

2/04/08

Members of the BOF,

This RC is a portion of the 2002 BOF meeting. It is addressing how the minimum (600,000) Kenai River in-river sockeye goal was achieved. It has a clear dialogue about the impact to all users and there responsibility to achieve tne in-river goal. The conversation is led by Dan Coffey with clear support from BOF member Larry Engel.

Thank you,

Debra Hollier

Soldotna,Ak.

Submitted by Christine Brandt

2002 BOF Meeting

1 drift fleet do a little more, we'd better start thinking about
2 EOs for these guys, you know, we got to start planning how
3 we're going to run the rest of our season, so it's a
4 determination and it's a department determination.

5 So my hope is, is that the department -- com
6 fish, sport fish, personal -- everybody who's handling this
7 thing makes this decision collectively so that you're getting a
8 collected wisdom of the department, because that's what we're
9 trying to get here. Does anybody want to change that mechanism
10 for EOs, then this is where we talk about it.

11 MR. DERSHAM: Other Board members? I see
12 nothing, Mr. Coffey.

13 MR. COFFEY: Next issue, sport fishery. Nobody
14 had any trouble with a bag limit of three. The sportfish guy
15 said -- the com fish guy said do it, the sportfish guy said
16 we'll do it, so that issue is fine.

17 The next issue is the in-river goal at the low
18 end of the escapement to increase it to 650- to provide for a
19 sportfish harvest. Here's the things that are associated with
20 that. We put 100,000 buffer in-river goal on top of the
21 500,000 minimum escapement goal for both the BEG and the OEG;
22 it's both at 500,000. We said put another 100,000 past the
23 counter. Sportfish harvest has been somewhere in excess of
24 150,000, so we've created a problem for ourselves. And the
25 problem is -- well, it didn't create a problem for me, it

1 didn't affect me at all, but it sure as hell affected the
2 commercial fishermen, and it sure as hell affected the sport
3 fishermen. Because what happened was, to make \$- if they're
4 harvesting a 150- in-river, and they just got barely over the
5 bottom end of 600-, then the folks north of the Blanchard line
6 don't get to fish because they've got to put more fish in there
7 because the sport fishermen are taking them out, and you're
8 going to get below the 500- BEG, so you create a problem.

9 How do you fix the problem? We've done that, in
10 part, by reducing the bag limit to three sockeye. Now there's
11 two sets of harvesters that take fish below the sonar. The PU
12 fishery takes harvest. My understanding, my recollection,
13 others have confirmed it, when we did the PU dipnet fishery we
14 thought they'd take about 80,000 fish, they're taking 130-, so
15 they're whacking like 50- more than we thought. And the in-
16 river fishermen below the sonar are taking about 44,000 with a
17 six fish bag limit, so there's another 40- -- say 40- or 45-,
18 maybe as high as 50,000 fish that never even get to the
19 counter, plus the 130- that the PU guys take out that never get
20 to the counter, so we're somewhere between 160- and 180,000
21 fish that don't even get there.

22 Now this proposal suggests adjustments to the PU
23 fishery, reductions in hours, reductions in area, reductions in
24 time, but we're not there yet, so we've got to deal with the
25 sportfish fishery.

1 The question is this. If we increase the in-
2 river goal at the bottom end to 650-, are we going to keep the
3 commercial fishermen north of the Blanchard line in the same
4 box they're in now, or are we going to allow -- and are we
5 going to make it so Mr. Clark has got to close the in-river
6 fishery when we're near the low end of the in-river goal?
7 That's the problem.

8 If we leave it at 600-, it's pretty clear that
9 the folks that fish commercially north of the Blanchard line
10 are going to be less impacted. If we raise it to 650- they
11 will be more impacted, but there's less likelihood of an in-
12 river closure, even at a three fish bag limit. They tell me
13 that we'd save around 20 percent going from a six fish to a
14 three fish bag limit. 20 percent of 160- to 180,000 fish is
15 30- to 40,000 fish. If we cut below the sonar by another 20
16 percent, there's another 8,000 fish, and if we have a ten
17 percent reduction on the dipnet, there's another 10- to 15,000
18 fish. You add all that up, and you're right on the cusp,
19 you're right on the cusp of that fishery making it at 600-, the
20 current in-river goal. You're probably at six-and-a-quarter.
21 I mean, but the problem with that is that they can't -- they
22 don't really keep track at that I mean, what are we going to
23 do, 6,000 -- 612,599 fish, forget it; we're talking about gross
24 numbers.

25 I think, as much as I -- well, here's what I

1 think, guys. I didn't have the 650- in there, and one of the
2 iterations -- I put it in another one of the iterations after
3 talking to sportfish department; I guess the way you resolve
4 that question is you look at who's got the priority, and I
5 don't know how else you do it. Mr. Chairman, that's it on that
6 issue.

7 MR. DERSHAM: Mr. Engel.

8 MR. ENGEL: Mr. Chairman, I would amend section
9 B to exchange 6,500 for 600,000, Mr. Chairman.

10 MR. COFFEY: It is 600-, just move to delete.

11 MR. MILLER: I second that.

12 MR. ENGEL: Delete it then, whatever, I want
13 600,000, and -- okay, I'll speak that amendment.

14 MR. MILLER: And request unanimous consent.

15 MR. COFFEY: I object to unanimous consent,
16 there needs to be discussion.

17 MR. DERSHAM: Mr. Engel.

18 MR. ENGEL: Mr. Chairman, when I vote on the
19 various allocative aspects, I look at a total package
20 sometimes, in attempts to -- as we all do in many cases, and I
21 have to think about things like coho and who's got the priority
22 there, and who's got the priority of my own mind or identified
23 in regulation. And this comes down to the sockeye in the Kenai
24 River, this is the big money fish for the commercial fishery,
25 and we've always stated so as it's been various adjustments

1 through time in Cook Inlet. And I think very strongly that we
2 shouldn't make this adjustment to accommodate closures on the
3 sport fishery at the expense of the commercial fish as Mr.
4 Coffey indicated. And I'm more inclined -- this plan has been
5 in place for three years, and not make major adjustments to in-
6 river goals or BEG goals, or if it comes to more of a fine
7 tuning as programs or problems have surfaced, and for all those
8 reasons, Mr. Chairman, I think in my mind, balancing priorities
9 and how I make decisions, this is an easy one for me to make,
10 to leave it at 600,000 for the reasons I had mentioned, and
11 more importantly, for the reasons Mr. Coffey articulated very
12 clearly, so that's the reason I made this amendment, Mr.
13 Chairman.

14 MR. DERSHAM: On the amendment, Board members?

15 MR. WHITE: I ask the question.

16 MR. DERSHAM: Question on the amendment, Ms.
17 Cote.

18 MS. COTE: To change it back to 600,000. Engel?

19 MR. ENGEL: Yes.

20 MS. COTE: Dersham?

21 MR. DERSHAM: Yes.

22 MS. COTE: Nelson?

23 MR. NELSON: Yes.

24 MS. COTE: Coffey?

25 MR. COFFEY: Yes.

1 MS. COTE: Miller?
2 MR. MILLER: Yes.
3 MS. COTE: White?
4 MR. WHITE: Yes.
5 MS. COTE: Umphenour?
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.
7 MS. COTE: The amendment carries 7/0. Mr.
8 Chair.
9 MR. DERSHAM: Mr. Coffey.
10 MR. COFFEY: Next issue is the PU fishery. The
11 PU fishery has got three options. The third option came up
12 more recently than committee, it was not discussed in
13 committee. It was brought to us by a person who lives on the
14 south side of the shore, and there in the book is resolutions
15 from the borough and the assembly and written materials, you
16 know, supporting this idea.
17 I talked to that individual at some great
18 length, and he showed me photographs of, you know, what they've
19 done to his property, and -- you know, it's a beach
20 environment, there's a lot of traffic running up and down the
21 beach, the sand and the stuff gets disturbed, the dunes get
22 disturbed. He had nice spruce trees, the spruce trees are now
23 leaning over and dying, the banks are beat to hell and so on
24 and so forth.
25 About 15 to 20 percent, I'm told, of the PU

RC 116

KENAI AREA FISHERMAN'S COALITION

PO Box 375 Kenai, Ak. 99611 * (907) 283-1054 * dwimar@gci.net

Dear Board Members,

KAFC would like to withdraw proposal 124. We forwarded this proposal as a place holder. We learned in Committee B that the Department will try to make the regulations more user friendly in the regulation book and we support that effort.



Dwight Kramer
KAFC Chairman

RC

RC117

Yentna Sockeye: Stock of Yield Concern

Proposal 119 recommends listing Susitna River sockeye as stocks of concern under the Sustainable Salmon Policy.

- ✓ Yentna sockeye meet the criteria for listing as a stock of concern under the definition of a yield concern [5 AAC 39.222]
- ✓ "Yield concern" means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvestable surpluses, above a stock's escapement needs; a yield concern is less severe than a management concern, which is less severe than a conservation concern [5 AAC 39.222 (f)(42)]. "Chronic inability" means the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species.
- ✓ The average northern district sockeye harvest during the 10-year period 1980-1989 was 177,500 fish. The most recent 5-year average for the Northern District was only 26,400. This represents a massive 85% drop from the historical value.
- ✓ The decline in sockeye harvest in the Northern District is mirrored by a decline in harvest of Susitna sockeye in all Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries (Figure 1).

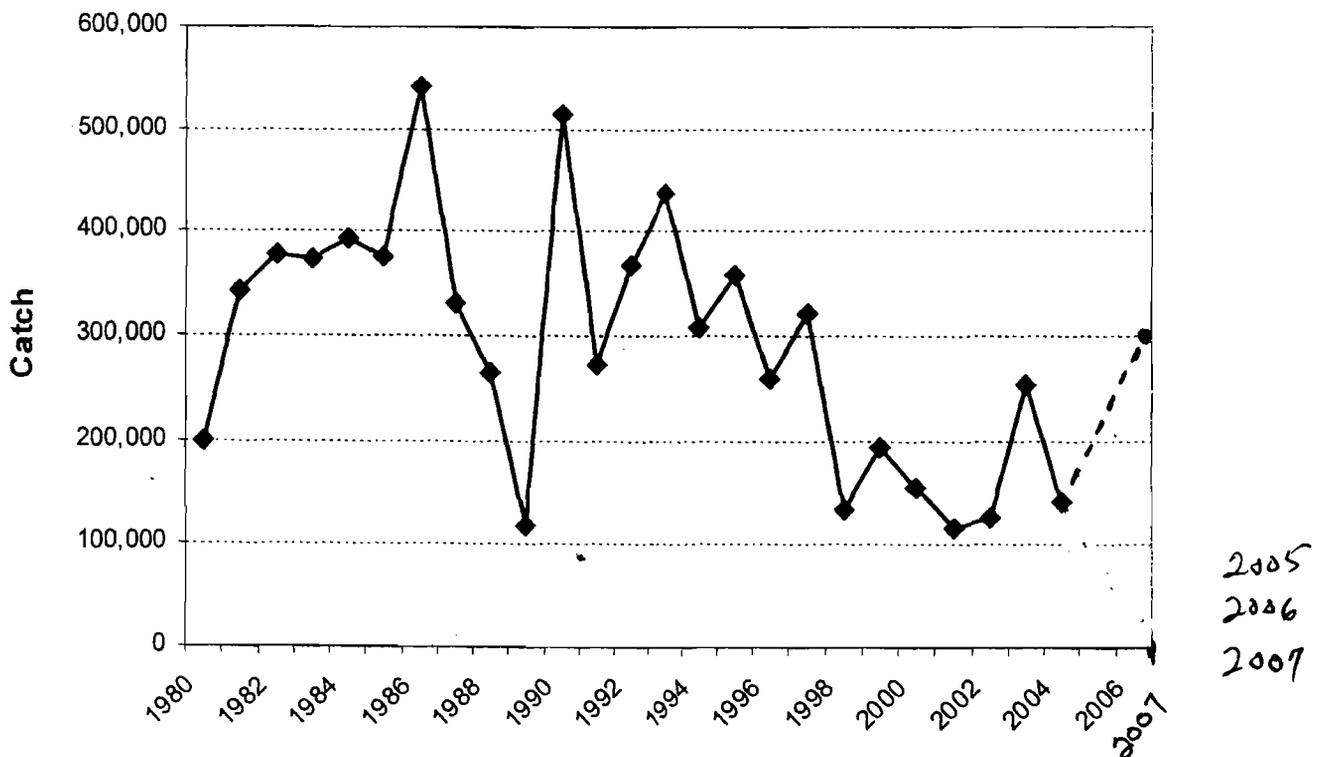


Figure 1. Trend in total harvest of Susitna sockeye in all UCI commercial fisheries (data from Tobias and Willette 2004).

Fishery Effects on Escapements

- ✓ Low Yentna escapements correspond to large sockeye catches in Central District commercial fisheries.
- ✓ Low Yentna sonar counts are negatively and significantly correlated ($p = 0.007$) with high sockeye harvests in combined Central District set net and drift net fisheries (Figure 4). Negative correlations were significant for the set net ($p = 0.019$) and drift net fisheries ($p = 0.026$) when analyzed separately.

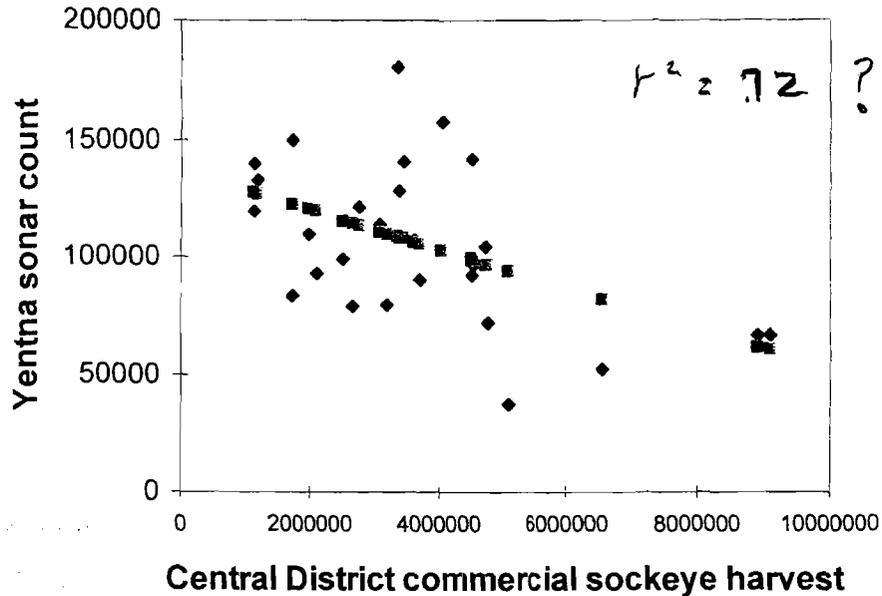


Figure 4. Negative correlation between Yentna sockeye sonar counts and harvest of sockeye in Central District drift and set net fisheries (data from Shields 2007).

Genetic Study Results

- ✓ Considerable numbers of Susitna sockeye are harvested in both Drift Net and Set Net commercial fisheries in some years. Estimates are minimums because not all fishery dates were analyzed.
- ✓ Catches are lowest in years where commercial fisheries are limited during late June and early July when Susitna sockeye are moving through the inlet.

Table 2. Extrapolated harvest of Yentna and Susitna sockeye in Central District commercial fisheries based on recent genetic studies (Habicht et al. 2007).

	Central District Drift			East Side Set Net			Combined		
	Yentna	Susitna	Total	Yentna	Susitna	Total	Yentna	Susitna	Total
2005 ^a	18,595	1,559	20,154	7,277	3,270	10,547	25,872	4,829	30,701
2006 ^b	8,725	1,693	10,418	4,108	24	4,132	12,833	1,717	14,550
2007	141,160	18,633	159,793	59,903	4,828	64,731	201,063	23,461	224,524

^a Sampling limited to one processor, no early season samples.

^b Fishery was largely closed during Yentna/Susitna timeframe due to late Kenai run.

175,827

Northern Dist +
Kaligan I.
west side
40% sample

250,000
?
?
?
?
?
3
300,000

UCIDA

RC 92 corrected

CORRECTIONS TO RC 92 YENTNA SOCKEYE

Two pages of RC 92 are corrected using data from RC 3 tab 7

Table 1 ,page 1 of RC 92 plots the revised 2007 commercial catch of Yentna sockeye. Please note the significant change to this figure for 2007. This catch data comes from revised commercial catches reported in the addendum page A7.

Table 2, page 3 of RC 92 contains the revised catch data is from the updated catches reported in the addendum.

PERTAINING TO THE CONCEPT THAT "NO ONES" ARE A "WASTE" OF FISH

PROPOSAL #79 - Removing restrictions from drift and set net gillnet fisheries for coho production

As a 51-year Alaska resident recreational fisherman, I oppose Proposal #79. Commercial coho catches should be restricted for the ever-expanding number of resident and non-resident sport fishers. RC #108 shows that 486,662 sport fishing licenses were bought in Alaska in 2006. And that does not include the under-16 and 60-and-over-residents that do not have to buy a license. Although it would be difficult to get an accurate approximation of the number of these anglers that fish for the cohos affected by this proposal, I believe all of those anglers, and all the other anglers who fish in Alaska would agree:

The fish we catch and put in our freezers is not wasted, nor do we consider ourselves "No Ones."

I know how overworked the Board of Fisheries is, and I believe any proposal that claims that sport fishers are no ones just wasting fish, has not been thought out very well, and a minimal amount of your time should be spent considering that proposal. Request the writer kindly re-write the proposal after doing a little clear thinking.

Thank You for all your time and effort,

Tony Russ
Wasilla, Alaska
907-376-6474

**Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting of February 1-12, 2008
at Coast International Inn
Anchorage, Alaska**

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RC 119

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7	Mat Valley AC	Letter regarding definitions
8	ADF&G	Options Memo
9	Dept Environ Conserv	Memo on Kenai R hydrocarbons
10	Dept of Interior	Fed vs State SF regulations
11	Howard Delo	Conflicts outline
12	ADF&G	UCI Stock of concern memo re: Yentna R
13	UCIDA – Brent Western	Comm A Principals
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16	UCIDA – Roland Maw	Comm D Principals
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19	UCIDA – Wesley Heimburg	Comm G Principals
20	UCIDA	Statistical area map – Cook Inlet
21	UCIDA	Cook Inlet map – laminated
22	UCIDA – Roland Maw	Regional Info Report #2A03-20
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RC 119

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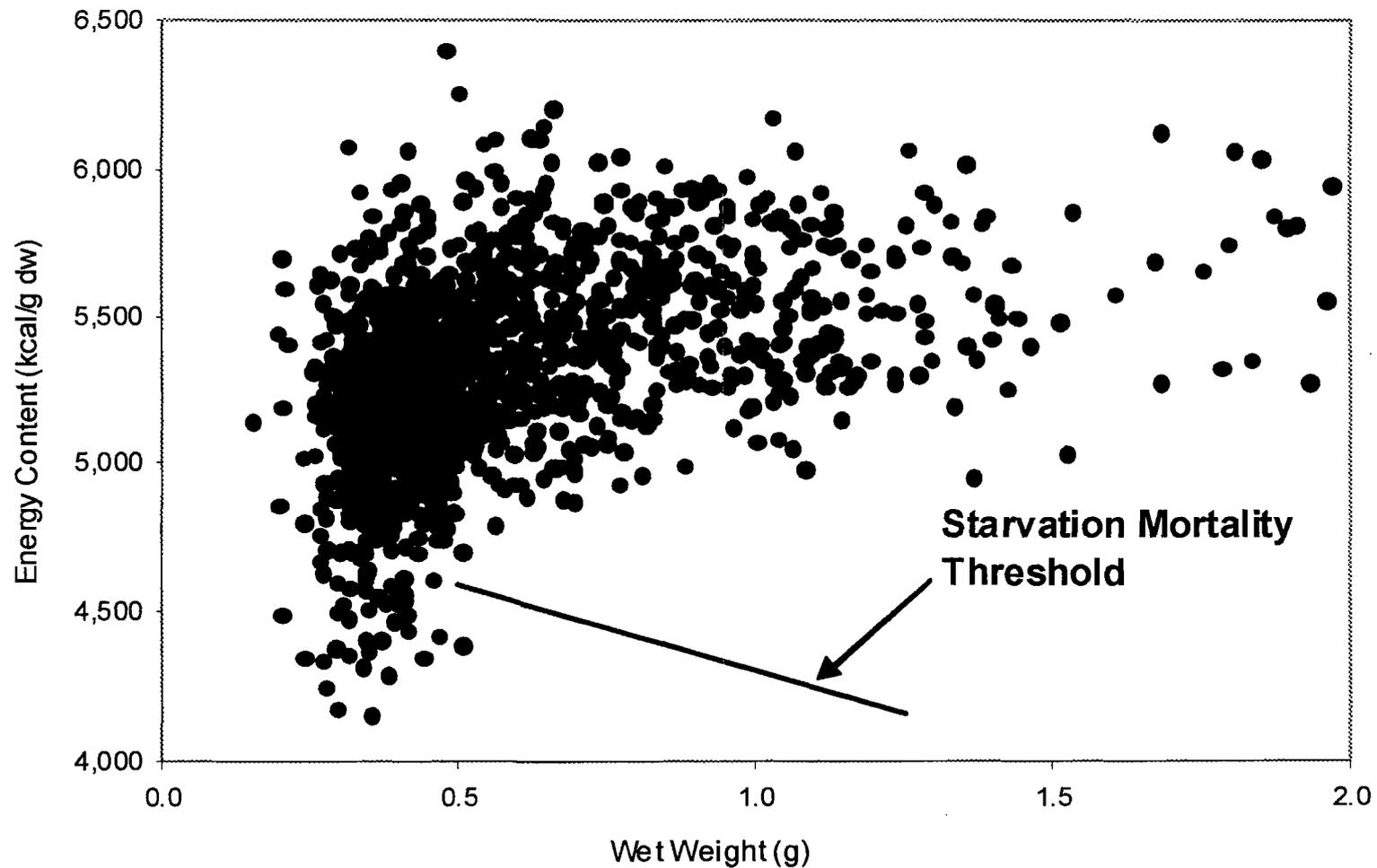
RC 120

Declining Fall Fry Size of Skilak Sockeye Salmon (from ADFG)

Brood Year	Spawner Abundance	EZD	Copepod Biomass	Fall Fry Weight (g)	Fall Fry Abundance		Return Year	Adult 1.3 Return
					Age 0	Age 1		
1985	396	9.0	570	1.7	17,877	2,384	1990	1,402
1986	405	8.3	657		9,029	0	1991	719
1987	1,334	12.4	608	0.9	30,883	78	1992	6,709
1988	841	11.8	703	1.2	12,660	9,190	1993	1,310
1989	1,339	5.7	517	1.3	21,850	662	1994	2,177
1990	448	6.7	375	1.5	6,347	365	1995	693
1991	377	9.6	578	1.8	8,427	95	1996	2,522
1992	753	7.7	816	1.2	31,347	1,727	1997	2,985
1993	670	5.9	431	1.4	8,354	1,156	1998	674
1994	898	8.3	521	1.7	7,378	467	1999	1,534
1995	517	3.4	363	1.6	4,830	361	2000	861
1996	585	5.8	334	0.9	23,000	240	2001	1,338
1997	878	5.1	260	0.7	15,332	2,460	2002	1,928
1998	559	7.6	448	1.3	5,908	514	2003	2,336
1999	583	6.9	504	1.2	18,663	435	2004	3,547
2000	393	9.2	395	1.0	20,416	515	2005	4,620
2001	458	8.7	581	1.0	6,802	3,325	2006	1,084
2002	700	4.3	380	1.3	10,521	432	2007	2,743
2003	921	6.0	377	0.6	20,390	582	2008	2,592
2004	1,120	5.8	489	0.5	39,500	107	2009	-
2005	1,113	7.3	625	0.7	27,548	7,856	2010	-
2006	1,270	5.7	-	0.9	7,939	8,936	2011	-
2007	718	-	-	-	-	-	2012	-

RC 120

Skilak Sockeye Salmon Fall Fry Energy Content and Weight (from ADFG)



Feb 6, 2008

RC 121

Matanuska would like to formally withdraw

Support for proposals #335, 336, 340, 341, 346.

Thank you,

Andy Couch

Matanuska Valley AC representative

Table Kenai River drainage sockeye salmon escapements and inriver harvest, 1981-2006

Year	Inriver Personal Use and Subsistence Dip Net, and Educational Harvest ^a	Sport Harvest Below Sonar ^{b,c}	Kenai River Sonar Count ^d	Total Inriver Return	Harvests above Sonar ^a								Total Harvest Above Sonar	Spawning Escapement	
					Kenai R Soldotna Bridge	Kenai R Sonar to Soldotna Bridge	Kenai R Above Soldotna Bridge	Kenai R Reach Not Specified ^e	Skilak Lake	Late Run Russian River	Hidden Lake Personal Use & Sport				
1981	0	3,116	407,639	410,755	5,270	2,154	14,451	ND	ND	23,720	0	40,325	367,314		
1982	0	6,922	619,831	626,753	11,706	4,784	38,397	ND	ND	10,320	ND	53,501	566,330		
1983	7,562	13,577	630,340	651,479	22,961	9,384	48,306	ND	0	16,000	0	73,690	556,650		
1984	0	2,613	344,571	347,184	4,419	1,806	11,283	ND	0	21,970	17	35,076	309,495		
1985	0	8,835	502,820	511,655	14,941	6,106	42,272	ND	0	58,410	149	106,937	395,883		
1986	0	12,522	501,157	513,679	21,177	8,655	51,221	ND	13	30,810	0	90,699	410,458		
1987	24,086	50,274	1,596,871	1,671,231	85,020	34,746	155,799	ND	2,029	40,580	689	233,843	1,363,028		
1988	16,880	29,345	1,021,469	1,067,694	49,627	20,282	103,124	ND	382	19,540	583	143,911	877,558		
1989	51,188	66,162	1,599,959	1,717,309	111,889	45,727	165,336	ND	1,654	55,210	331	268,258	1,331,701		
1990	3,477	19,640	659,520	682,637	33,213	13,573	85,074	ND	670	56,180	107	155,604	503,916		
1991	13,433	31,536	647,597	692,566	53,331	21,795	108,271	ND	2,411	31,450	77,060	240,987	406,610		
1992	30,394	47,622	994,798	1,072,814	80,535	32,913	161,956	ND	1,044	26,101	468	222,482	772,316		
1993	35,000	27,717	813,617	876,334	46,873	19,156	90,306	ND	825	26,772	133	137,192	676,425		
1994	15,368	17,954	1,003,446	1,036,768	30,363	12,409	63,253	ND	213	26,375	102	102,352	901,094		
1995	15,720	29,451	630,447	675,618	49,806	20,355	75,622	ND	177	11,805	83	108,042	522,405		
1996	104,110	39,810	797,847	941,767	67,324	27,514	118,967	ND	307	19,136	225	166,149	631,698		
1997	116,107	43,642	1,064,818	1,224,567	73,805	30,163	103,328	ND	312	12,910	274	146,987	917,831		
1998	105,497	33,980	767,558	907,035	57,464	23,484	107,072	ND	158	25,110	81	155,905	611,653		
1999	150,993	46,043	803,379	1,000,415	77,865	31,822	122,709	ND	0	32,335	859	187,725	615,654		
2000	99,571	57,978	624,578	782,127	98,048	40,070	132,935	ND	377	30,229	190	203,801	420,777		
2001	152,580	51,374	650,036	853,990	86,880	35,506	113,882	ND	24	18,550	142	168,104	481,932		
2002	182,229	46,693	957,924	1,186,846	78,964	32,271	143,211	3,742	1,509	31,999	308	213,040	744,884		
2003	227,207	60,722	1,181,309	1,469,238	102,689	41,967	173,068	10,168	96	28,085	302	253,686	927,623		
2004	266,937	62,397	1,385,981	1,715,315	105,521	43,124	182,722	5,795	276	22,417	437	254,771	1,131,210		
2005	300,105	58,017	1,376,452	1,734,574	98,114	40,097	182,704	13,469	45	18,503	0	254,818	1,121,634		
2006	130,486	30,964	1,499,692	1,661,142	52,364	21,400	113,972	7,089	98	29,694	385	172,638	1,327,054		
Avg. (2002-2006)									8,050						
Avg. (1997-2006)		173,170	49,180	1,031,170	1,253,520	83,170	33,990	137,560	8,053	290	24,980	300	205,175	830,030	
Avg. (1983-2006)									530						
Avg. (1981-2006)		78,810	34,570	887,830	1,001,210	58,470	23,890	104,200		27,850	3,320	161,170	726,660		

Note: ND = no data collected

^a Personal use harvest not known in 1982; 1981 and 1983-1995 from Statewide Harvest Surveys (SWHS, Mills 1982-1994; Howe et al. 1995, 1996). 1996-2000 total reported harvest from returned permits, expanded to include permits not returned. Subsistence dip net harvest 1991-1992 and 1994 from Brannian and Fox (1996). Educational is total annual Kenaitze educational permit harvest.

^b Sport harvest and 1991 Hidden Lake personal use from SWHS (Mills 1982-1994; Howe et al. 1995, 1996, 2001 a-d; Walker et al. 2003; Jennings et al. 2007, In prep.; Jennings et al. 2004; 2006 a-b; G.B. Jennings, Sport Fish Program Coordinator, ADF&G, Anchorage; personal communication).

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

^d Estimated escapement at sonar site (Westerman and Willette 2006).

^e Adopted by SWHS beginning in 2002.

RC 122

- Juvenile Salmon utilize the nearshore habitat of the Kenai River in July
 - *Lakeward Movement of Juvenile Chinook Salmon and Recommendations for Habitat Management in the Kenai River, Alaska; Fisheries Manuscript Series No. 7, 1989*
Bendock, Terry
- Turbidity at the level documented in 2007 is a concern
 - *Turbidity as a Water Quality Standard for Salmonid Habitats in Alaska; North American Journal of Fisheries Management 7:34-35, 1987*
Lloyd, Denby
- Additional work needed to establish background turbidity levels for comparison to State Water Quality Standards, high probability that exceedences occur
- We view increasing driftboat opportunities that do not distinguish between guide and non-guide as addressing habitat concerns (e.g. proposals 283 and 285)

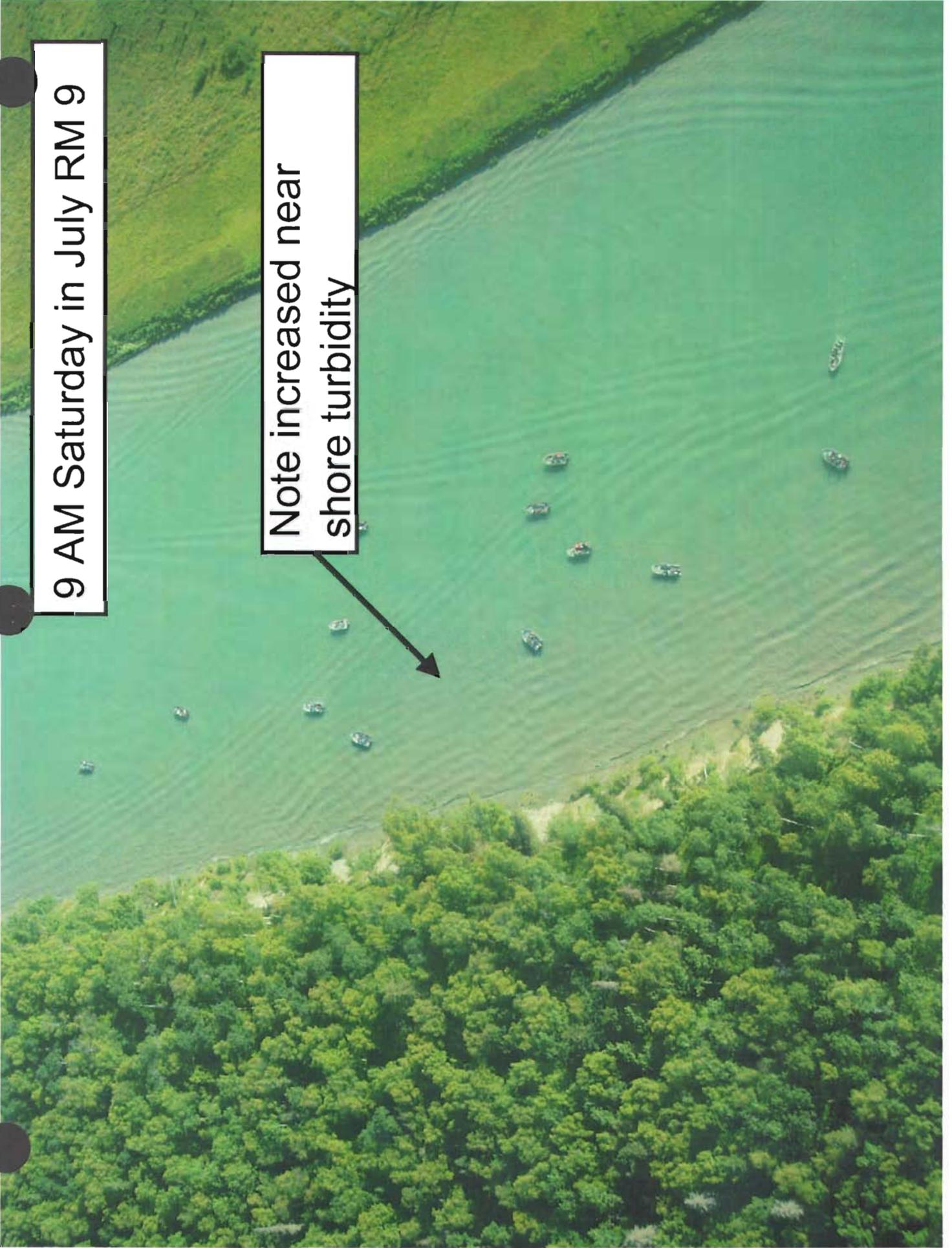


Kenai Watershed Forum 2008 RC

RC
123

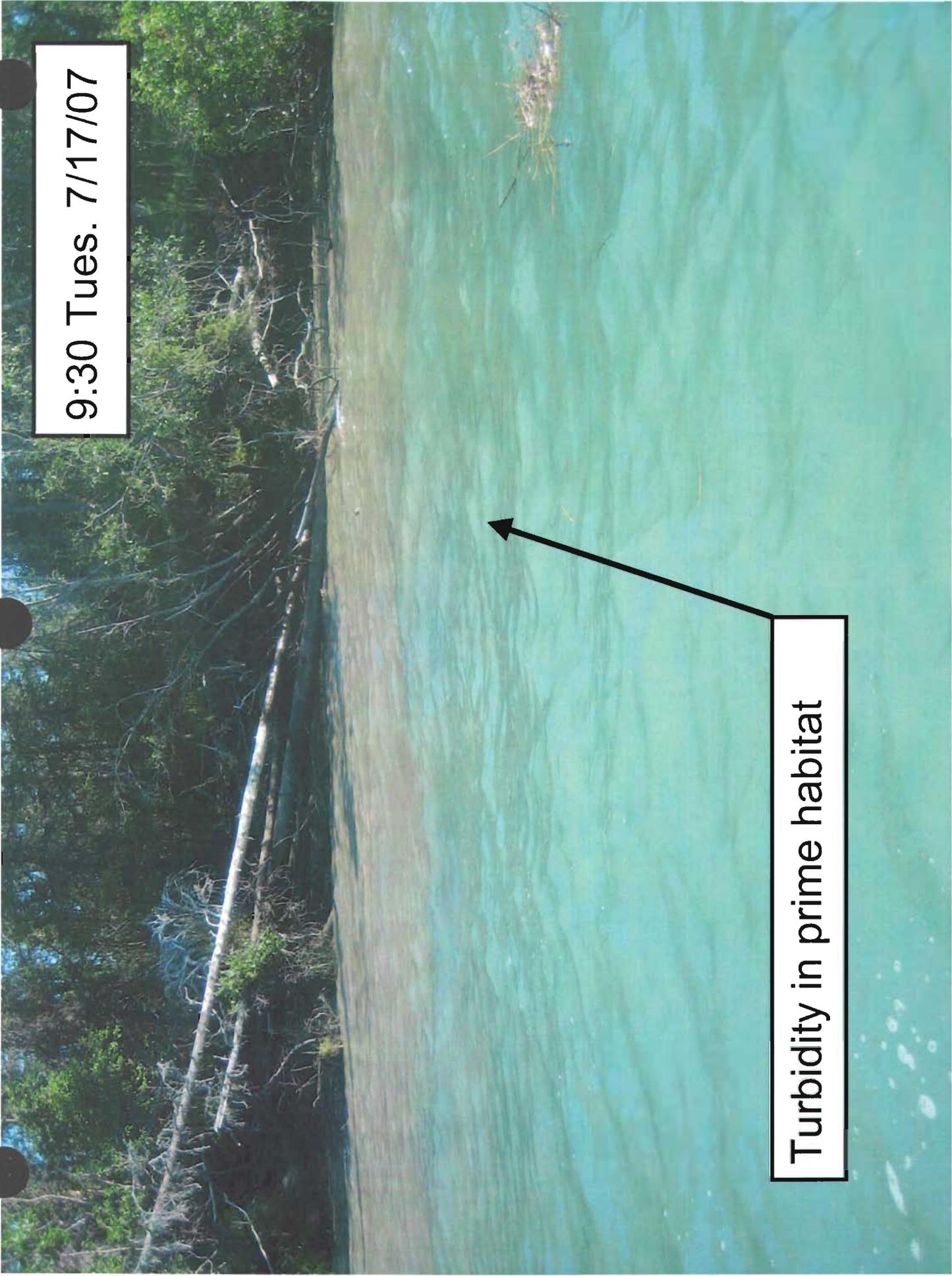
9 AM Saturday in July RM 9

Note increased near
shore turbidity

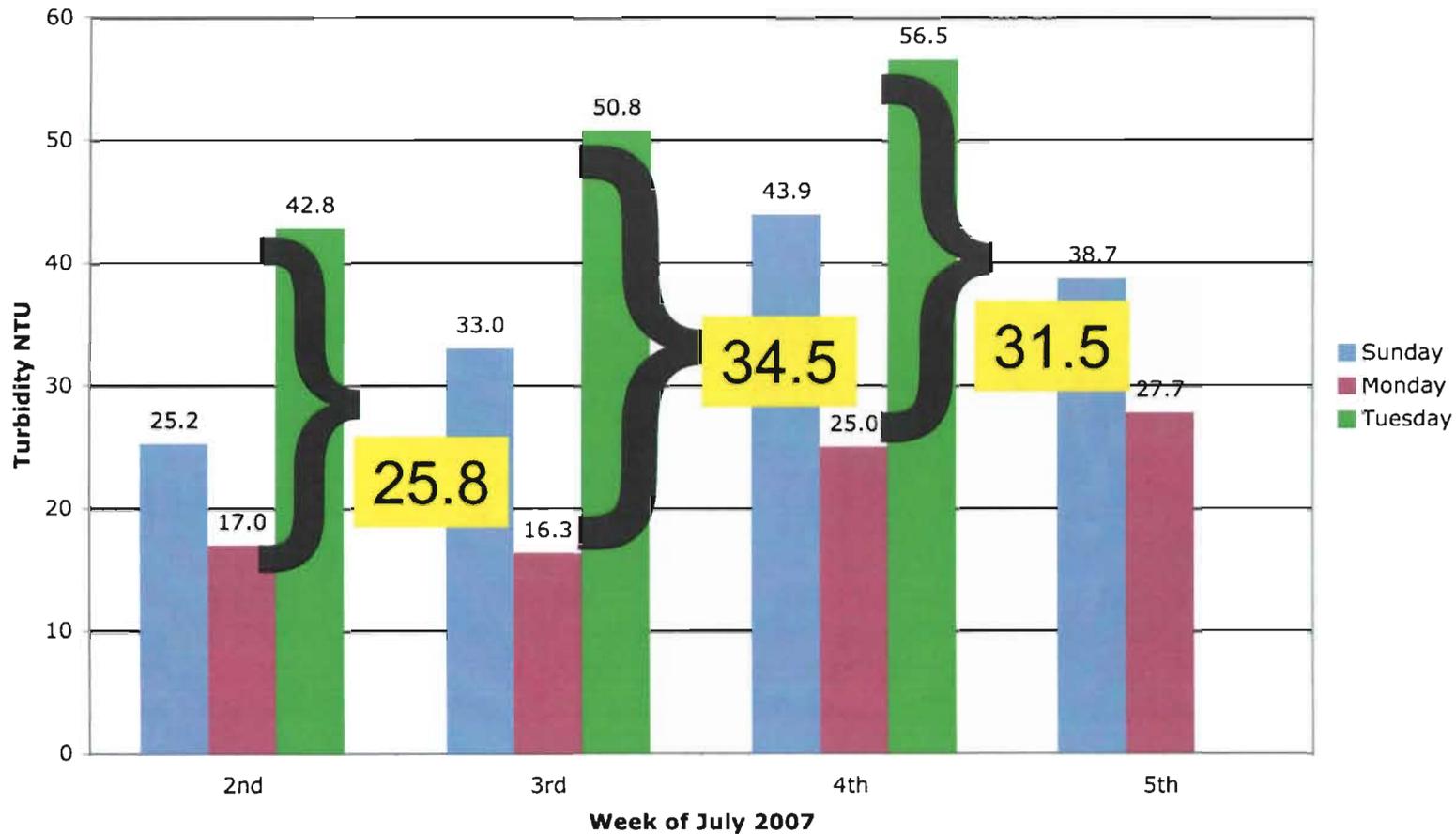


9:30 Tues. 7/17/07

Turbidity in prime habitat



Chinook Sonar Turbidity NTU Average Value 6am - 6pm



This graph represents data collected from an instrument w/ an onboard logger; deployed at the Chinook Sonar Counter, on the tide staff, ~ 30' from shore. Turbidity was recorded every 15 minutes. The chart shows the 12 hour average turbidity values from each Sunday, Monday and Tuesday July. Bracket values show the difference in average turbidity between Mondays and Tuesdays. The most likely explanation for this discrepancy is wake induced suspension of fine particles.

Negative impacts surrounding another “drift only” day on the Kenai River.

-Lack of existing infrastructure; i.e.: boat launches, parking, and bathroom facilities. Boat ramps and pull outs are used at max capacity now and the requirement for drift-only days will substantially increase that demand. For example: Issac Walton boat launch will become a primary access point for drift boats and this State Park facility currently only has TWO parking spaces for boat trailers.

-Transfer of pressure resulting from decreased power boat days to additional “drift only” days; i.e. more drift only days will concentrate use and increase pollution levels on the remaining power boat days. Additional vehicle requirement need to for shuttling drift boat trailers will also increase pollution levels. Please see: RC #27

-Results in a 20% net loss of opportunity for the guided angler if drift only day is limited to non-guided anglers only.

-If an additional drift only day is implemented for guided anglers, guide numbers will potentially increase to accommodate anglers currently fishing with power boats guides who will or cannot operate a drift boat.

Kenai River Professional Guide Association

-Drift boats will necessitate anchor use while fishing as the Kenai River and its strong current will not be conducive to fishing while drifting in most locations, especially if drift boat operators have minimal experience operating a drift boat. Kenai River current averages 14,000-18,000 cubic feet per second (7-10 MPH).

-Additional drift only day may necessitate additional regulatory action/restrictions regarding anchor use to mitigate habitat damage resulting from improper and excessive anchoring practices. Excessive anchor use will destroy spawning beds.

-Due to the tidal nature of the lower Kenai River, exiting the lower river on high tide days will not be possible with a motor. Therefore fishing pressure will be redistributed to other parts of the system and this will greatly alter where people have traditionally fished the Kenai River. This will concentrate current effort into more limited sections of the river which will further exacerbate crowding.

-Additional drift only days will also create significant safety concerns as it will require inexperienced operators to access the fishery through very technical sections of the river, namely Skilak Lake and the Naptown rapids.

Kenai River Professional Guide Association

-An additional drift only day will dramatically decrease opportunity for those who do not own a drift boat or are physically unable to operate a drift boat. This will significantly impact local, elderly anglers who enjoy fishing the Kenai River in a power boat.

-Currently, drift boats are able to access the fishery 24 hours a day, seven days a week from Skilak Lake to the mouth of the Kenai River at Cook Inlet.

-Local riverfront property owners will no longer be able to access and exit the fishery from their property via power boats.

-Additional drift only day will impact the largest user group: the general public. Benefits only 10% of total users: those that currently own drift boats.

-Average cost of a drift boat is \$6,000 to \$15,000 dollars and will be a huge financial burden to those that need to purchase a drift boat to access the fishery.

-Fishing water that will be most conducive to drift boat fishing is mostly the slower holes and this will have the cumulative effect of stacking ALL the boats in limited sections of the river.

Kenai River Professional Guide Association

-Fighting, landing and eventually measuring a fish (during the early run slot limit) will become very difficult from a drift boat and will have an adverse effect on the catch and release mortality of Kenai River king salmon.

-Trespass on private property along the Kenai River will increase dramatically as drift boat anglers who need to use the bathroom and/or want to stretch their legs will be unable to power back to public facilities and will be forced to pull over along private property or critical habitat areas to relieve themselves. This violates the Sustainable Fisheries Act: [.222(d)(2)(B)]

-No biological concern exist to justify an additional drift boat only day.

-Drift boat fishing will create “hog-lines” of anchored drift boats in primary fishing holes which will increase crowding.

-29 miles of the Kenai River already exist for exclusive use by drift boats. This user group already has its own fishery at present.

Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA)
Proposals 169,170,172, 173, and 174

We must formally state the following points concerning the above referenced proposals:

- 1) KRSHA boundaries must remain unchanged in regulation ;
- 2) Instruct ADF&G to modify the KRSHA area ,in season, as appropriate to achieve maximum sustained yields;
- 3) Any action taken in the KRSHA shall be taken to achieve maximum sustained yields and avoid over escapement;
- 4) Any management actions taken must protect essential fish and reparian habitat;
- 5) No management actions shall be taken as a result of the application of "Windows" in any management plan.
- 6) "Windows" do not take priority over any of the above described actions.

Roland R Maw UCIDA

Proposals: 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208

Kenai River - Angler Days

RC 126

Table 2.—Angler-days of sport fishing effort for the Kenai River by section, 1977-2006.

Year	Sport Fishing Effort					Kenai River Total
	Cook Inlet to Soldotna Bridge ^a	Soldotna Bridge ^a to Moose River	Moose River to Skilak Outlet	Skilak Inlet to Kenai Lake	Kenai River Reach Not Specified	
1977	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	122,138
1978	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	164,264
1979	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	178,485
1980	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	171,803
1981	91,763	35,877	33,701	17,375	ND	178,716
1982	119,164	49,372	39,170	24,242	ND	231,948
1983	109,067	52,266	41,442	26,453	ND	229,228
1984	150,824	42,644	40,976	35,978	ND	270,422
1985	163,690	66,100	55,904	36,536	ND	322,230
1986	181,035	63,876	51,171	38,969	ND	335,051
1987	141,203	66,807	41,128	40,027	ND	289,165
1988	203,728	79,727	55,334	35,470	ND	374,259
1989	198,697	93,508	53,135	31,562	ND	376,902
1990	169,818	82,331	43,401	47,112	ND	342,662
1991	151,592	82,552	45,067	44,157	ND	323,368
1992	150,249	81,378	49,774	51,172	ND	332,573
1993	162,171	70,353	38,583	53,013	ND	324,120
1994	170,944	71,440	39,222	59,298	ND	340,904
1995	206,127	81,280	43,432	46,871	ND	377,710
1996	131,751	61,059	32,465	40,711	ND	265,986
1997	120,873	58,618	32,645	35,762	ND	247,898
1998	95,378	56,342	36,218	28,712	ND	216,650
1999	157,493	69,331	41,573	39,049	ND	307,446
2000	178,460	92,056	41,911	46,142	ND	358,569
2001	153,356	75,249	34,918	35,294	ND	298,817
2002	142,492	78,165	33,228	52,937	5,963 ^t	312,785
2003	143,144	90,072	35,804	40,815	10,912 ^t	320,747
2004	166,202	100,180	51,188	49,814	7,986 ^t	375,370
2005	168,570	111,806	40,903	51,892	15,506 ^t	388,677
2006	151,623	91,912	35,667	40,624	9,296 ^t	329,122
Avg. (2002-2006)					9,933	
Avg. (1997-2006)						315,608 ←
Avg. (1981-2006)						310,436 ←
Avg. (1977-2006)						290,267 ←

Note: Angler-Day = the time spent fishing by one person for any part of a day; Effort = participation (number of days fished); ND = no data collected

^a The Soldotna Bridge (as referred to in Statewide Harvest Surveys (SWHS)) and the Sterling Highway bridge (as identified in the Sport Fishing Regulations Summary for Southcentral Alaska (ADF&G 2007a)) are one and the same.

^b Adopted by SWHS beginning in 2002.

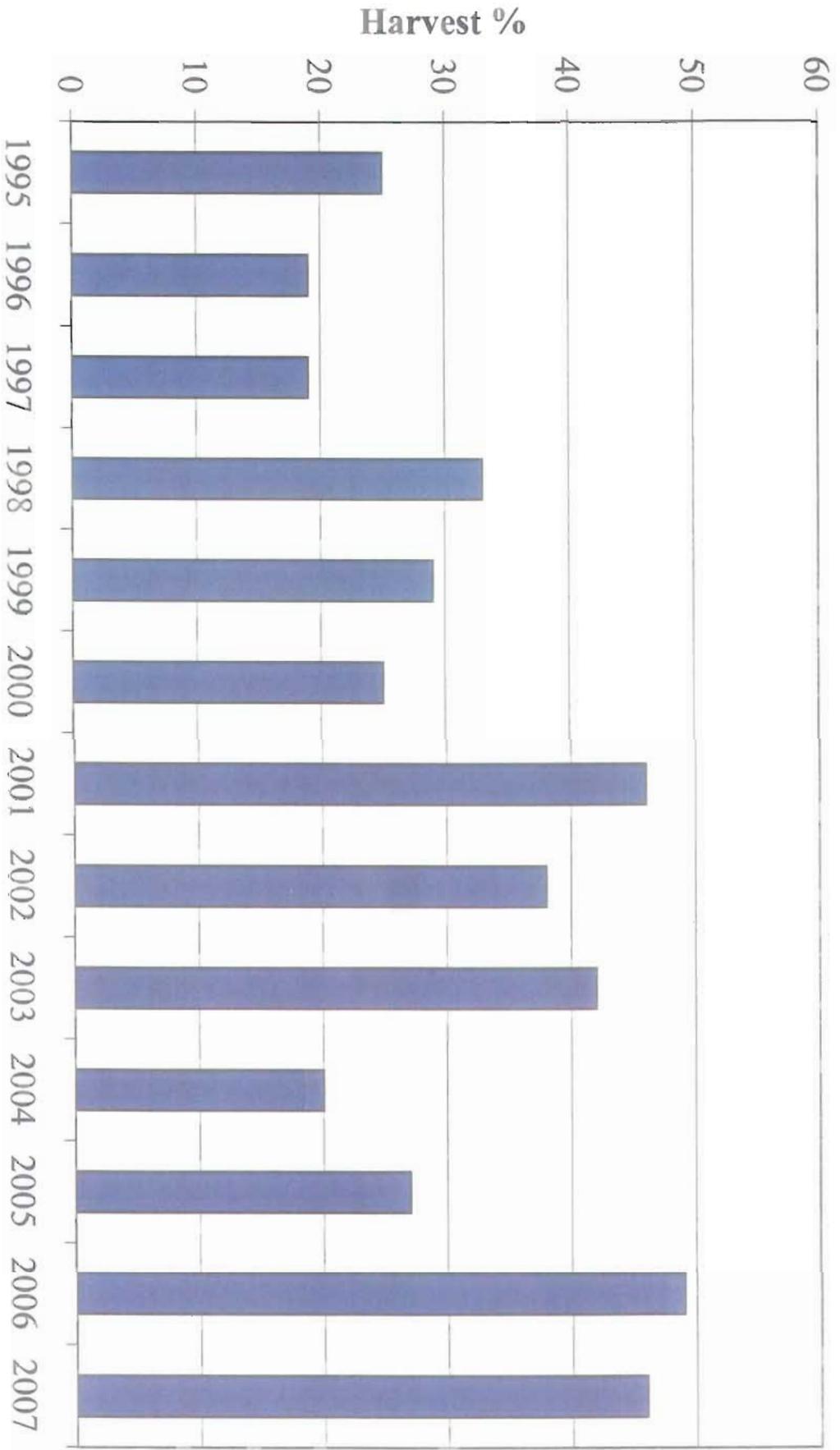
1997-2006 315,608 -
 1981-2006 310,436 -
 1977-2006 290,267

No Significant Change

James Sanderson

ESSN Chinook Salmon Harvest ≤ 28 " Fish (~Age-2)

KPEA
Submitted by
Paul A. Steadman II



Amend Proposal 246

Fishing in the Kenai River upstream from Cook Inlet is permitted from an anchored vessel with the exception of the area from the outlet of Skilak Lake to Upper Olson Creek.

An anchored vessel means one on which any device other than oars or paddles is used to hold the vessel in a manner that it remains substantially in the same location.

Submitted by:

Kenai Area Fisheries Coalition
Kenai River Professional Guide Association
Kenai River Sportfishing Association
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Cooper Landing Advisory Committee

February 7, 2008

RC 129

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Upper Cook Inlet Finfish
Committee G: Northern Cook Inlet Sport Fisheries
Board Members: Webster (chair), Jensen, Williams.

Ladies & Gentleman:

RE: Proposal 358: Upper Cook Inlet (Beluga) Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan,
Alaska Board of Fisheries 2007/2008.

I am the author of Proposal 358 and would appreciate additional consideration to a modified proposal. The purpose of this modification is to address concerns that were not known when the proposal was submitted. These modifications will address concerns such as targeting higher quality species, escapement problems and excessive fishing pressure. The scope is reduced to protect the resources and allow Beluga personnel to maintain their quality of life. The narrow scope will allow a maximum of less than seven (7) nets per fishing period and will reduce the pressure on the smaller streams by targeting salmon that are heading to the Beluga River. The Department does not currently monitor this water shed and based on personal experience it has a strong salmon return, but has limited pressure because of the dangerous aspects of the river and access issues.

I propose the following modifications to Proposal 358:

Age: Restrict the fishery to Residents-only who are at least sixty (60) years old.

Area: Modify the open area to the a small area of Three Mile Creek and Cotton Wood Beaches that are currently used by the commercial fishermen. This modification would reduce the area to a little over one (1) mile and reduce the maximum number of nets to less than seven (7) per fishing period.

The area would start at those waters one mile north of the Chuitna (Chuit) River, north to a point one mile south of Three Mile Creek. Then continue at a point one mile north of Three Mile Creek for approximately one quarter (1/4) mile and stop at this point. The Personal Use fishery would be prevented within one mile of any river and/or creek between these points.

Please see attached map identifying this area.

Gear: Maximum net length shall not exceed 100 feet.

Net specification would be the same as other Personal Use Fisheries.

The net must be attached to a running line via pulleys or by attaching a weight (anchor), at the sea end, that will allow the net to be retrieved.

The nets must be at least 1000 feet apart.

Time: The Personal Use fishery would be between August 1 and September 1, with openings on each Tuesday and Friday, unless closed by Department Order. Additional time and/or date consideration would be appreciated.

Target species: Chum and Pink salmon.

Harvest quantity: The current allowance is 25 fish per head of household and 10 for every additional person. Perhaps 15 fish per head of household and 5 for every additional person would be an equitable amount.

Permit requirements: A Department permit must be requested and a harvest report must be submitted at the end of season but not later than Sept 30.

Additional comments: The tails must be cut off as required by existing regulations.

All applicable Personal Use requirements must be adhered to.

Sincerely,



Duane T. Gluth
7021 Foothill Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504-2627

email dgluth@att.net

phone 907-338-0401

Attachment: Map outing
Beluga fishery area

° BELUGA
° TYONEK

A

Anchorage Fort Richardson

Beluga and Tyonek 45 miles West of Anchorage (Above)
Beluga Personal Use Fishery (Below)

Lone Ridge

Beluga

Tyonek

North Foreland

Granite Point

Proposed Fishing Area

[xx] [xx][xx] [xx]
open
xx = closed



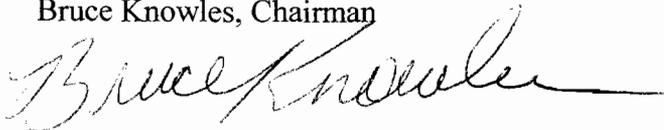
**Northern District Salmon Conservation
Susitna Valley A/C**

Mr. Chairman and Board Members: Our A/C is extremely concerned about the health of the **Northern District** salmon stocks. Following the Board of Fisheries public meeting in Wasilla and talking with valley residents. There is a united expression of concern for the health of Salmon stocks in the Northern District and Cook Inlet. We believe that short term actions must be taken while a long term solution is sought.

We believe the following actions will result in revitalizing the Northern District salmon stocks.

- A. Stock of Concern status for Susitna River and Fish Creek Sockeye Salmon stocks.
- B. Removal of the Yentna River 75,000 OEG from the Kenai River when there is preseason forecast in river is 4,000,000 plus, insure that the lower end of the Yentna River lower escapement goal has priority over the upper end of the Kenai River and the Kasilof River Development of a Sockeye Salmon action plan for rejuvenation of Northern District stocks. That includes genetic studies of Northern District Sockeye Salmon stocks, abundance estimation and other important work.
- C. Board Letter to Legislators supporting research funding. As you are aware the department has just finished a three year genetics studies, this is just the start what is needed in the way of studies. The department has published a long list of studies of sockeye, coho and chum salmon stocks in the Northern District. We would encourage the board to send a resolution to the legislators supporting these studies.
- D. Management system for Yentna for the short term. The immediate need is for a plan to managing returning stocks this summer. The only measurement tool that has any historical value is the Yentna River sonar, until new measurement tools can be develop and validated, against the current system.
- E. Our advisory group is willing to help in any way.

Bruce Knowles, Chairman



Susitna Valley Advisory Committee

Kenai Early-run Kings Fishery Changes

Problem

- A. In the early run, percentages and numbers of large fish vary. Recent numbers of large fish are generally less than in the 1980s (Figure 1). Recent numbers of small fish are generally greater now than in the 1980s (Figure 2).
- B. It is unclear whether changes in size composition are due to long term selectivity effects or normal cyclical variation but a 44"-55" protected slot regulation was enacted in 2003 as a precautionary measure to protect the large fish.
- C. This slot limit has protected the majority of the large 5-ocean fish as intended. It has produced the unintended consequence of increasing fishery selectivity for females (Figure 3), particularly the 4-ocean females which are responsible for most of the population fecundity. This occurs because 4-ocean females are typically smaller than 4 ocean males.
- D. The slot limit does not address the issue of increasing numbers of small kings which could also be related to consistent underfishing in relation to their abundance.
- E. Seasonal closures at the mouths of Slikok Creek, Funny River, and Killey River through July 14 provide a sanctuary for early run kings staging before entering spawning tributaries. This has helped reduce the selective harvest of big kings by anglers through catch and release sorting. The current sanctuary does not provide adequate protection – early run kings are still around after July 14 between the current sanctuary and Torpedo Island.
- F. At the same time, escapements of early-run kings are consistently exceeding the current OEG range (Figure 4), even with early bait openers. The run could support significantly higher harvest than currently occurs.

Submitted by:

Kenai Area Fisheries Coalition
Kenai River Sportfishing Association
Kenai River Professional Guide Association
Cooper Landing Advisory Committee

Solution

1. Increase slot limit from 44"-55" to 46"-55" to increase harvest of 4-ocean males and reduce the undesirable fishery selectivity for females. The new 46" minimum protects the majority of 5-ocean fish while providing access to the majority of the 4-ocean fish including males (Figure 5, Table 1). [Amended Proposal 261]
2. Increase harvest of the underexploited 2-ocean fish in the early run by allowing retention of one additional fish 28" or smaller per day. [Proposal 255]
 - a. Anglers may retain one fish larger than 28" and one fish 28" or less per day.
 - b. Anglers may continue to fish after retaining one fish 28" or less.
 - c. Anglers must cease fishing for the day after retaining a fish larger than 28".
 - d. There would be no annual limit on early run kings 28" or smaller.
 - e. Current annual limits and tag recording requirements for kings larger than 28" would stay the same.
3. Extend tributary sanctuary closures from January 1 through July 31 and extend the Killey sanctuary to upstream areas adjacent to the lower end of Torpedo Island [amended Proposal 269].
4. Increase harvest in the early run by opening the season with bait allowed. Earlier use of bait will increase angler catch rates, harvest, and possibly angler effort. Effort and harvest are both reduced from current levels (Figure 7, Figure 8). [amended 267]
 - a. Include provision for going back to a single hook - no bait restriction, or catch and release, based on in-season estimates of abundance where needed to ensure that escapements do not fall below the OEG.

Analysis

- ✓ Emergency orders allowing the use of bait below the confluence of the Moose River are being issued earlier in the season in recent years (6/18 in 2005, 6/10 in 2006, 6/12 in 2007). The majority of the early run (60%) comes in after June 10 (Figure 6). Only about 15% of the early run comes in before June 1.
- ✓ Recent harvest rates are averaging about 20% (Figure 9). Harvest rates will increase with season-long bait use due to increased angler effectiveness and possibly an increase in effort. This analysis assumes a harvest rate of 30% with bait. The increase in harvest rate is projected to increase harvest by about 1,500 fish in an average return year (relative to a no bait fishery).
- ✓ About 6% of the run is 28" or below. This segment includes about 31% of the 2-ocean fish (virtually all males) and <1% of the 3-ocean fish. In an average run year, there are about 950 fish 28" or less. Allowing harvest of additional fish 28" or smaller is projected to increase harvest (with bait) by about 300 fish. Note that about 20% of the fish in this size range that were previously released would have been lost to catch and release mortality under the old regulations.
- ✓ The Department's hindcast of the effects of the 28" regulation indicate that the current OEG would continue to have been met with the additional harvest in 21 of the last 22 years. The only exception would have been 1988 when record effort and harvests occurred. Current effort is less than half the level seen in 1988.
- ✓ About 8% of the run is of 44-45" inch fish that would become available to the fishery if the protected slot minimum is raised to 46" (about 1,300 fish in an average run). The 46" regulation would protect 70% of the 5-ocean fish while providing angler access to 70% of the 4-ocean fish. Allowing harvest of additional fish 44-45" is projected to increase harvest (with bait) by about 400 fish on average. Note that about 7% of the fish in this size range that were previously released would have been lost to catch and release mortality under the old regulations.
- ✓ This combination of regulations is projected to increase harvest on an average run (16,000) from about 3,200 to about 5,400. Even with this increased harvest, escapement would continue to exceed the OEG of 5,300-9,000 in an average return year. In only two of the last 22 run years, would in-season fishing restrictions have been required to meet the low end of the OEG under the proposed fishing schedule.

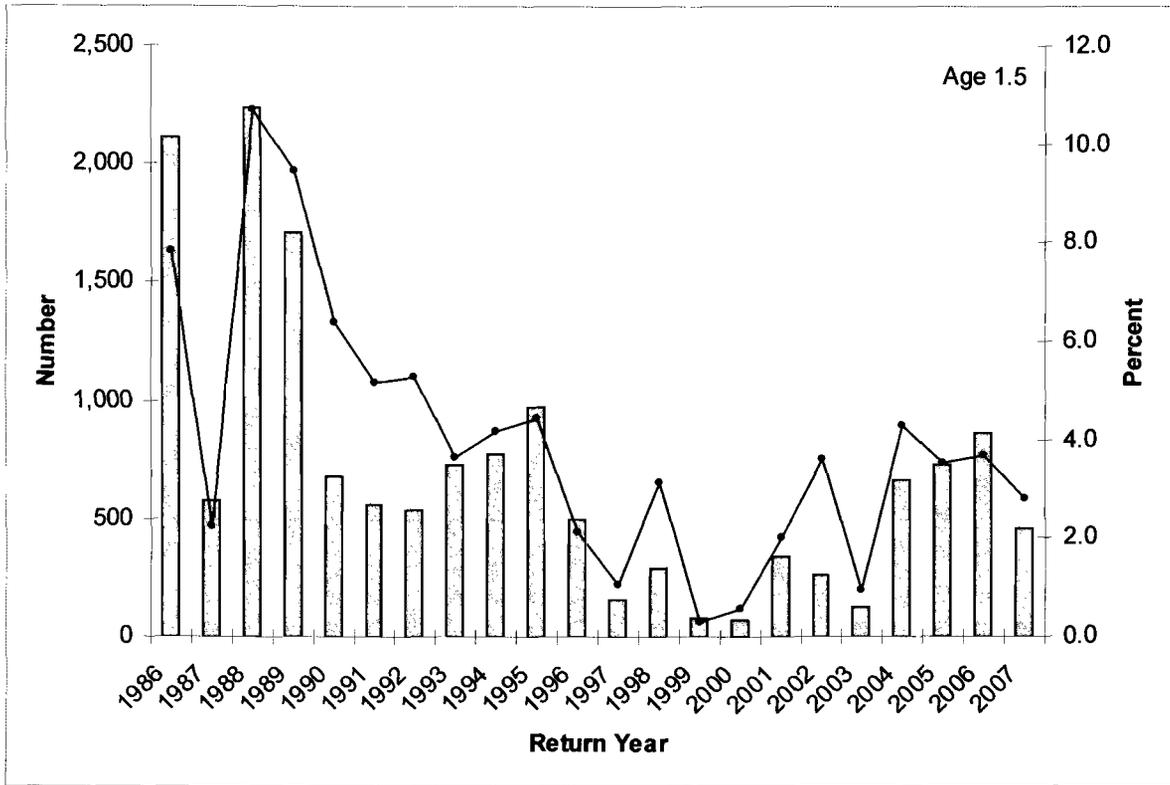


Figure 1. Number (gray bars) and percent (lines) of early run Kenai River Chinook salmon aged 1.5 in the total return. [ADFG RC 36 pg 31]

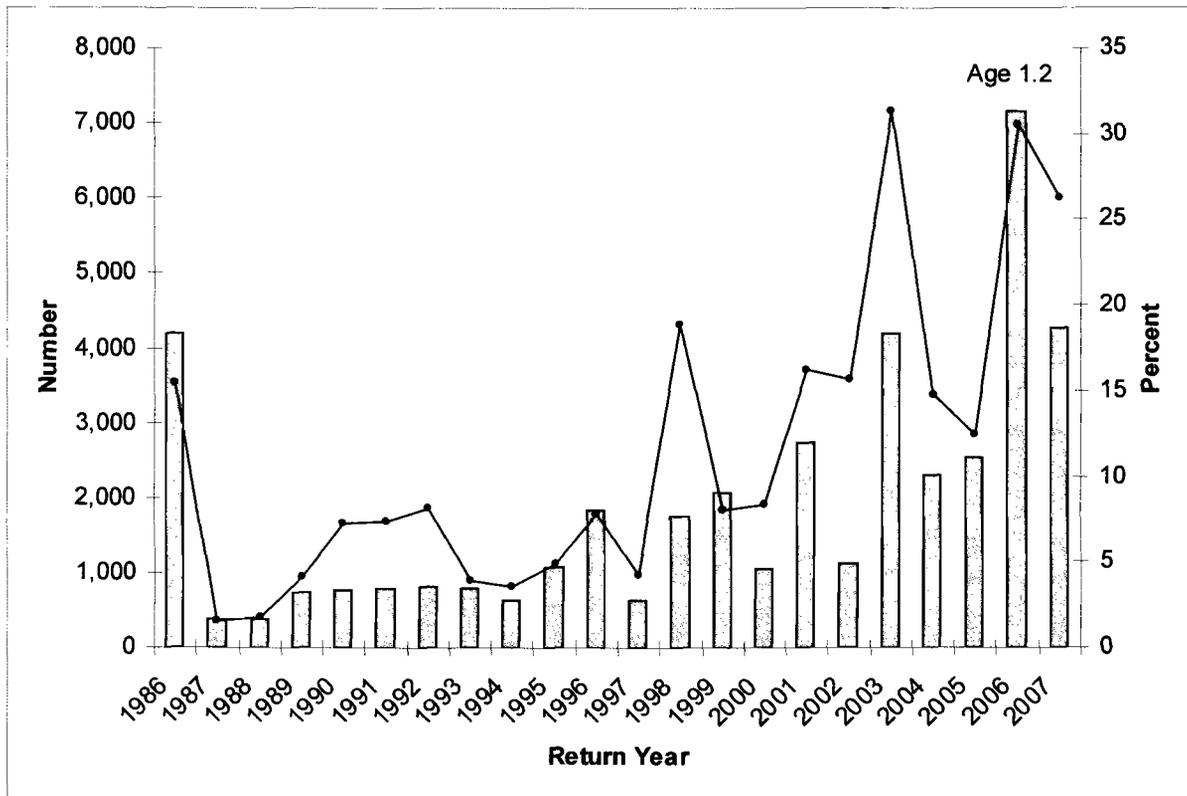


Figure 2. Number (gray bars) and percent (lines) of early run Kenai River Chinook salmon aged 1.2 in the total return. [ADFG RC 36 pg 30]

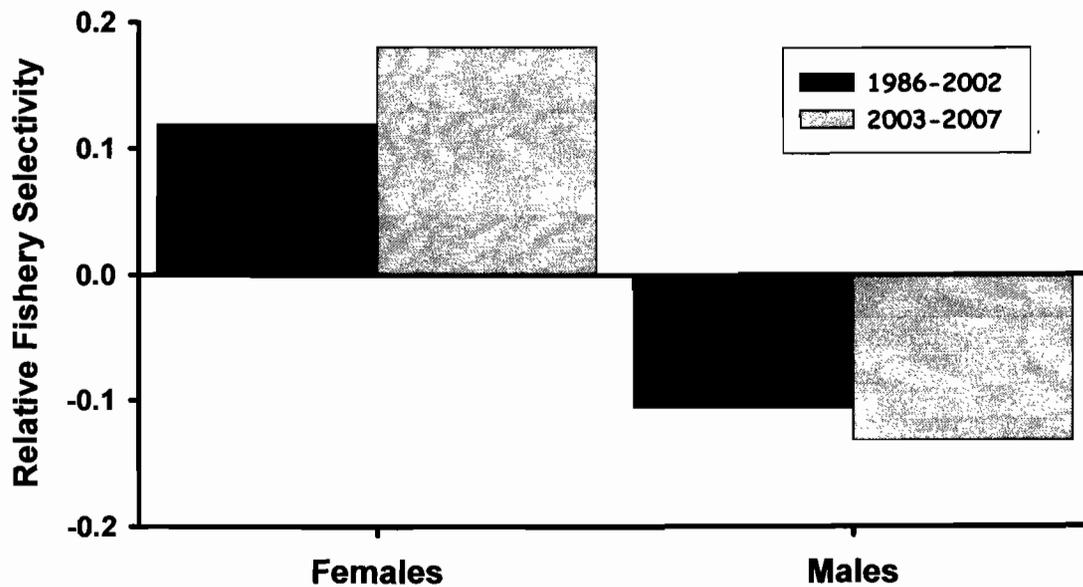


Figure 3. Relative sex-selective harvest of the Kenai River sport fishery on the early run of Chinook salmon before (1986-2002) and after (2003-2007) the slot limit was in effect. Bars above the line show where anglers are selecting for a sex (i.e. where the proportion in the harvest is greater than the proportion in the run). Bars below the line show where anglers are selecting against a sex. Relative selectivity is $[(\text{proportion in creel} / \text{proportion in run}) - 1]$.

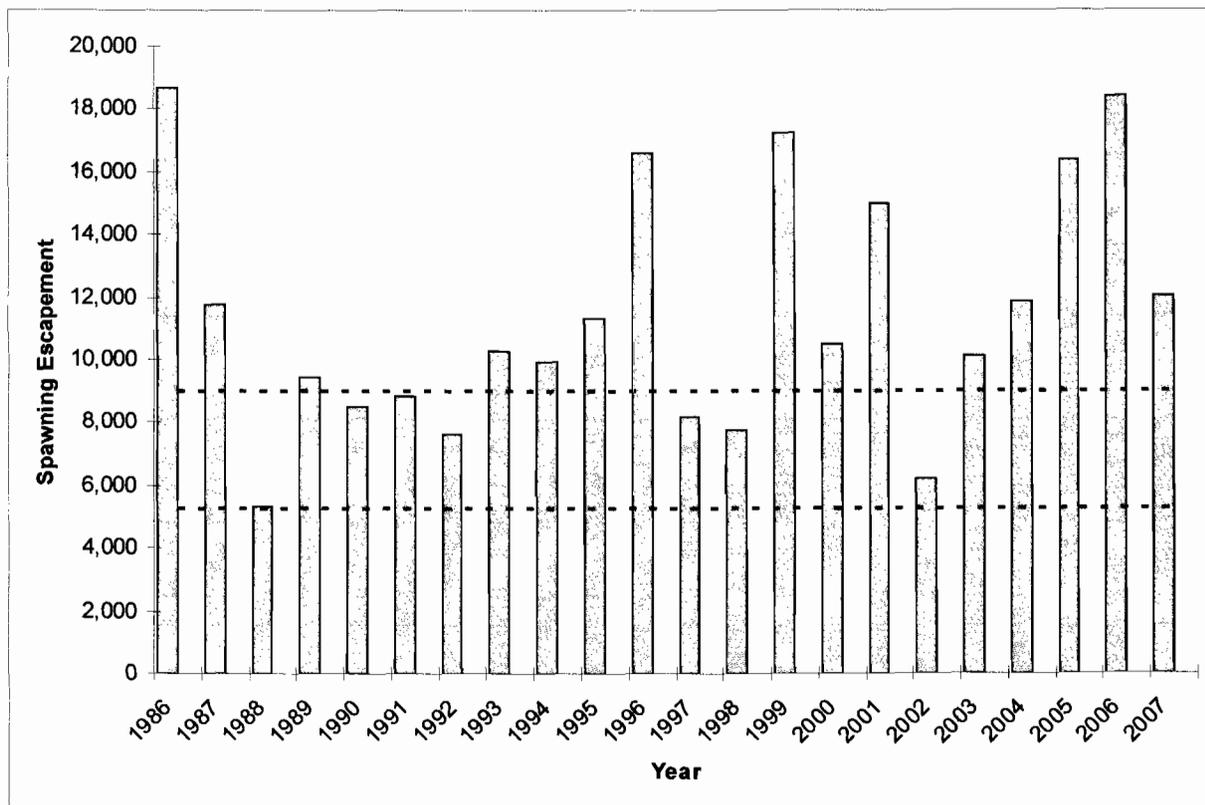


Figure 4. Spawning escapements of early-run Kenai River chinook salmon. Dashed lines indicate lower and upper values of the OEG range in effect beginning in 2005. [see ADFG RC 36 pg. 23]

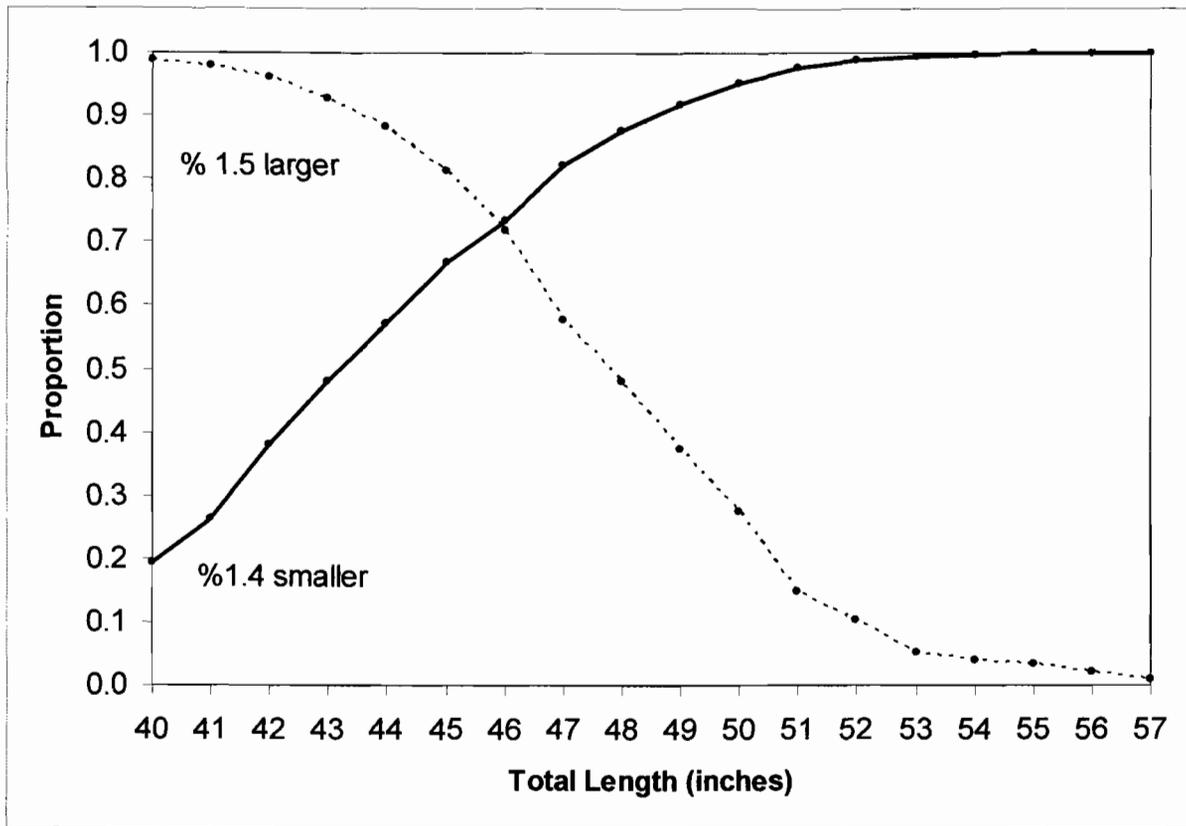


Figure 5. Cumulative proportion of early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon that aged 1.4 that are smaller (solid line), and those aged 1.5 that are larger (dotted line), than each 1-inch increment between 40 inches and 60 inches total length.

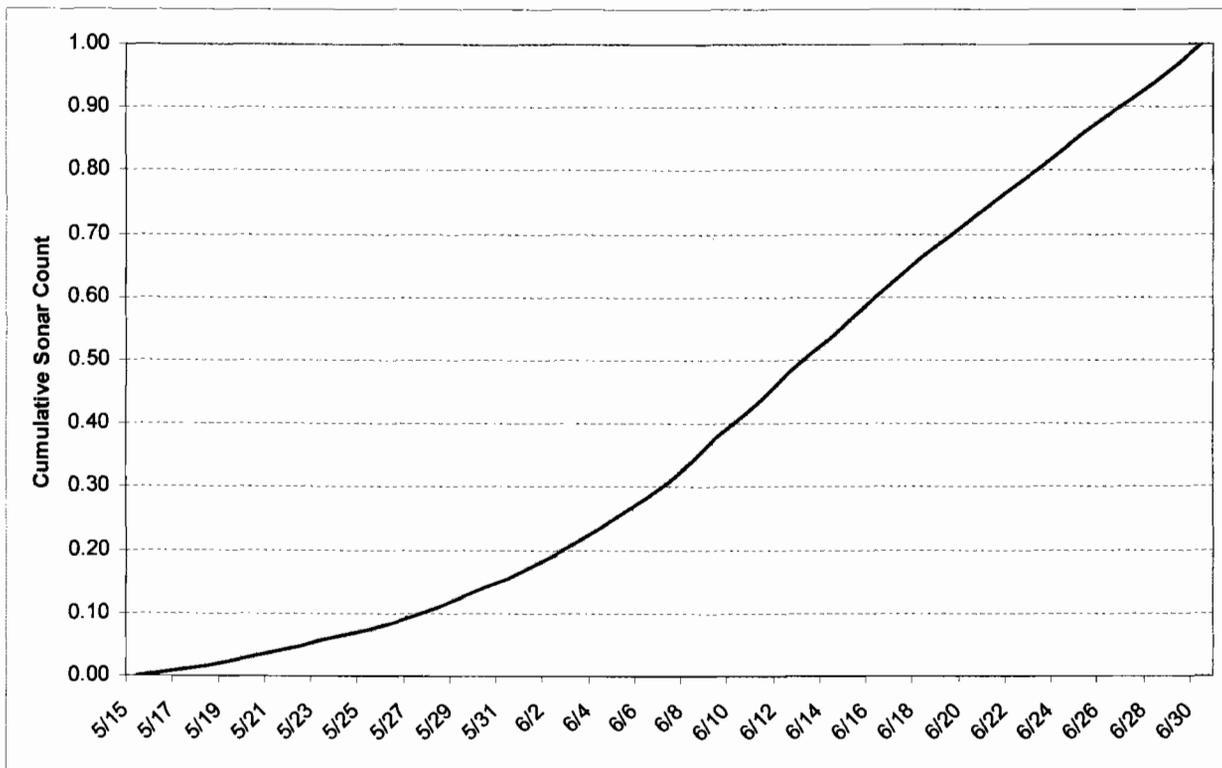


Figure 6. Run timing of early run Kenai kings at the sonar, 1988-2006 average.

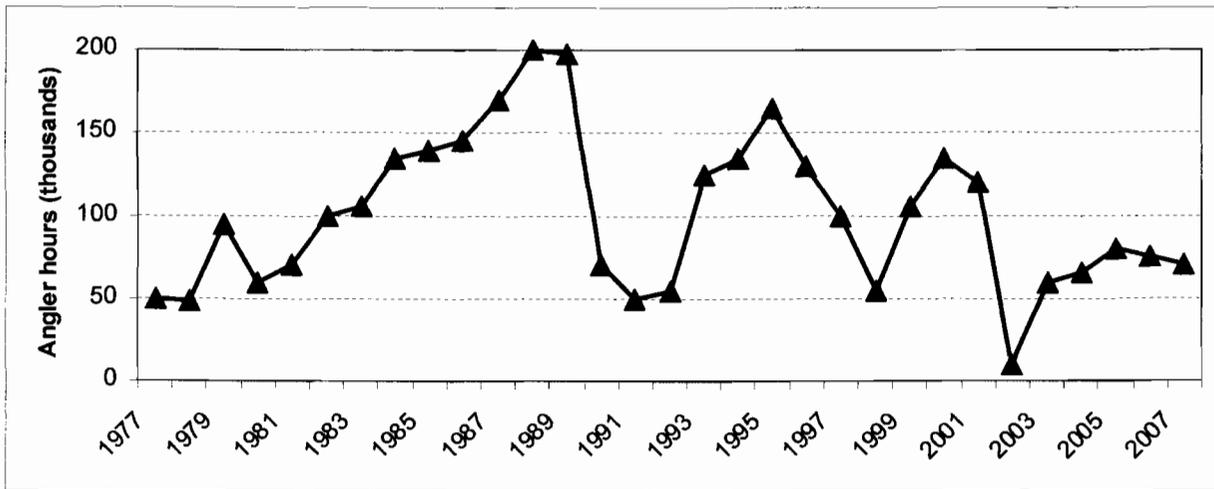


Figure 7. Early-run effort between Soldotna Bridge and Warren Ames Bridge. (as in RC 36 pg 22)

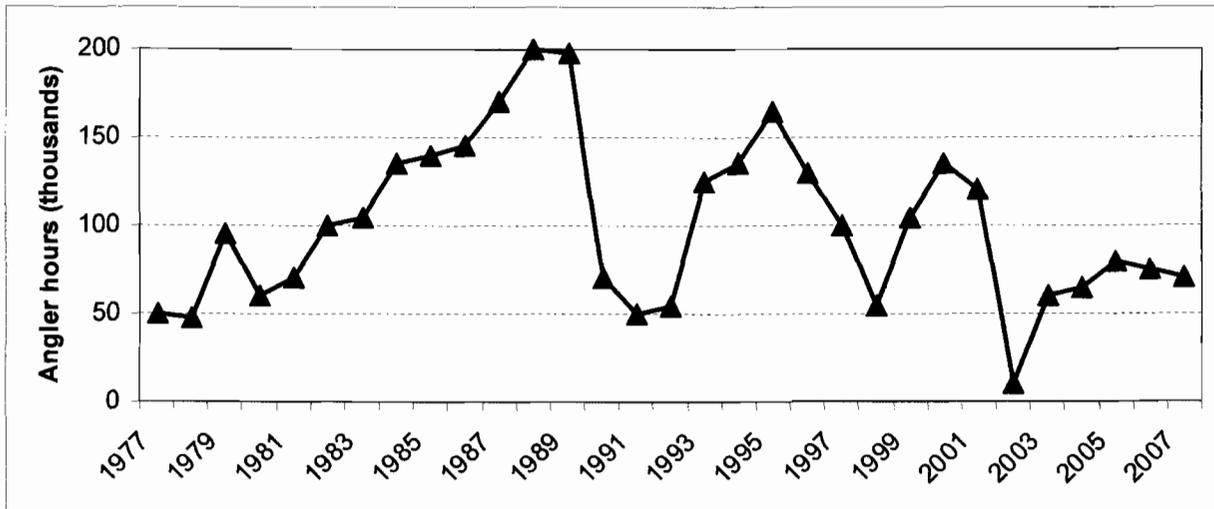


Figure 8. Historic harvest of early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon between the Soldotna Bride and the warren Ames Bridge. (as in ADFG RC 36 pg 22)

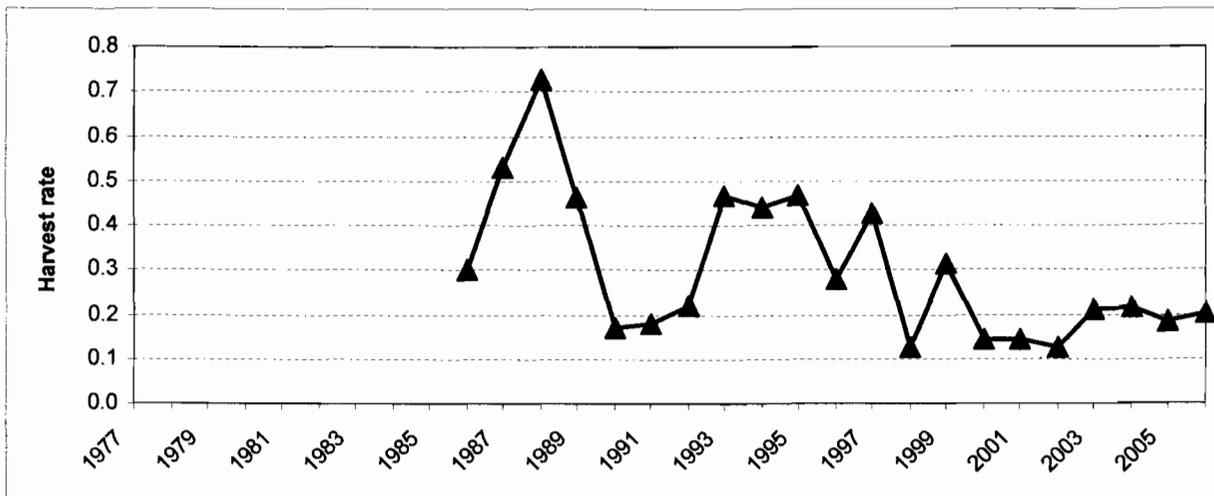


Figure 9. Annual sport fishery harvest rate of early-run Kenai Chinook.

Table 1. Percent and number (based on a 10-year average run of 15,937) less than or equal to total length in inches. (as in ADFG RC 36 pg 29)

Early Run King Data (from Committee E Deliberation Material)

Cumulative % by age (1986-2007)					Avg number by age (1998-2007 run & age comp)				
1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	total	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	total
0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3	0	0	0	3
0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	12	0	0	0	12
0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	18	0	0	0	18
1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	35	0	0	0	35
2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	73	0	0	0	73
3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	108	0	0	0	108
6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	181	0	0	0	181
10.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	315	0	0	0	315
18.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	540	5	0	0	546
31.8%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%	929	21	0	0	950
54.4%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	10.3%	1,589	59	0	0	1,648
74.8%	2.4%	0.1%	0.0%	14.6%	2,185	128	7	0	2,320
90.7%	4.4%	0.1%	0.0%	18.1%	2,649	234	7	0	2,891
96.7%	8.2%	0.2%	0.0%	20.6%	2,825	436	15	0	3,275
98.8%	15.7%	0.3%	0.0%	23.5%	2,886	835	22	0	3,743
99.5%	25.2%	0.5%	0.0%	26.9%	2,906	1,340	37	0	4,283
99.6%	38.1%	1.0%	0.0%	31.4%	2,909	2,027	73	0	5,009
99.7%	51.9%	2.2%	0.0%	36.6%	2,912	2,761	161	0	5,834
99.8%	66.9%	4.9%	0.0%	42.9%	2,915	3,558	358	0	6,832
99.8%	79.3%	8.4%	0.0%	48.6%	2,915	4,218	614	0	7,747
99.9%	86.2%	12.2%	0.4%	52.7%	2,918	4,585	892	2	8,396
100.0%	91.8%	19.5%	1.3%	57.9%	2,921	4,883	1,425	5	9,234
100.0%	95.1%	26.6%	1.9%	62.3%	2,921	5,058	1,944	7	9,931
100.0%	97.7%	38.4%	3.9%	68.6%	2,921	5,197	2,806	15	10,939
100.0%	98.8%	48.2%	7.1%	73.6%	2,921	5,255	3,522	28	11,726
100.0%	99.3%	57.3%	11.9%	78.0%	2,921	5,282	4,187	46	12,437
100.0%	99.6%	67.0%	19.2%	82.8%	2,921	5,298	4,896	75	13,190
100.0%	99.7%	73.9%	28.2%	86.2%	2,921	5,303	5,401	110	13,734
100.0%	99.8%	82.5%	42.8%	90.5%	2,921	5,308	6,029	166	14,425
100.0%	99.9%	87.7%	52.5%	93.2%	2,921	5,314	6,409	204	14,848
100.0%	99.9%	91.9%	63.1%	95.4%	2,921	5,314	6,716	245	15,196
100.0%	100.0%	95.1%	73.0%	97.1%	2,921	5,319	6,950	284	15,474
100.0%	100.0%	97.8%	85.5%	98.6%	2,921	5,319	7,147	333	15,720
100.0%	100.0%	98.8%	89.8%	99.2%	2,921	5,319	7,220	349	15,810
100.0%	100.0%	99.5%	94.8%	99.6%	2,921	5,319	7,271	369	15,880
100.0%	100.0%	99.8%	96.1%	99.8%	2,921	5,319	7,293	374	15,907
100.0%	100.0%	99.9%	96.8%	99.9%	2,921	5,319	7,301	377	15,917
100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	98.1%	100.0%	2,921	5,319	7,308	382	15,930
100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.1%	100.0%	2,921	5,319	7,308	385	15,933
100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.6%	100.0%	2,921	5,319	7,308	387	15,935
100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	2,921	5,319	7,308	389	15,937
100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	2,921	5,319	7,308	389	15,937
100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	2,921	5,319	7,308	389	15,937

Example Revised Language

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River drainage area.

Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 57.121 - 5 AAC 57.123 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means that apply to sport fishing for finfish in the Kenai River Drainage Area:

- (1) salmon may be landed only with the aid of a landing net or by hand;
- (2) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(A) may be taken only from January 1 - July 31, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, as follows:

(i) from January 1 - June 30, from its mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and from July 1 - July 14, from the Soldotna Bridge upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, only king salmon that are less than ~~44~~ 46 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length may be retained;

(ii) if retention is permitted under this subparagraph, a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; there is an annual limit of two king salmon and a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 57.124;

(iii) a king salmon 55 inches or greater in length taken from the Kenai River from January 1 - July 31 must be sealed as specified in 5 AAC 57.160;

(B) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length may not be taken

(i) in the Kenai River upstream of the outlet of Skilak Lake, including Kenai Lake; and

(ii) in the Kenai River drainage lakes and tributaries including Kenai Lake tributaries, except the lower Moose River;

(C) from January 1 - June 30, from its mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and from July 1 - July 14, from the Soldotna Bridge upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, a person, after taking and retaining a king salmon ~~20 inches or greater than 28 inches~~ in length from the Kenai River, may not sport fish from a boat in the Kenai River downstream from Skilak Lake for any species of fish on that same day;

(~~G~~ D) from July 1 – July 31, a person, after taking and retaining a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Kenai River, may not sport fish from a boat in the Kenai River downstream from Skilak Lake for any species of fish on that same day;

5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area

Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are the special provisions and localized exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means set out in 5 AAC 57.120 and 5 AAC 75 for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area:

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

(A) from January 1 - ~~June 30~~ April 30, in the Kenai River, only one unbaited single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(B) from ~~July 1~~ May 1 - July 31, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, only one single hook, may be used;

(C) from September 1 - December 31, in the Kenai River from the mouth of the Upper Killey River upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(D) from November 1 - December 31, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, only unbaited artificial lures may be used;

(E) from May 15 - August 15, the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the upstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, and the waters of the Kenai River within a 100-yard radius of the Moose River, are fly-fishing-only waters;

(F) from January 1 - ~~July 14~~ July 31, the following waters are fly-fishing-only waters:

(i) that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek;

(ii) that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile downstream from the mouth of Funny River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards upstream from the mouth of the Funny River;

(G) from June 25 - ~~July 14~~ July 31, that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately three-quarters of a mile downstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the downstream end of Torpedo Island ~~approximately one-half mile~~ upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River, is fly-fishing-only waters;

(H) in Hidden Lake Creek, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(I) in Mackey Lakes, Derks Lake, Sevena Lake, Cisca Lake, Union Lake, and the unnamed lakes on Tote Road, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice;

(2) the following waters of the Kenai River are closed to sport fishing, as follows:

(A) from April 15 - August 15, Slikok Creek;

(B) from January 1 - December 31, the flowing waters of Soldotna Creek upstream of ADF&G markers located approximately 100 feet upstream from its confluence with the Kenai River;

(C) from May 2 - June 10, the flowing waters of Soldotna Creek downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 feet upstream from its confluence with the Kenai River;

(D) from January 1 - ~~July 14~~ July 31, that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile downstream from the mouth of the Funny River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards upstream from the mouth of the Funny River, is closed to the taking of king salmon;

(E) from June 11 - August 14, the Funny River from the Kenai River upstream to the Funny River Road Bridge;

(F) from May 2 - June 10, the flowing waters of Moose River upstream of the upper edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge;

(G) from June 25 - ~~July 14~~ July 31, that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately three-quarters of a mile downstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the downstream end of Torpedo Island ~~approximately one half mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River~~, is closed to the taking of king salmon;

(H) from May 2 - June 10, Hidden Lake Creek;

(I) from July 1 - August 15, the Kenai River riparian habitats described in 5 AAC 57.180(d) are closed to all sport fishing, except to sport fishing from a boat that is more than 10 feet from shore and is not connected to the shore or any riparian habitat;

(J) from January 1 - ~~July 14~~ July 31, the waters in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 100 yards upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek is closed to the taking of king salmon;

(3) a person may not sport fish from a boat

(A) on any Monday in May, June, and July, except Memorial Day, in that portion of the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, except that unguided sport fishing from a non-motorized vessel is allowed on Mondays in May, June, and July

as described in 5 AAC 21.359(b) (2); for the purposes of this subparagraph, "non-motorized vessel" is a vessel that does not have a motor on board;

(B) from January 1 - ~~July 14~~ July 31, in the following waters:

(i) in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek;

(ii) in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile downstream from the mouth of the Funny River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards upstream from the mouth of Funny River;

(C) from May 15 until the end of the king salmon season, or July 31, whichever is later, in the following waters:

(i) in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 250 yards downstream from the upper breakwater at Centennial Park boat launch, upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge at Soldotna;

(ii) in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards downstream from the landing at Morgan's Hole, at river mile 31, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the north section line of Section 28, Township 5 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian;

(iii) in that portion of the Kenai River within a 100-yard radius of the mouth of the Moose River, and the Moose River upstream to the upstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge;

(D) from June 25 - ~~July 14~~ July 31, in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately three-quarters of a mile downstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the downstream end of Torpedo Island ~~approximately one half mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Upper Killey River;~~

(4) sport fishing from guided vessels is restricted in waters of the Kenai River as specified in 5 AAC 57.140(c) and 5 AAC 57.170(b) (2);

(5) Hidden Lake is closed to sport fishing for burbot;

(6) in Hidden Lake, the bag and possession limit for lake trout is two fish, with no size limit.

5 AAC 57.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Kenai River Drainage Area

(a) The following provisions regarding harvest records and annual limits apply to taking and retaining king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the waters of the Kenai River Drainage Area that are open to sport fishing for king salmon:

(1) a nontransferable harvest record is required and must be in the possession of each person taking and retaining king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; for a licensed angler, a harvest record appears on the back of the angler's sport fishing license; for an angler not required to have a sport fishing license, a harvest record may be obtained, without charge, from department offices and fishing license vendors in the Cook Inlet region;

(2) from May 1-June 30, immediately upon landing a king salmon ~~20 inches or greater in length~~ greater than 28 inches in length, the angler shall enter the date, location (body of water fished), and species of the catch, in ink, on the harvest record;

(3) from July 1-31, immediately upon landing a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, the angler shall enter the date, location (body of water fished), and species of the catch, in ink, on the harvest record;

~~(4)~~ (4) nothing in this section affects or modifies a bag or possession limit specified in this chapter; the annual limit for the combined waters described in this subsection and in 5 AAC 56.124, 5 AAC 58.024, 5 AAC 59.124, 5 AAC 60.124, 5 AAC 61.124, and 5 AAC 62.124 are five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, not more than two of which may be taken from that portion of the Kenai River drainage open to king salmon fishing, and not more than two of which may be taken, in combination, from Deep Creek and the Anchor River.

(A) Except that king salmon 28 inches or less in length taken from the Kenai River from May 1-June 30 do not apply to the annual limit; One king salmon 20-28 inches taken from the Kenai River from May 1-June 30 in length may be retained per day in addition to one king salmon greater than 22 inches in length.

5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of early-run king salmon into the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, to conserve the unique large size early-run king salmon in the Kenai River, and to provide the department with management guidelines.

(b) The department shall manage the Kenai River early-run king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the optimal escapement goal, to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run, and to ensure the age and size composition of the harvest closely approximates the age and size composition of the run.

(c) The department shall manage the Kasilof River early-run king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal, to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run while ensuring adequate escapement of naturally-produced king salmon, and to minimize the effects of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the Kasilof River.

(d) In the Kenai River,

(1) the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 57.120 - 5 AAC 57.123 and in (4) of this subsection;

(2) if the spawning escapement is projected to be less than the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, restrict as necessary the taking of king salmon in the sport and guided sport fisheries in the Kenai River to achieve the optimal escapement goal using one of the following methods:

(A) prohibit the retention of king salmon less than 55 inches in length, except king salmon less than 20 inches in length, downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake through June 30, and require that upstream from the Soldotna Bridge to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, from July 1 through July 14, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used and only king salmon less than

(i) ~~44~~ 46 inches in length and 55 inches or greater in length may be retained; or

(ii) 20 inches in length and 55 inches or greater in length may be retained; or

(B) close the sport and guided sport fisheries to the taking of king salmon in the Kenai River

(i) downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake through June 30; and

(ii) from July 1 through July 14, upstream from the Soldotna Bridge to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge;

~~(3) (C) if the spawning escapement is projected to exceed the upper end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, liberalize~~

restrict the sport fishery downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake, by ~~allowing~~
restricting the use of bait to achieve the optimal escapement goal; only king salmon
less than ~~44~~ 46 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length may be retained;

(4) a person may not possess, transport, or export from this state, a king salmon 55 inches or greater in length taken from the Kenai River from January 1 through July 31, unless the fish has been sealed by an authorized representative of the department within three days after the taking; the person taking the fish must sign the sealing certificate at the time of sealing; the seal must remain on the fish until the preservation or taxidermy process has commenced; a person may not falsify any information required on the sealing certificate; in this paragraph,

(A) "sealing" means the placement of an official marker or locking tag (seal) by an authorized representative of the department on a fish and may include

(i) collecting and recording biological information concerning the conditions under which the fish was taken;

(ii) measuring the specimen submitted for sealing; and

(iii) retaining specific portions of the fish for biological information, including scales, fin rays, and vertebrae;

(B) "sealing certificate" means a form used by the department for recording information when sealing a fish.

(e) In the Kasilof River, the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 56.120(a) and 5 AAC 56.122(8) .

RC 132

Mat-Su!

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

February 7, 2008

To the Board of Fisheries:

The Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau board of directors unanimously supports the action taken by the Mat-Su Borough Assembly on January 15, 2008. The assembly passed resolution no. 08-005 requesting the state of Alaska, Dept. of Fish and Game (1) recommend to the Board of Fisheries that sockeye and chum salmon stocks of the Susitna (Yentna) rivers and Fish Creek be designated "stocks of concern"; (2) prepare a plan for salmon escapement enumeration; (3) establish escapement goals for all salmon species of the northern district and (4) support the enactment of the sustainable salmon policy into state law.

Sportfishing in the Mat-Su Valley is a very popular activity for visitors and residents. Our members (300) rely on adequate salmon runs for a healthy visitor industry. The economic impact sportfishing brings to our communities is decreasing due to the serious problem of not meeting escapement goals for the Northern District bound salmon. The Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau urges the Board of Fisheries to consider the recommendations of the Mat-Su Borough Assembly.

Additionally, we request the continued use of the sonar counter on the Yentna River for sockeye salmon.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Quill

Bonnie Quill, Executive Director
Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau