ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE

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Kasilof Section Set Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Stock Composition Summary
July 18, and July 26/28, 2018

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Gene Conservation Lab recently processed samples collected from the Kasilof Section set gillnet commercial fishery to estimate the stock composition of the harvest. Specifically, the samples were collected from two different time periods when the fishery was limited to fishing within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark. The dates represented by this inseason analysis are July 18 (Table 1) and July 26/28 (Table 2). The samples for July 26 and 28 were pooled to meet minimum statistical sample requirements.

Based on these preliminary results, the stock composition of the harvest was approximately 28% Kenai River sockeye salmon (*Kenai*) for both sample periods. The proportion of the harvest that was estimated to be Kasilof River sockeye salmon (*Kasilof*) was 68% on July 18 and 50% from the combined dates of July 26 and 28. Other Cook Inlet stocks (*Other Cook Inlet*) made up 5% of the harvest on July 18 and 22% on July 26 and 28.

The current Kenai River sockeye salmon cumulative passage estimate of 453,000 fish is approximately 50% of the inriver (sonar) goal range of 900,000–1,100,000 fish. Based on this passage estimate, even late run-timing models project that the minimum inriver goal is not likely to be achieved without a significant reduction in the harvest of this stock. The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Kasilof River sockeye salmon is 160,000–340,000 fish, while the optimal escapement goal (OEG) is 160,000–390,000 fish. Per 5 AAC 21.365(b) *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan,* achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River OEG. The sockeye salmon passage estimates in the Kasilof River through July 31 do not project that the OEG for this stock will be exceeded.

Commercial fishing in the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery within 600 feet of shore will not be opened in the foreseeable future based on the average of 28% Kenai sockeye salmon of the harvest in this area and the need to eliminate harvest on that stock. In addition, fishing with set gillnets in the remainder of the Upper Subdistrict or with drift gillnets in the Central District is also not likely to open in the foreseeable future.

Table 1.- Upper Subdistrict, Kasilof Section Sockeye Salmon Stock Composition Summary **July 18**, 2018**.** A total of 336 fish were sampled and 190 were analyzed (186 had adequate data to include in the analysis).

	Stock Composition	90% Confidence Intervals	
Reporting Group	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Other Cook Inlet	5%	1%	9%
Kenai	28%	21%	35%
Kasilof	68%	61%	74%

Table 2.- Upper Subdistrict, Kasilof Section Sockeye Salmon Stock Composition Summary **July 26 and 28**, 2018. A total of 492 fish were sampled and 190 were analyzed (186 had data adequate to include in the analysis).

	Stock Composition	90% Confidence Intervals	
Reporting Group	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Other Cook Inlet	22%	13%	30%
Kenai	28%	20%	36%
Kasilof	50%	43%	58%

Genetic stock composition estimates were produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Gene Conservation Laboratory

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