practice of single hook, artificial lures only through June, unless the upper end of the escapement goal range is exceeded. Refer to specific comments under KPC 5 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: From the beginning of the early run until an escapement projection is made around June 15: only one fish can be retained. *(Similar to KPC 5, 18/19, & 24 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 5 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: If the escapement is projected to be less than 7,200 then the fishery will be closed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS management tools such as catch-and-release or trophy fishing to step down the fishery prior to total closure. The department supports total closure when, after stepping down the fishery, we are unable to meet the minimum escapement of 7,200.

RECOMMENDATION: If the escapement is projected to be between 7,200 and 14,400 then fishing will continue to be allowed under the same rules as above.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the concepts of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: If the escapement is projected to be over 14,400 then fishing with bait can be permitted and the harvest of a second fish will be allowed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS the liberalization of bait in this recommendation in combination with a slot limit. This recommendation seeks to readopt a regulation that is similar to a management provision that was established by the board during the 1999 meeting. The 1999 regulation allowed the department to liberalize the fishery by allowing bait when the department could project that the upper end of the escapement goal would be exceeded. The previous regulation differs from this recommendation in that the annual bag limit was not restricted to only 1 fish during the early run and consequently did not provide the option of increasing the bag limit when the upper limit of the escapement goal would be exceeded.

RECOMMENDATION: No more than two king salmon 20 inches or longer may be taken each year from the Kasilof River and only one of these may be taken before July 1 and only one of the two can be wild stock. *(Similar to KPC 18/19 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 15 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Further restrict guided fishing hours by limiting guided hours to 8 or 9 hours a day on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers with travel times from the launch to the fishing location included in the allowed times duration. *(Similar to KPC 5, 18/19, 23, 29, & 30 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 18/19 recommendation.

KPC 26

RECOMMENDATION: If the early sonar counts shows that the overall run may be in jeopardy, no catch and release fishing should be allowed. *(Similar to KPC 2 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 2 recommendation.

KPC 27

RECOMMENDATION: The Kasilof River, from ADF&G markers 1,500 yards downstream of the mouth of Crooked Creek, upstream to ADF&G markers at the smolt trap, is closed to fishing from boats from May 15 until the end of king salmon fishing or June 30, which ever is later.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. The department recognizes that due to very limited bank angling opportunities, conflicts have grown between bank anglers and boat anglers during the Kasilof early king salmon fishery. This recommendation would create a bank only fishing area within the extended confluence area of Crooked Creek and the Kasilof River.

This area is one of the few locations on the Kenai Peninsula where bank fishermen are provided easy access to waters that present excellent opportunity to successfully harvest king salmon. Recent expansion of the drift boat fishery within the past few years in this area of the Kasilof River has begun to displace bank anglers in what was traditionally a shore orientated fishery. The length of river that this recommendation would close to boat angling likely exceeds that portion of the river that bank anglers typically prefer to use.

KPC 29

RECOMMENDATION: Add one additional drift boat only one day per week on the Kenai River.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this recommendation. Although the department is not able to estimate the effect of this recommendation, it would likely reduce overall effort and subsequent harvest in the fishery by a small amount, would not result in a significant decrease given the limited number of days and the fact that some level of participation would still be allowed, and does not afford protection of 5-ocean early-run king salmon.

RECOMMENDATION: Only allow guides to fish between the hours of 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. *(Similar to KPC 5, 18/19, 23, 24, & 30 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 18/19 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Close the Kasilof River to guided fishing on the same days of the week that the Kenai River is closed to guided fishing.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. The department agrees that it is important to consider the effects to the Kasilof River fishery from regulatory actions applied to the Kenai River fishery.

RECOMMENDATION: Suspend the Kenai River Classic until stocks of the early run are rebuilt.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board TAKE NO ACTION on this recommendation. Regulating a specific fishing event or derby is not within the board's authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Ban hook and release of the early run trophy kings. When you catch one fish you are finished fishing.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The current regulation in effect requires anglers to discontinue fishing after they have caught and retained a king salmon. This recommendation would mandate that any fish caught must be retained. Banning any practice of catch and release angling on any Alaskan water would constitute an unnecessary and unjustifiable restriction of personal choice for Alaskan anglers.

RECOMMENDATION: Prohibit the use of bait. Only a single hook artificial lure for the entire early run kings on both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. *(Similar to KPC 5, 10, 15, 18/19, 21, & 23 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. However, the department SUPPORTS the recommendation of prosecuting the Kenai River early-run king salmon fishery with a single-hook, artificial lure only restriction until June 30. The department also supports an adipose fin-clip salmon only harvest rather than a prohibition of using bait on the Kasilof River to meet the spawning escapement objectives for the early king salmon run. This recommendation would likely decrease total exploitation in the Kasilof River by more than 50% given the river conditions in the sport fishery.

RECOMMENDATION: Any regulations adopted for the early run kings on the Kenai River should remain in effect until July 20 in the Kenai River above the Soldotna Bridge.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. The department does not agree that it is necessary to apply all Kenai River early-run king salmon regulations to the Kenai River above the Soldotna Bridge through July 20. The department recommends extending a protective slot limit to the Kenai River between the Soldotna Bridge and the Skilak Lake outlet, from July 1 to July 15, as a prudent precautionary restriction for the protection of 5-ocean early-run king salmon in the July fishery. We do not agree that additional restrictions to the July fishery are necessary to achieve early-run spawning escapement objectives or to adequately protect 5-ocean kings.

KPC 30

RECOMMENDATION: Retention of 52 inch or larger in length Kenai River early run king salmon is not allowed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department OPPOSES this recommendation. Staff analysis of harvest management strategies necessary to provide adequate protection of 5-ocean Kenai River early run king salmon and reduce the overall exploitation rates suggest that a 52 inch or larger non-retention restriction would not achieve those objectives. A 52 inch or larger non-retention limit would make available for harvest approximately 98.4%, on average, of the available king salmon returning to the Kenai River during the early run.

RECOMMENDATION: One trip a day by guided anglers (hours 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) on the Kenai River early run. *(Similar to KPC 5, 18/19, 23, 24, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. However, if guides are limited to only 7 hours of fishing time on the Kenai River they may shift some additional effort to the Kasilof River. Refer to specific comments under KPC 18/19 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Provide drift only for two additional days on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Providing two additional days of drift boat only use for boat anglers on the Kenai River and Kasilof Rivers would likely result in a reduction in overall exploitation of Kenai River early-run king salmon by an unknown amount. The Kasilof

early-run king salmon fishery is currently a drift boat only fishery. This provision would result in no likely harvest reduction on the Kasilof River.

RECOMMENDATION: Harvest of Kasilof River early-run king salmon shall be restricted to hatchery fish with an adipose fin clip. *(Similar to KPC 2 recommendation)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department SUPPORTS this recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 2 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: On the Kasilof River, resident anglers may retain 5 king salmon 20 inches or longer.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. The department recommends restricting the early-run king salmon fishery on the Kasilof River to only hatchery fish with an adipose fin clip. The department does not support any increases in harvest potential for late-run Kasilof kings. If the board adopts this recommendation, the department recommends limiting the amount of kings that could be taken on or after July 1.

RECOMMENDATION: On the Kasilof River, non-resident anglers may retain 3 king salmon 20 inches or longer.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. The department recommends restricting the early-run king salmon fishery on the Kasilof River to only hatchery fish with an adipose fin clip. The department does not support any increases in harvest potential for late-run Kasilof kings. If the board adopts this recommendation, the department recommends limiting the amount of kings that could be taken on or after July 1.

RECOMMENDATION: On the Kasilof River, guided angling hours are 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. *(Similar to KPC 5, 18/19, 23, 24, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 18/19 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Kasilof River guides are restricted to one trip per day within the above time limits. *(Similar to KPC 5, 18/19, 23, 24, & 29 recommendations)*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative recommendation. Refer to specific comments under KPC 18/19 recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Fresh waters logbook required in Cook Inlet area on those rivers affected by a conservation of salmon stocks, 5 AAC XX.XXX.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is OPPOSED to this recommendation. After administering an identical requirement on the Kenai River for several years, the department has concluded that a mandatory logbook program for freshwater guides yields minimal useful data for a substantial amount of administrative resources and increased cost. The department does not believe that a mandatory freshwater logbook program would improve our knowledge or management of the Kenai River or Kasilof River early-run king salmon resources.