

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Attn: Jim Marcotte

RECEIVED

FEB 04 2011

BOF

Dear Jim,

We are an Alaskan owned fishing lodge and charter business for Kenai and Kasilof River trips. I am the President of the Jimmie Jack Fishing Co. here on the Kenai Peninsula. I have fished the river each summer since I was a kid in 1982, and I have seen firsthand the difference in the fishery between then and now. I have seen the king salmon fishery on the Kenai River go from a thriving run of huge fish that had set it apart on the world stage of sportfishing...to just another salmon run that has a few big fish.

I would like to provide comment on the Early-run Kenai River King Salmon fishery. We used to have a thriving fishery surrounding the early kings on the Kenai in May and June. Now, it is a shell of its former self, which greatly impacts the recreational, social and economic values associated with it.

The current approach management for early-run Kenai kings has resulted in chronic confusion and management problems. These include:

- consistent inability to regulate escapements within the current goals,
- loss of future yield and opportunity due to escapements exceeding the goals,
- unnecessary loss of current fishery opportunities,
- purposefully-selective harvest by size and sex (slot limit),
- lack of consistency and predictability in in-season management, and
- unintended consequences of early-run management on crowding in the late-run fishery.

We fully support the proposal 230 submitted by Kenai River Sportfishing Association, which seeks a total review of all aspects the early-run management by the Board of Fisheries. KRSA proposes to open all aspects of early-run management for review by the BOF. KRSA is disappointed with many aspects of the early-run plan and the way the plan has been implemented by the Department. The sport fishery for early-run king salmon in the Kenai River has long been one of Alaska's premier recreational fisheries. Its popularity with both resident and non-resident anglers has contributed substantial recreational, social, and economic value to the local communities of the Kenai Peninsula and the State.

Fish for fun,

Jimmie Jack

President

Jimmie Jack Fishing Co.

Toll free: 1-866-553-4744

Book Lodge Packages Online

Book Day Charters Online

P.O. Box 4326

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Tel: 907-262-5561

Toll free: 1-866-553-4744

August 23, 2010

Alaska Board of Fish
c/o Jim Marcotte, Director
Boards Support Section
Alaska DF&G
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska, 99811-5526

RECEIVED
AUG 27 2010
BOARDS

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I lived in Soldotna for 13 years before moving to Sequim, WA., in August, 2009. During my Alaska residence, regulations were changed to prevent river guides and captains/deck hands on saltwater charter boats from fishing with their paying clients—for very good reasons!

This year (on vacation) I chartered a Ninilchik halibut boat, launched out of Anchor Point, and was surprised when the captain informed me (after we were on the Cook Inlet fishing site) that I was sponsoring him and his deckhand (on my money) to go fishing with my wife and friend, so they could fill their larders too!?! They also mentioned something about Alaska halibut selling for ~\$27 per pound in California. I really don't mind paying the charter boat fees for a fishing trip but I vehemently object to sponsoring a paid fishing trip for the captain and his deck hand, when I thought their primary purpose was to facilitate client's fishing and catching fish. Later, ADF&G in Soldotna advised me the regulation was changed back in 2010, even though none of my local friends knew it. Such trips are expensive enough without sponsoring free fishing trips for the hired help, where they are allowed to keep the fish!

I am truly disappointed in the Board changing what I thought was a good regulation for the protection of paying clients. I would hope you reconsider the 2010 regulation reversal for posterity. Sincerely,



Richard Hahn
351 Amethyst Drive
Sequim, WA. 98382
360-683-8717
kenaisoki13@live.com

RECEIVED
SEP 27 2010
BOARDS

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

I have been a property owner on the Kenai River for 23 years. Specifically my home is directly at the base of Hole # 3. I have witnessed firsthand the consequences of this portion of the river being wide open to fishing, partially closed and completely closed to all fishing from a boat until July 31. I believe keeping the Hole closed as presently written the Fish and Game Regulations is best for the spawn King Salmon and protection of the river bank from further large wake erosion and therefore is good for the habitat.

Below is my point by point response to Proposal 226 -5 AAC 57.121 and Proposal 227 - 5 AAC 57.121 since they are requesting similar change:

Proposal 226 5 AAC 57.121 Proposal 227 -5 AAC 57.121

I would like to speak in favor keeping the Killey River King Salmon closure and boating restrictions as presently restricted and AGAINST the change as proposed in Proposal 226 and Proposal 227.

If the goal is to create a safe haven for the King Salmon to rest without harassment before moving up the river to spawn then any change in the present regulation will endanger that goal. We have personally witnessed the MAYHEM that occurs on July 15th when the hole reopens to King fishing, as has been witnessed in past years. Multiple fish are caught by guide boats as well as local fisherman floating through the hole. Catch and release of slot fish takes place however when caught multiple times there survivability decreases and the ability to move up river and into the tributaries to spawn is jeopardized.

If the issue is to allow seniors, handicapped and youth to fish from a boat for red salmon then lift the fly fishing restriction and include single hook lures (which is easier to fish than flies) and allow fishing from a boat anchored no more than 10 feet from shore.

If the goal is for seniors, handicapped and youth to fish for King Salmon then Hole #1 and #2 are available to them where slack water is also accessible for fighting fish. Presumably if they are capable of fishing from a boat in Hole #3 then that boat surely is capable of moving up or down the river to another fishing location.

If the goal is for "Youngsters in flimsy aluminum or inflatable boats who can safely play and fish in the calm water of Hole #3.", as outlined in one of the proposed benefit, should we be

encouraging youth to fish from flimsy and presumable other forms of unsafe water craft anywhere on the Kenai River?

I therefore respectfully encourage you to maintain the restrictions as presently written in the 2010 Fishing Regulations, (with perhaps the exception of lifting the fly fishing only regulation and allow single hooks lures to be fished from a boat a boat anchored no further than 10 feet from shore).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Wickler', written in a cursive style.

Dr Larry Wickler



Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

6100 O'Malley Rd., Anchorage, Alaska, 99507

Phone 907.346.1004

Fax 907.346.2079

From the desk of the President

Date: September 27, 2010

To Alaska Board of Fisheries,
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax 907 465-6094

Dear Board of Fisheries Members:

Thank you for your tireless efforts in trying to maintain balance and equity in this complicated issue of allocations. Let me state as succinctly as I can my thoughts on behalf of my family who are set netters.

1. There are now far too many drifters. Drift permits have gone from 300 to 800 in recent years.
2. Our set net sites have dropped dramatically in production while the drifters have increased substantially because of the open allocation of time.
3. I have a concern that the Nushagak advisory committee only has one set net representative which causes me to question its bias.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my appeal for fairness.

Ken Crawford,
Anchorage, AK
S04T60919
S04t58961

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2010

Jim Marcotte
Executive Director, Board of Fisheries
PO Box 15526
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Proposals 119 & 120 Restructuring Proposals

RECEIVED
SEP 28 2010
BOARDS

1. Regulatory Area - Area H
Gear Type - Drift Gillnet

2. Explanation:

- a. No new harvester qualifications other than owning a second drift permit, second permit will be necessary
- b. Can be developed within existing allocations
- c. An individual may hold two permits and actively fish them in the same season - the amount of gear to be determined, although 200 fathoms is suggested
- d. No vessel length issues
- e. None other than existing transferability processes
- f. Processor involvement is not anticipated
- g. Yes, permanent as any other regulation
- h. No
- i. None are anticipated or being relied upon
- j. The economics of the fishery will set the direction, use or non-use of owning two permits
- k. This is a self-financed fleet reduction
- l. Economics involved with purchasing and operating larger (length) fishing gear

3. There are economic objectives are to be achieved

4. Allows fishermen an alternative means of achieving economic goals

5. None anticipated - allocation aspects to be handled in other Board of Fish regulations

6. Fishermen will benefit

7. Current practices can continue

8. No comment

9. Don't know

10. Don't know

11. To be determined

Submitted By: Name Roland man (signature required)
 Individual or Group UCIDA - United Park Tuleet Drift Association
 Address 43961 K. Beach Rd, Ste E Zip Code 99906 Phone 210-9436

DESHKA LANDING OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION LLC

P.O. Box 155 Willow, Alaska 99688

RECEIVED
FEB 04 2011
BOARDS

January 20, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
ADFG
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Re: Sportfishing in the Mat-Su Borough

Dear Board of Fisheries,

The Deshka Landing Outdoor Association, LLC (DLOA) consists of 170 members that are frequent avid sportfishermen in the Lower Susitna Drainage. DLOA provides boat ramp access to the Lower Susitna Drainage for thousands of fishermen every year. It has become increasingly challenging for fishermen to catch their limits over the past few years. Each closure, restriction, and related regulatory actions have had, and will continue to have, significant impacts on Alaskans and visitors enjoyment of the fishery.

As a business we have also had to weather through some lean years when the escapements were not reached. Although this puts a financial strain on our business, it is more damaging to many other smaller lodges, guides, and other service related businesses located throughout the borough. We would like to advocate that decisions are made that will protect and improve the sustainability of a healthy fishery.

On behalf of our Board of Managers and our membership we would like endorse the proposals supported and opposed which have been selected by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee for the Board of Fisheries meeting that includes Upper Cook Inlet Finfish scheduled in Anchorage, February 20-March 5, 2011.

Support Proposals

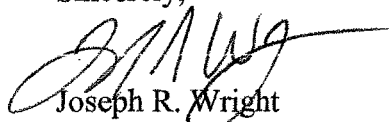
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|--|
| <p>126- This will ensure that greater numbers of salmon return to streams located in the Mat-Su which will give greater opportunities for sportfishermen. Successfully passing this proposal will create a positive economic impact for businesses located in the Mat-Su.</p> |
| <p>134/135- These proposals will open up discussion about improving the management plan for escapement goals of salmon in the Yentna and Susitna Rivers. Updating management plans, and managing the plan correctly will ultimately protect the stocks from overharvesting. When there are plenty of fish there will be plenty of positive economic impact for businesses located in the Mat-Su.</p> |
| <p>136- Modifying the OEG for Yentna River Sockeye will assist in protecting the stock. Without increased concern over the Sockeye return, the chance of overharvesting is present. A healthy return of Sockeye will hopefully lead to healthy returns of the other salmon stock. We need to address this concern now before we are in position where it is too late to improve the return. Many businesses will falter if there is not a healthy sustainable return of fish in the drainage.</p> |
| <p>137- Amending the management plan for Yentna River Sockeye will assist in protecting the stock. Without increased concern over the Sockeye return, the chance of overharvesting is present. A healthy return of Sockeye will hopefully lead to healthy returns of the other salmon stock. We need to address this concern now before we are in position where it is too late to improve the return. Many businesses will falter if there is not a healthy sustainable return of</p> |

fish in the drainage.
142- This will promote greater numbers of salmon return to streams located in the Mat-Su which will give greater opportunities for sportfishermen. Successfully passing this proposal will create a positive economic impact for businesses located in the Mat-Su.
143- (Preferred support over 142) This will promote greater numbers of salmon return to streams located in the Mat-Su which will give greater opportunities for sportfishermen. Establishing preference for recreational use will assist identified species in making their way back to their spawning streams, and thus creating a sustainable fishery. Successfully passing this proposal will create a positive economic impact for businesses located in the Mat-Su.
144- Establishing the management plan for Kings in Susitna River and small streams will protect the stocks from overharvesting. Although the initial management may affect sportfishermen and associated businesses with more closures or restrictions, the anticipated results in the long run will provide improved returns which in turn will create positive economic impact for businesses located in the Mat-Su. The goal is to have sustainable King stock in all of the streams in the management plan.
159- Amending the regulation to minimize incidental harvest of no-targeted species in the Upper Cook Inlet will promote greater numbers of salmon return to streams located in the Mat-Su which will give greater opportunities for sportfishermen. Successfully passing this proposal will create a positive economic impact for businesses located in the Mat-Su.
202- This will improve the fishing experience for Knik Arm Drainage sportfishermen by returning to the previous level of bag and possession limit of 3 Coho's. Successfully passing this proposal will create a positive economic impact for businesses located in the Mat-Su.
203- This will improve the fishing experience for Anchorage Bowl Drainage sportfishermen by returning to the previous level of bag and possession limit of 3 Coho's. Successfully passing this proposal will create a positive economic impact for businesses located in the Mat-Su.

Oppose Proposals

108- This proposal will allow commercial fisherman increased catches of salmon bound for spawning streams and sportfishermen in the Mat-Su. If an increase in commercial fishing is allowed the results will be devastating to the sustainability of the stocks and also devastating to the businesses in the Mat-Su.
110- The sportfishermen and businesses of the Mat-Su will be dramatically affected by the decrease in Coho's making it to Mat-Su streams due to extending the commercial season. Sustainability of Coho's would be put in peril due to the lack of spawners returning to their streams.
145- The Board of Fisheries has no authority to mandate program elements to AKFG. The Northern District Setnetters Association admits that there is a potential for overharvesting of Susitna River bound King's. If there is an increase in interception of Susitna River King's the results will be devastating to the sustainability of the stock, as well as devastating to the businesses in the Mat-Su.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Wright
 President, Deshka Landing Outdoor Association, LLC

Friday, February 04, 2011

Fax to: (907)465-6094

Attn: Board of Fisheries:**I absolutely oppose the following proposals !!!!!!!!**

174-Allow non residents to participate in dip-netting

175-A July 17th opener for dipping, rather than July 10th

176-Open dip-netting only after escape goals are met, which is about halfway through the run

181-Establish a harvest cap of 150,000 for the Kenai River. (Last years take was almost 300,000)

183-Establish a guideline harvest of 10% for dip-netters and sport fishermen.(Commercial fishers would get the other 90% of all fish)

186-Reduce the bag limit to 15 fish per family

187-Reduce household limit to 10 fish.

189-Prohibit any retention of King Salmon during dip-netting

193 & 194-Prohibit dip-netting from a boat in the Kenai.

These fish do not belong to the commercial fisherman nor do they belong to any non-residents. This fishery is meant to be subsistence, for the people of Alaska ONLY. Leave the dip-netting as it is.

Sincerely,

Leave the dip-netting as it is. !!!!!!!!

JOSEPH STRICKLAND 2-4-2011

Friday, February 04, 2011

Fax to: (907)465-6094

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Sincerely,

Roy Mackie
Roy Mackie
533 N. Denali St
Palmer, Alaska

Leave the dip-netting as it is. !!!!!!!!*99645*

February 4, 2011

Wallace Henson
101 W Spruce Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

*Attn: Shannon
Public Comment
UCC BOF*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am requesting an expansion of the personal use gillnet fishery on the Kasilof River. I would like to see an additional opening of the Kasilof Gillnet Personal Use Gillnet Fishery that would take place from July 10, 2011 to July 26, 2011, from 6:00 am until 11:00 pm each day. This change would spread out the residents who participate in the fishery and reduce crowding with additional set gillnet fishing times available on the same beaches in July. This additional opening would also provide access during the peak of the sockeye salmon run which normally occurs during the week of July 13th through July 20th. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wallace Henson



RECEIVED

FEB 04 2011

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Friday, February 04, 2011

Fax to: (907)465-6094

Attn: Board of Fisheries:

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Sincerely,



Orion Harger

Leave the dip-netting as it is. !!!!!!!!

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board support
Alaska Depart of Fish and Game
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Fax 907-465-6094

From: South Central Alaska Dipnetters association
PO Box 873641
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

To Alaska Board of Fisheries,

SCADA was started in 2006 and has over 200 members, today, and we are growing every year. We are indicative of the almost 80,000 thousand Alaskan residents that benefit from dipnetting, here in South Central Alaska. We find it interesting that out of 28 proposals on dipnetting, 26 are trying to cut back on Alaskan's trying to put fish into their freezers because they choose to do so with a dipnet. We find this somewhat disturbing. Dipnetting is one of the greatest ways Alaskans can put meat away for the winter and not have to make multiple trips to do it.

Please find our response to the latest proposals concerning dipnetting below.

Proposal 172- although we find this proposal attempting to educate dipnetters a nice attempt, we find it being too onerous on the Department of Fish and Game at this time. As in any fishery, you can't legislate morality or manners and in the dipnet fishery, we have our fair share of ill-mannered people. Not supported

173- this proposal seems to make the elimination of having to have a valid Sports fishing license while dipnetting. The author makes a correlation between having a new dipnetting permit and enforcement. We find this conclusion with out merit. Not supported

174- we find this proposal by UCIDA a veiled attempt to have dipnetting thrown into chaos. The history of personal use falls back on subsistence, for those that have a customary use or history, concerning the fishery. If UCIDA is so concerned about they're out of state members not being able to participate, they can just declare it on home packs and fish tickets. Not supported

175- this proposal is strictly allocative in design. Why should sports fishers be given priority over dipnetters? Not supported

176- This proposal is almost making a lost yield argument. What happens if too many fish are allowed past the counters? You then have too large an amount for maximum sustained yield from the habitat? What happens then, we go to a terminal fishery at the mouth of the Kenai?

More than half of the last 30 years sockeye escapements in the Kenai have *exceeded* the *top end* of goals. These are *surplus* fish dipnetters and sport fishermen did not, and could not, possibly harvest. Lost yield.

If the author doesn't like Alaskans putting fish into their freezers, he should just come out and say that commercial fishermen should take priority over all other users. On the flip side, let us put that same onus on the commercial fleet. Have them only fish Monday's and Thursdays, with no emergency openers, until 350,000 fish have passed the counter. Commercial nets take a lot more than a dipnet so this proposal is pretty lopsided. How many thousands of fish do Comfishers take while waiting for the trigger so dipnetting can start?

Dipnetters are now allowed 21 days to obtain fish; commercial fishers just go when the fish are there, by EO or by the Monday and Thursday of the normal fishery. So dippers are already contained to a certain time frame, limiting catch rate. Not supported

177- this proposal tries to lay blame on poor catch rates to dipnetters. From our understanding, sport fishers and dippers split the 15% that the commercials don't catch, allowing for escapement. Not Supported

178- This proposal wants to allow dipnetting only after the OEG is met. How can forcing a large group of people to congregate in a small area, under a more limited time frame eliminate crowding and unlimited participation, as his proposal states? This is just another veiled attempt to limit Alaskans from putting fish into their freezers. Not supported

179- Another proposal to limit dipnetting. Again, Managers have the ability to open and close fisheries under the management plan. Not supported

180- The dipnet fishery is already regulated by days allowed and hours for when people can dip. It is not an unlimited fishery. As you can tell from the "other solutions considered" part of this proposal, the author believes dipnetting is out of control. Not supported

181- This proposal attempts to cap the dipnet fishery. It is not reasonable because the Department does not collect information from dipnet permits until after the fishery is closed. Not supported

182- This proposal takes issue of Habitat degradation during the dipnet fishery. There have been great strides by the City of Kenai with fencing, enforcement and refuse/sanitation issues. The latest report from the City gives glowing reviews from all departments for the handling of the dipnet fishery. Please see the City of Kenai report as an RC, for 2010

We also have the hard work from sixteen sport and commercial organizations spearheading concerns that the state takes more responsibility at the mouth of the Kasilof. DNR is in the process of forming a special use area. Dipnetting is also regulated by time and days allowed to fish. Not supported

183- This is another proposal that is unreasonable due to the fact that household limits are not reported until after the fishery is closed. Not Supported

184- This proposal wants to allocate a total of ten percent to sports and personal use. Nothing like telling 99 percent of Alaskans that you get "this amount" only. The rest will be sold on the open market.

Looking at the numbers from 2010, Dipnetters took approximately 470,000 fish from Kenai/Kasilof. Of the 31,000 permits issued, 27,600 were fished. With the average Alaskan household having 2.78 people, that comes out to a little over 6 fish per person, per year. We don't see that as being excessive.

Not supported

185- Once again, dipnetters are regulated by time and hours. They can also be closed by emergency order, under the current management plan. According to enforcement, there were over 700 hours devoted to dipnetting, in 2010. We fail to see any back up information that the harvest is unregulated.

186- This proposal concludes that due to the bag limits in effect today, that Fishing managers do not have sound biological management of the Kenai. We find this inconclusive due to the fact that in the past 30 years, we have exceeded our upper end of the management goal of escapement in over half those years. Last years Sockeye take by commercial fishers exceeded the average commercial take for the past 20 years. How can that be lost biological management? This is just another way to limit the average Alaskan putting fish into their freezers. Not Supported

187 This proposal wants to limit the amount of fish that Alaskans, using a dipnet, can put away into their freezers. The average take, per person, is a little over six fish, per year. This just goes to show that Most Alaskans do not waste their catch and take only what they need. Some families are larger than the federal census of 2.78 so dropping the limit would be too restrictive on them. This is just another a locative argument. Not supported.

188 this proposal attempts to cut back the bag limit or delay the dipnet fishery. Time, hours, gear and areas in which to dipnet already limit Alaskans putting fish into their freezers. This would also force a large group of people into a small amount of space. If you thought the beaches are crowded now, what do you think would happen if this proposal were to be adopted? Not supported.

189 This proposal seeks to prohibit the retention of King Salmon during the dipnet fishery. In July, the majority of people fishing the Kenai River are guided and most of those are from out of state. So we believe that this would be taking fish from Alaskans and giving them to Out of Stators. This is also like telling your neighbor that chooses to take his fish with a dipnet, he can't retain kings but you can, if you use a pole. In 2010, there were approximately 865 King salmon taken from the Kenai in the dipnet fishery. The ten-year average is approximately 1040. With over 27,600 household permits fished last year alone, We find 865 Kings is not a lot of pressure on Kenai Kings. This is purely a locative concern, not a biological one. Not Supported.

190 This proposal seeks to propose what already is in regulation. Not supported

191 this proposal seeks to reduce mesh size currently under regulation. In the Kenai river alone, during July, runs consist of sockeye, Kings and pinks, later on in July. We do not feel that this is warranted. Not supported

192 This proposal seeks to prohibit retention of both sport and personal use fish on the same day. We find fault here on a number of fronts but the major concern is that many people travel long distances to enjoy weekends on the peninsula and also put fish into their freezers at the same time. Not supported

193 This proposal seeks to eliminate the use of boats during the dipnet fishery. If you thought the beaches were crowded already, just imagine what it would look like without access to boats. This just seems like another a locative concern, rather than concern for Beluga whales. If there were a major problem, you would believe that the NMFS would have stepped in already. Not supported

194 UCIDA attempt to condense the dipnet boat fishery under "Beluga concern". Not supported.

195 This proposal was submitted by SCADA and seeks to open the Fish Creek dipnet fishery by regulation instead of by emergency order. We wrote this up to initiate discussion on the so few and far between openings of the fish creek fishery. On further review and discussion with other fishing groups, we would like to amend this to a trigger of 50,000 sockeye before the dipnet fishery is opened. This would change from the current trigger of 70,000.

196 Seeks changes to the Beluga river personal use fishery. We support

197/198/199 These proposals seek to create more personal use fisheries. We have to pause and kind of laugh. We don't know whether SCADA should throw stones at UCIDA, or make them an honorary member of our organization? We think this is a kind of tongue-in-cheek type proposals but we will say this. If the species targeted are in sufficient numbers and there is not a biological concern, enlarging the bag limit of sports fishing should suffice. Not supported

Friday, February 04, 2011

Fax to: (907)465-6094

Attn: Board of Fisheries:

I absolutely oppose the following proposals !!!!!!!!!

174-Allow non residents to participate in dip-netting

175-A July 17th opener for dipping, rather than July10th

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These fish do not belong to the commercial fisherman nor do they belong to any non-residents. This fishery is meant to be subsistence, for the people of Alaska ONLY. Leave the dip-netting as it is.

Sincerely,

Dylan and Devin Vergason
13301 Messinia St
Anchorage AK 99516

Leave the dip-netting as it is. !!!!!!!!!

ATIN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

My name is Randy J Berg, a 34-year Alaska Resident, residing in Sterling, Alaska, with a mailing address at PO BOX 4177, Soldotna, Alaska 99669.

As an avid sport fisherman and personal-use fishing advocate, I am appalled at the greed I see in so many of the proposals in the 2010/2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal Changes Book. It appears quite obvious that the local East-Side Setnetters and the Upper Cook Inlet Driftnet Commercial Fishermen are not satisfied with harvesting the vast majority of available fishery resources which belong to All Alaskans equally. It seems by their proposals that they want it all.

What is wrong with a personal-use family having the opportunity to harvest 25 salmon per head of household, with an additional 10 salmon per each additional family member? We are a family of 4, and we use every bit of our personal-use caught salmon we harvest from our small sportfishing boat every year. We also use this traditional fishing opportunity as a family & social outing each year, which brings us together, making us a stronger family unit. As fisheries board members, you will hear of waste and over-limit catches. I believe these incidents to be minimal and isolated, just as you have in the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries. That's why we have enforcement agencies, and they seem to be doing a good job.

It appears that most of the personal-use fishing proposals are aimed at trying to put more sockeye salmon in commercial fishing nets. It has nothing to do with good biology; just greed and undermining an important Alaska Resident Fishery. Therefore, I urge you to study and reject the following proposals; Proposal No's. 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 191. I would urge you to look at Proposals No. 193 & 194, and while finding humor in the fact that these were submitted by the UCIDA group, you may inquire during the meetings of UCIDA members as to how they plan on accessing their fishery when so many of them motor in and out of the Kenai, Kasilof, and Ninilchik Rivers. Please reject no's 193 & 194 as just another ploy to put more fish in commercial nets.

Sportfishing on the Kenai Rive and Kasilof River suffered extensively in the late 1980's and 1990'2 when the commercial gillnet fisheries were allowed to fish back-to-back openers. Once the Board of Fisheries instituted the "windows" for management purposes in the gillnet fisheries, which required commercial fisheries biologists to close commercial gillnetting for specific numbers of days and hours every week, there was finally a tool to allow a few fish into the Rivers for sport fishing opportunity and spawning escapement. Without the "windows, sportfishing on the Rivers was very bleak. Now that ADFG biologists are required to use the "windows" in order for fish to get into the Rivers.

sportfishers at least have a small opportunity of catching a salmon on the Rivers during the commercial fishing season. I hope all board members will realize the importance of the "windows" requirement, and will reject Proposal No. 327, as passing this will bring us back to 7 days a week, 24 hours a day commercial gillnetting.

Board members are going to once again hear about managing the Upper Cook Inlet fisheries "biologically", without politics. Not only will this never happen, but it is unrealistic to think it might. Fortunately, we have the Alaska Board of Fisheries to direct the biologists through the board process. Without this process, the fisheries would really suffer. On the Kenai Peninsula, we still have retired commercial fisheries biologists from the 1980's & 1990's who are very influential in the in-season management of our fisheries, and in helping to write proposals for changes to the fisheries management. The reason I bring this to your attention is so that all board members are aware of the call for "biologically managing our fisheries". This is a great idea...let's just make damn sure we have the right biologists in place, which in my 34 year Alaska Resident educated experience, is not going to happen.

We are also going to hear the doom and gloom from the commercial fishing groups of the term over escapement into the Kenai River. There is no such thing as over escapement. It is a word dreamt up by commercial fishing groups, which translates into "we want more sockeye in our gillnets". Salmon have been running into these Rivers for thousands of years, and could possibly produce more and more offspring if we just let more fish into the Rivers. I am enclosing just one article of gloom and doom which was in the Redoubt Reporter, February, 2010. This is just one example of the rhetoric we hear all the time here on the Kenai Peninsula. As witnessed by the excellent run we had on the Kenai River in 2010, this article sheds a lot of light on how our biologists are way off on their predictions of our salmon runs each year. I know it is the best we have to go with when looking at the fisheries, but if we had a record run of Sockeye in 2011, the rhetoric would not change. It would still spin towards we need more fish in our gillnets.

I also urge the Board Members to use caution when considering the new "Ditson Sonar". As witnessed in the 2010 King Salmon Fishery on the Kenai River, the counter was way over counting fish, which numbers were used in considering how many emergency orders were given for extra gillnet fishing periods. Although the numbers were revised after the season, the final numbers remain suspect. This is another reason we would have a tough time to manage all of these fisheries "biologically". If the local biologists would have listened to the sportfishermen on the Rivers, they could have made in-season adjustments, instead of waiting for after the season to come up with numbers which showed they may have made the required King Salmon escapement in the Kenai River.

Thank you for your consideration of my input. Any questions can be addressed to me at 907-262-5727 or 907-252-1766.

Thank you.
Randy Berg.

Fishing group foresees disaster — Drift association requests info about state, federal relief, management plans

By Jenny Neyman



Photo courtesy of Erik Massey. Commercial salmon fishing boats congregate in the mouth of the Kenai River last summer.

Redoubt Reporter

For the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, the 2010 Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon run forecast may be tantamount to a declaration of economic disaster. The commercial fishing association's executive director, Roland Maw, is wasting no time preparing to ask for state and federal assistance should the season end up as bad as it is looking to be.

The run forecast, issued Dec. 29, 2009, estimates a total Upper Cook Inlet sockeye run of 3.6 million, with an escapement of 1.3 million fish and harvest of 2.3 million fish. That's about 1.7 million less fish for harvest than the 20-year average of 4 million sockeye. Maw sent a letter Jan. 26 to Gov. Sean Parnell's office asking to be provided with the criteria and policies used in the state initiating a disaster declaration over the abysmal Yukon River king salmon fishery last year, in anticipation of this summer's limited sockeye harvest opportunities warranting a similar disaster declaration.

Maw sent copies of the letter to a long list of additional recipients, including Alaska's Congressional delegation, area state legislators, the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, mayors of

the cities of Kenai and Soldotna and the borough, chairs of area Fish and Game Advisory Committees and several area fishing and ecological organizations.

“We just put everybody on alert, said, ‘Here’s the forecast. We all need some basic information and would you please send it out so the community is aware of it.’ Then let’s see what happens. We’ll probably have to revisit this matter in August,” Maw said.

The forecast for the Kenai River is 1.7 million fish, 45 percent under the 20-year average of 3.1 million. The forecast for the Susitna River is 542,000 sockeyes, down 41 percent from the 20-year average of 913,000. Management plans for both rivers call for restricting commercial fishing in the central area — as well as the northern district for the Susitna run — in order to allow more fish to enter the rivers and meet escapement goals.

As if that weren’t bad enough for area commercial fishing families, the harvest forecast could very well be even less than predicted, Maw said. That was the case last year, when a harvest of 3 million fish was estimated in the forecast, but only 2.6 million fish were harvested by all user groups.

“When the runs are in a building state the forecasts tend to underestimate the returns, and the reverse of that tends to be equally true. When the runs are in a decline, the forecast tends to say there’s more fish than are actually here,” Maw said.

“(The letter) alerts everybody, ‘This is what the forecast is.’ We’ll just have to see how this summer plays out because, yes, we do anticipate that the return to the Kenai this summer very well may be below the forecast. If that happens, we all could be in a pickle,” he said.

Maw said he’s already gotten supportive responses from Kenai Mayor Pat Porter and borough Mayor Dave Carey, recognizing that a low sockeye harvest doesn’t just hurt fishermen, it affects the entire community.

With commercial fishing, a poor harvest can mean a reduction in fishermen purchasing fuel, gear and supplies for their drift boats or setnet operations, fewer crew members hired, and less spending in general, Maw said. He said there are almost 600 drift permits issued and 700 setnet permits and estimated that, last year, about 380 driftnet permits were fished, and about 60 percent of the setnet permits were active. All told, with crew members, that accounts for 800 to 1,000 families or more

“It’s a loss to oil and gas companies, it’s a loss to distributors and wholesales. We’re not buying gas for our pickups, we’re not buying tires. We’re not buying clothes. People go into a very conservative spending mode,” he said.

Fishermen and processors also pay fish taxes, which are reduced in low-harvest years.

“Those taxes come back to the borough, and is shared with municipal governments. That’s in the range of \$600,000 to \$700,000 a year. That means that this year, based on last year’s commercial harvest, that money is going to be significantly reduced. That comes back and bites everybody,” Maw said.

A weak sockeye run to the Kenai could negatively affect the sportfishing industry and, by extension, the tourism industry, which also generates significant amounts of money.

Maw said he inquired about the criteria for a disaster declaration after last year’s Upper Cook Inlet sockeye harvest only came to 2.6 million fish, and was told the harvest would have to be worse than that. He said an estimated 2.3 million harvest ought to qualify.

“We had meetings with folks in the governor’s office. They said the run needs to be well below 2 million. Last year’s wasn’t severe enough. Well, here you go. Now we want a copy of those requirements,” Maw said.

A poor Kenai commercial harvest in 2000 resulted in a state disaster declaration, but that didn’t do much practical good, Maw said.

“One of the solutions offered was, ‘We’ll just offer you cheap loans.’ I’m sorry, that does not work. It is almost an insult to the industry,” Maw said.

If the 2010 harvest ends up as poor as is forecast, Maw hopes to have the fishing season warrant a federal disaster declaration, as there is more flexibility with money that may become available. Funds would still need to be appropriated, and Maw said he hopes Alaska’s Congressional delegation will help with that, but once money is available, it could go to more than just fishermen.

“(With the state disaster declaration) there’s no recognition to the cities and municipalities and to other businesses that provide goods and services to this industry,” Maw said. “The federal one has a fair bit more flexibility. That would allow, ves. maybe some direct

payments to fishermen and processors and businesses that are impacted. But also recognition that maybe we do need to have some biological assessment work and remediation work done. There may be some money to offset raw fish taxes to the borough and (Cook Inlet) Aquaculture Association and other sorts of secondary industries and governments can have some relief. The benefit that can be derived to the community can have quite a wider range of application under the federal one than the state one. Without question we would prefer the federal one.”

Beyond the letter to the governor, Maw sent another to Fish and Game requesting a management outlook from the Division of Sport Fish. The Commercial Fisheries Division prepares such a document when a run forecast is low, which helps the commercial industry plan for what’s ahead, Maw said.

“The management outlook says, ‘Gee, given that biological assessment of run strength, this is how we’re going to manage this fishery.’ In other words, ‘If that happens early (if the return is low) and we know there’s a small return, expect to be shut down by this date. If it happens a little bit later, expect to be shut down by that date. In any event, be on notice that management is going to have to intervene to make sure we get the escapement into the rivers so we have something four or five years from now,’” Maw said.

He would like to see the Division of Sport Fish share a plan of how it intends to manage the sport fishery throughout the river and personal-use dipnet fishery at the mouth of the Kenai, open to Alaska residents only, if a weak return occurs.



File photo by Patrice Kohl, Redoubt Reporter. Personal-use dipnet fishermen pull sockeye salmon from the mouth of the Kenai River last summer.

“It came to our attention (the Division of) Sport Fish is not doing that,” Maw said. “So we sent a letter to Commissioner (Denby) Lloyd saying, ‘We’ve noticed the Commercial Fisheries Division is doing this

in response to the biological forecast. Would you please, for this community, have the Division of Sport Fish tell us how they plan to manage the sport fishery and personal-use fishery in light of the forecast?”

Of particular interest to Maw is whether the dipnet fishery will be restricted this year if it looks as though Kenai's escapement numbers are in jeopardy. In 2009, commercial fishing of sockeyes bound for the Kenai River was shut down in July in order to make escapement numbers. Meanwhile, dipnetting continued unabated, and resulted in a higher harvest than ever before.

“Tell us what you're going to do with the PU fishery, for example, so the city of Kenai knows how to staff their operations, just like the commercial guys need to know how to staff and gear up and the processors need to know how many crew and how much staff and how much fiber to buy for cardboard,” Maw said. “On the sport side, other people need to know similar kinds of information. If the run comes in weak and you know that by the 15th of July, what are you going to do with the PU fishery? Are you going to scale it back? Leave it run unabated? Are you going reduce bag limits? What are you going to do?”

The Kenai River drew a record number of dipnetters in 2009. Overall personal-use fishing was up in the state, with a record 29,619 permits issued — so many that permit vendors ran out during the season and Fish and Game had to print more. At the Kenai, Fish and Game estimates 26,043 household days fished, up from 20,676 in 2008. Participation was up at the Kasilof River personal-use fisheries, as well, with 7,571 days fished per household in the dipnet fishery, compared to 5,493 the year before, and 1,761 days fished per household in the setnet fishery, up from 1,533 the year before.

Both the Kasilof and Kenai rivers saw dipnet sockeye salmon harvest numbers skyrocket past any previous records in 2009, at a time when commercial fishermen were forced to pull their nets from the water.

The Kenai River dipnet fishery harvested 339,993 sockeyes in 2009, up from 234,109 sockeyes in 2008. The Kasilof River dipnet fishery netted 73,035 sockeyes, up from 54,051 the year before.

Maw said he'd like to see equity in the way the sport, commercial and personal-use fisheries are managed.

“The management plan adopted by the Board of Fish says that sport, commercial subsistence, educational and personal-use fisheries all

shall be managed to meet the escapement goals. Did that happen last summer? No,” Maw said. “There was a conservation concern that was clearly identified — we just might not make this escapement goal. Because of that we’re going to shut down the drift and setnet fisheries, and we might reduce bag and possession limits (on sportfishing) in the Kenai River, but there was some debates about what management actions should or might be applied to the PU fishery. I didn’t agree with the decisions. If everyone is to bear in the bounty, everyone bears the conservation burden in times of scarcity. And to not implement that causes a great deal of angst and conflict in our community that I would just as soon not be there.”

Maw said that, especially in light of how popular the Kenai and Kasilof dipnet fisheries are becoming, it’s becoming increasingly important to manage them responsibly.

“What are you going to do if, for example, the Kenai River is a weak return at or below forecast and, let’s say 10,000 people decide to go to the Kasilof? It’s like squeezing on a balloon, you push on it in one place and it pops out somewhere else. How are you going to manage that demand, and not just here in the Kenai, but up in the Matanuska Valley and all those sport fisheries up there, as well?”

In looking at the Kenai and Kasilof dipnet harvest, Maw pointed out that the 2009 harvest not only represented more sockeyes caught, it represented a larger proportion of the overall harvest going to dipnetters.

“Four hundred thousand fish out of a 5- to 6-million fish return is one thing, but 400,000 fish out of less than a 2-million fish return is quite something else,” Maw said. “It’s not just the total numbers were up and that’s having an impact, it also is an impact relative to the size of the return.”

For comparison, those 400,000 fish could have kept the commercial fleet fishing for another week to 10 days, Maw said. That’s 2.4 million pounds of salmon, at about 6 pounds per fish. At an average commercial sockeye price of about \$1.25 per pound, that would be about \$3 million, just to the fishing operations, Maw said. Doubling that as those fish leave the processors, that would be about \$6 million, he said.

“That \$3 million going to the PU fishery, when you talk about multiplier effects, that could very well could equate to, conservatively, five times ex-vessel value. The loss inside this community could be \$15 million in economic activity. And see you know did we gain that

much on the other side? So we have some concerns about the economic arguments and concerns about polices being followed to share the burden of conservation. But in a very practical sense, I have to deal with the economic fallout that occurs in the lives of these fishermen.”

Robert Begich, area management biologist for the Division of Sport Fish, said he hadn't heard about Maw's request for a sport fish outlook paper.

However, “in the late-run sockeye salmon management plan for the Kenai River, all it says in there is the department shall provide for a sport and personal-use fishery. There is no provision for a fisheries restriction to the sport and recreational fisheries based on the forecast. All there is just speaks to liberalization for all fisheries,” Begich said. “And it doesn't ever pertain to the forecast. Only when the in-season estimate run strength, which occurs in late July, is over 2 million, then the PU fishery can be liberalized by allowing it to go 24 hours a day.”

That doesn't mean managers can't or won't restrict sport or personal-use fishing. Either would happen if the escapement goal isn't going to be met.

“For the sport fishery, when we determine we're not going to get sufficient numbers of sockeye into the Kenai River to achieve the escapement goals, that's when there'd be an action taken,” Begich said. “When the department determined we were not going to get the numbers into the river to meet the escapement goal, that's when (restricting the sport and PU fishery) would occur.”

Begich said fisheries managers expected there to be an increase in the Kenai dipnet harvest this year, in keeping with the increased participation in the fishery. However, it can be difficult to predict a dipnet harvest based on numbers of permits issued, because not all permit holders actually fish.

“The issue with the permits is there's several thousand that people get the permit but they don't participate. So even through more permits are issued, it doesn't necessarily translate to a great big bump in the effort. But we printed more permits because we issued more. So the natural thinking is all of those people were fishing. Well, all of them weren't, but the effort still went up,” Begich said.

Fish and Game ties the low run forecast in the Kenai to overescapements that happened in 2004, 2005 and 2006, the parent

years for the 2010 sockeye run. Maw sees those overescapements as a failed Fish and Game experiment to test escapement limits and wants the state to be prepared to take responsibility for the problems caused by those overescapements.

“We said five years ago, ‘Well, we wish you wouldn’t do it,’ but you know what? The experiment’s in the water. The fish are going to tell us who’s right,” Maw said. “If the experiment turns out that we were right, we’re going to come and ask for some help, because you created it. We didn’t ask for this pox to be on our house, it was invented by other people. And now we’re sort of reaping the economic whirlwind of that bad decision.”

Friday, February 04, 2011

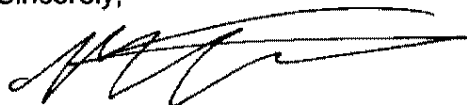
Attn: Board of Fisheries:

I absolutely oppose the following proposals:

- 1-allow non residents to participate in dipnetting
- 2-A July 17th opener for dipping, rather than July 10th
- 3-open dipnetting only after escape goals are met, which is about halfway through the run
- 4-establish a harvest cap of 150,000 for the Kenai river. (Last years take was almost 300,000)
- 5-establish a guideline harvest of 10% for dipnetters and sport fishermen.(Comfishers would get the other 90% of all fish)
- 6-reduce the bag limit to 15 fish per family
- 7-Reduce household limit to 10 fish
- 8-Prohibit any retention of King Salmon during dipnetting.
- 9-Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Kenai.

These fish do not belong to the commercial fisherman nor do they belong to any non-residents. This fishery is meant to be subsistence, for the people of Alaska ONLY. Leave the dipnetting as it is. Our ALASKAN families depend on it!

Sincerely,



2/4/11

Brian G Trimborn
4900 Zenith St
Anchorage Alaska 99507
Phone: 907-346-1716

JUL-17-2010 01:24 FROM:

TO:19072672489

P. 1

VALLEY TRANSPORT
P.O. BOX 1085
PALMER, AK 99645
907 745-7733

FEBRUARY 4, 2011

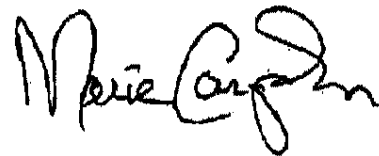
ADFG, AK BOARD OF FISHERIES
UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH

I SUPPORT OPENING AN ADDITIONAL GILLNET PU PERIOD. 7/10-7/26 6AM-11PM.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE:

- 1. AN EXPANDED GILLNET AREA TO RELIEVE CONGESTION SO AS TO RELIEVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.
- 2. A BARRIER TO PREVENT VEHICLES FROM LEAVING THIS AREA AND DAMAGE WETLANDS.
- 3. PORTABLE TOILETS.
- 4. DUMPSTERS.

MARIE CONGDON



*Attn: Shannon
Public Comment
UCI BOF*

RECEIVED
FEB 04 2011
BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Dear Board of Fisheries,

It has come to my attention that the BOF will be considering a number of upcoming proposals regarding the personal use dipnetting in the Kenai river, some of which would place further restrictions and/or limitations on the harvest.

There are seven people in my family, and this harvest comprises a significant portion of our food for the winter. Recent changes (such as disallowing the use of two-stroke motors) has made this more difficult and expensive for us to feed ourselves. Many, many people depend on this important food source every year and further restrictions constitute a severe hardship for us.

I respectfully urge you to not further restrict the Kenai River dipnetting.

Thank you,

Gary Ellis

(907)-376-9382

(907)-982-6422

zetaarms@yahoo.com

Dear Board of Fisheries,

I am writing to strongly urge you to not further restrict the Kenai River personal use dipnetting. My family and I harvest there every year and it fills our freezers for the winter. That is one of the beauties of this great State is to be able to harvest its abundant fish and game in a responsible manner.

Please, leave Kenai River dipnetting as it is!

Thank you,

Jake Dilley

907-841-8885

Assemblymember Jim Colver
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
P.O. Box 427
Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 746-5300

ADF&G, Alaska Board of Fisheries
BOF Comments, Upper Cook Inlet Finfish
Via Fax 907 465-6094

February 4, 2010

Re: Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan [5 AAC 77.540]
Amend Proposal #185

Dear Board Members,

Please support Alaskan residents of Mat-Su, Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula put fish in their freezers from the Kenai and Kasilof personal use fisheries.

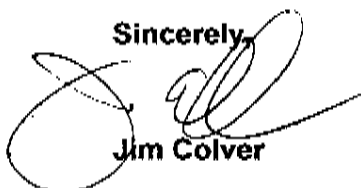
Over the past year a management plan, the Kasilof River Special Use Area Plan (KARSUA) has been crafted by DNR to mitigate the impacts of Alaskan residents who catch their fish with a net to feed their families. The impacts addressed by the Kasilof plan are a direct result of decisions in 1996 by the Board of Fisheries to reduce the available beaches along Cook Inlet for the personal use (PU) gillnet fishery to a two mile area encompassing north and south of the mouth of the Kasilof River and substituting dip netting.

Issues surrounding this overcrowded, yet important, fishery have been addressed by enforcement via the Kasilof Special Use Area Plan, rather than by spreading out the users. Alaskans who had their opportunity and the quality of experience to harvest PU fish reduced are bearing the burden. An article in the Anchorage Daily News on September 29, 1996 detailed the action and the public outcry at the reduction in the PU gillnet fishery. The last paragraph of the story reads, " Several board members wanted to revisit that decision and were interested in expanding the gillnet season and expanding the area open to nets. ADFG biologist Paul Ruesch said the fishery could still be managed if the two-mile beach area at the mouth of the Kasilof was doubled or tripled." More Alaskans like to camp on the beach and catch their fish in a gillnet than there is currently fishing time and area to participate.

Recommendation

A solution is simple, spread out the users and reduce crowding with additional PU set gillnet fishing time on the same beaches in July. **Open an additional Kasilof Gillnet PU period, July 10-26, 6 am to 11 pm.** This period provides access during the peak of the sockeye run which normally occurs during the week of July 13 thru 20. Additional harvest in this fishery can help control sockeye escapements, particularly when escapement goals are threatened in years of large returns. This concept was well received by all attendees at the KARSUA ADNR public meeting in Wasilla on Dec. 2, 2010.

Sincerely,



Jim Colver

Public Comment #68

Feb 04 11 03:37p

Comments on Proposals
Upper Cook Inlet Finfish

Feb. 4, 2011

Board of Fisheries
P. O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
FAX (907)465-6094

As a 30 year resident of Alaska, I feel my comments should become a part of the public process. I have been a guide and charter captain for nearly 30 years. I have a son and his wife and grandchildren (4) who live here in Soldotna, two blocks from my wife and I. So here are just a few of the things bothering me about the way our fisheries are managed here in Cook Inlet.

One of the most outrageously false notions perpetrated by the scientists (biologists) of Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game is that of "over escapement". The Kenai and Kasilof Rivers are the only sockeye rivers in Alaska that are subject to this management mistake. The 2010 season is a perfect example of how flawed this mistake is. The article of Thursday, Feb.18, 2010 by Mike Nesper/Peninsula Clarion; Fish and Game estimated a 45 percent drop in the Kenai sockeye run, for an estimated harvest of 700,000, but when all was said and done, the commercial fishermen enjoyed a harvest of 2,900,000 sockeyes with a 6 lb. average @ \$1.75/lb. Please look at the science involved and question it. These scientists have been wrong so many times before.

With their poor science, doom and gloom forecast, Roland Maw, executive director of UCDA and Ken Tarbox, retired Fish & Game commercial biologist went to Juneau to petition Governor Parnell to declare the 2010 season a disaster before the season started. To the governor's credit he didn't go along with their request. They should both be embarrassed to present the governor with such poor science.

UCDA sued in federal court, backdooring the Board of Fish process. They won their case, but I don't fully understand what they won, except that they are trying to shut down dipnetting (personal use). The Alaska public counts on these fish for winter sustenance. This includes me and my family. There are hundreds of thousands of Alaskans like me.

I never thought I would see Alan Borass, professor of anthropology at Kenai Peninsula College, sign off on this "over escapement" science. After this season I had hoped he would retract what he said in the attached article of Feb. 20, 2010. He supported bad science and should apologize to the public that relies on him for honesty in his articles. Members of the Board, I know you will hear much information during this upcoming Board of fish meeting. I only ask that when the biologists tell you about "over escapement" into the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, please keep in mind that this may very well be some very flawed science. Hundreds of thousands of Alaskans depend on a viable in-river fishery including sport, personal use, subsistence and commercial fishermen, if we can move away from the notion that "too many fish escaping to the spawning grounds" is a bad thing.



Rodney Berg
266 Redwood Ct.
Soldotna, AK 99669
(907)252-4711

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Commercial fishery harvest projected at 700,000 fish

By Mike Nesper | *Peninsula Clarion*

For those who fish commercially on the Kenai River, this summer might be an ideal time to relocate.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates this year's sockeye salmon run in the Kenai to be 1.7 million, a 45-percent drop from the past 20-year average of 3.1 million, according to its 2010 preliminary forecast for Upper Cook Inlet reds.

For runs less than 2 million, the Kenai River's escapement goal is between 650,000 and 850,000. Last year, personal use and sport fishermen harvested a combined 400,000 sockeye below the sonar site at Mile 19, said Pat Shields, Fish and Game assistant manager of Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries.

Let's assume Fish and Game's estimates are correct. If the personal use and sport numbers mirror last year's and the escapement goal is reached, fewer than 1 million reds will be left for commercial harvest in the Kenai River.

"If it is correct, it leaves around 700,000 fish available for the commercial fishery" -- if 750,000 account for escapement -- "which is a very, very poor harvest," Shields said.

Fish and Game believes overescapement in past years is a major reason for the low 2010 return.

"For Kenai River sockeye salmon, we believe the most likely reason for the small return that is expected for 2010 is a result of over escapement for 2005," Shields said.

Also expected to decrease are the number of drift net commercial fishermen.

In 2009, 402 out of a registered 570 drift boats reported a harvest, Shields said. Out of the 738 setnet permits issued, 467 fishermen reported a harvest. Setnetters numbers typically remain consistent, whereas driftnet fishermen tend to ebb and flow with the size of the predicted run, Shields said.

"We just see a lot more variability than in the east side setnet fisheries," he said of the driftnetters.

Last year, Kenai River dipnetters harvested a record-high 340,000 reds. The previous high was attained in 2005, when 295,000 sockeye were harvested. In 2005, the total run estimate was 5.5 million for the Kenai. In 2009, it was 2.4 million.

"We had 45,000 more fish that were harvested on a run that was half the size," Shields said.

The Kasilof River, too, saw a substantial increase in the number of reds harvested by dipnetters.

Last year, a record-high 73,000 were harvested, a 17,000 fish increase from the previous high in 2006.

The Kasilof River gillnet harvest was 26,650.

"It was an above average harvest, but it wasn't a record," Shields said.

The sockeye forecast for the Kasilof River is 901,000 for 2010, a 6-percent decrease from the 20-year average of 958,000. In 2009, the total run in the Kasilof was 817,000. Fish and Game came in just under the high end of its optimum escapement goal of 150,000 to 300,000, as the final escapement was 297,000. The Kenai's final escapement hit the middle of the 650,000 to 850,000 range.

"We ended up with both goals in both rivers, which is good," Shields said.

Two consecutive commercial fishing days were closed last season to reach escapement goals. The east side setnet fishery and the central district gillnet fishery were closed on July 27 and 30.

For much of the season, setnetters were permitted to fish one-half mile off of the beach south of the Blanchard line -- the Kasilof-Kenai harvest area dividing line -- to the Niniichik River. This action, outlined in the management plan, is used to harvest Kasilof reds in order to slow escapement.

An emergency order was also issued last July, allowing dipnetting from the shoreline from Fish and Game markers on Cook Inlet beaches upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge, due to a strong return of sockeye in the Kasilof.

Mike Nesper can be reached at mike.nesper@peninsulaclarion.com.

April 2, 2010

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Resolution not in commercial fishermen's best interest

UCIDA was distressed to read in Rep. Seaton's recent newsletter that he voted in favor of SJR22, in opposition to the best interest of commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound and all of coastal Alaska.

Commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet filed action with the Secretary of Commerce asking for relief from the State's mismanagement of salmon stocks. UCIDA and other commercial fishing organizations across Alaska are put in a difficult spot when it comes to objective, scientific management of fisheries. Here's why:

Many years ago, the Federal Government transferred the day to day management of salmon to the State of Alaska. When this occurred, they said "here are the rules by which we want you to manage our salmon," and the State agreed. The rules are outlined in the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA), specifically identified as "10 National Standards".

1. Prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield;
2. Use of best science available;
3. Individual stocks of fish managed as a unit;
4. Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states;
5. Management measures shall consider efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources;
6. Management measures shall take into account variations among fisheries;
7. Management measures shall minimize costs and avoid duplication;
8. Management measures shall take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to minimize adverse economic impacts;
9. By-catch to be minimized;
10. Promote safety of human life at sea.

UCIDA is simply asking a judge to in-

the State and the Board of Fisheries to manage salmon in compliance with Federal law.

Cook Inlet fish stocks are in trouble and are producing harvests at or below territorial times. Applying the 10 National Standards is our only hope for saving our salmon, industry and economy.

Rep. Seaton has mistakenly focused on National Standard No. 4, which speaks to non-discrimination between residents of different states. The Kenai and Kaslof River dipnet fisheries are out of control, with bag limits that are three times larger than the salmon harvested by an average family. Uncontrolled river access causes degradation of fragile dunes and grasslands and possible interference with historic beluga whale feeding patterns. The Kenai dipnet fishery remains open without sharing the burden of conservation or meeting of escapement goals.

The primary concern of UCIDA is that the application of the Federal rules designed to achieve optimum yield are being ignored by the State. Huge overescapements and underescapements are now the norm when they should be the exception. Sustained participation and the economic livelihood of our fishing communities and families are clearly at risk.

There are 2,500 commercial permit holders, crew and families on the Kenai Peninsula and many live in Rep. Seaton's district. Thousands of jobs and a huge sector of our local economy are currently at risk unless something changes.

Roland Maw
UCIDA Executive Director

What is a charter school?

President

Fishing rules should be science-based

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is predicting a dismal sockeye salmon return this summer for the Kenai River. According to Jenny Neyman, writing in the Redoubt Reporter, this summer's 40-percent-below-average return looks so grim that the United Cook Inlet Drift Association is preparing to seek federal disaster relief should the biological predictions come true. The City of Kenai is also worried about a shutdown after making a considerable investment in personal-use fishery infrastructure at the river mouth, as are businesses that rely on salmon dollars. And the thousands who rely on fish for food may need to consider their options.

If the problem had been high-seas trawling, the Kaslof and other rivers should show a similar projected decline; they don't. Almost certainly the predicted weak Kenai River return is a product of over-escapement in 2004, 2005 and 2006 that produced this year's returning salmon. 2003 was also an over-escapement year contributing to last year's low run. While not an exact science, salmon run forecasts have reached an increasingly sophisticated level based on William Ricker's 1954 algebraic formulas modified by Kenneth Tarbox, B.E. King and David Waltemyer in 1983. More recently, others have incorporated brood-year interaction factors for the Kenai drainage.

With more than 30 years of research, fisheries biologists can say with a high degree of confidence that 500,000 to 800,000 fish are the optimal escapement for Kenai River sockeye. Lower than that (under-escapement) and higher than that (over-escapement) produce a lower return of salmon three to five years later. The escapement for 2003-06 was not just a little over but almost double what biologists said there should have been — double.

The problem isn't that management mechanisms do not exist. One of the reasons for limited entry for commercial salmon fishing in Cook Inlet is to manage es-

capement. Because of limited entry, the number of permitted set and drift net fishers are known, and ADF&G is authorized to limit or expand fishing days and locations, and impose gear restrictions. In theory, commercial fishers harvest enough fish, minus sport, personal use and subsistence takes, to closely hit the target escapement predicted by scientific models.

So why didn't ADF&G commissioners during the last three years of the Murkowski administration and first year of the Palin administration take their biologists' advice and exercise their authority to extend commercial fishing days to minimize what became massive over-escapement resulting in this year's probable depressed salmon run?

Two possibilities exist. Both involve politics.

First, the effect of over-escapement is to limit commercial fishing three to five years later. If over-escapement happens over a number of years, as it did for the 2003-6 period, the subsequently restricted commercial harvest would put more king salmon, essentially a commercial by-catch, into the Kenai River. Kings are the fish of choice for trophy fishers who form a small but zealous lobby and ADF&G decision makers may have bowed to that pressure. I, however, cannot believe that even the most ardent Alaska trophy fisher would advocate jeopardizing one of the world's greatest wild red salmon runs for a chance at a photo or a wall mount.

More likely the over-escapement was a

Feb 20,
2010

ALAN BORAAS
COMMENT



The algebraic models do not include a "P factor" for politics.

product of a formal and informal lobby by sport and personal use fishers to put more fish in the Kenai. There are three factors here.

First, starting with Gov. Tony Knowles, most politicians have understood that there are far more votes among Cook Inlet sport and personal use fishers than commercial fishers.

Second, sport licenses largely fund ADF&G, creating a conflict of interest for managers who know that keeping non-commercial fishers happy enhances their funding.

Third, based on the questions they do and don't ask at meetings, some Board of Fish positions apparently are occupied by individuals who lack understanding of the complex biological algebraic models used to manage fish runs. These factors predispose them to overlook science and respond to popular demand.

A few years of bad management endangers the fishery but does not destroy it. Escapement for the years 2007-9 has been within the target zone and things should return to normal. But there are lessons to be learned.

The Ricker-modified algebraic models do not include a "P factor" for politics. The only way to keep salmon populations strong and stable is through a biologically managed fishery and control, to the extent possible, of ocean trawling. It's time to restructure a bureaucracy capable of overriding and devaluing science, understand the algebra and remove politics from the equation.

Alan Boraas is a professor of anthropology at Kenai Peninsula College.

April 2, 2010

OPINION

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Roland Maw
UCIDA Executive Director

What is a charter school?

President

Alta Shannon
Public Comment
UCI BOF
RECEIVED

February 4, 2011

FEB 04 2011

Board of Fisheries Comments
ADF&G
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811
Fax: 907-465-6094

ARDS
STORAGE

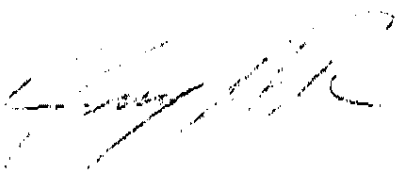
RE: Opposed to Proposal Numbers: 155, 172 through 194, 197 through 199, and 328

Dear Board Members,

I am writing you this letter regarding the Board of Fisheries' proposal to reduce dip net harvest levels, change opening dates, reduce the use of boats, and allow non-residents to dip net. Please do not allow this to happen to Alaska/Alaskans. This proposal is very dear to me and I would like to describe my fishing habits/opportunities, and offer my opinion. I am an Alaskan and I am here to stay. I love to hunt, fish, camp, rock climb, and travel through out our great state. In the summer I have limited opportunities to fish because my new job as an environmental scientist requires me to travel to remote locations for long work hours that may last up to three weeks at any given time. Whenever I am fortunate enough to go to the Peninsula between rotations I only have approximately 2-3 days out of the year to fish and I usually harvest approximately 20 to 25 fish that will last me all year. If you were to reduce the bag limit or even allow non-residents to dip net you would effectively reduce the amount of fish I could harvest during any given summer, thus all year. I am often unsure if I will get another opportunity to dip net another weekend during the season.

Please consider my letter and that of other Alaskans that may only get one or two opportunities per year to fish. I would greatly appreciate if our current law did not change. I strongly believe in it.

Thank you,



Jeremy Ptak
18855 Citation Rd.
Eagle River, AK 99577

RICHARD J. PERSON

24120 Ramblers Rd.
Chugiak, AK 99567
rpc@gci.net
(907) 688-4678 wk/fax
(907) 688-3678 home
(907) 240-3678 cell

February 4, 2011

FAX: 907-465-6094

Boards Support Section
ADF&G
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

To Whom It May Concern:

Below are comments I have concerning the Board of Fish Proposals that affect me.

Proposal #115: I am opposed to Proposal 115 banning the use of monofilament web in Cook Inlet. Monofilament web is a useful choice in our fishery. It is durable and serves well on beach nets that receive more wear and tear and it can be pressure washed without being damaged by the spray. This is very helpful during heavy periods of seaweed and kelp.

Proposal #116: I am **strongly** opposed to reducing the legal limit in depth of set gillnet gear to 29 meshes. The study cited, somewhat ambiguously, in the proposal could not represent the wide and varied conditions found along the eastside fishery and should not be used to determine such a drastic gear reduction.

Proposal #117 & #118: I would urge you to support these two proposals that allow set netters to fish two permits in one name. Most of the eastside appears to be fished at capacity already. I don't think passing this proposal would substantially increase the amount of effort along the eastside. In addition, this would help the family-operated set net. As children grow up and move into various vocations and/or parents grow old and die, family operations are left trying to comply with the complicated legal requirements in keeping those permits viable and a part of the fishing operation.

Proposal #166: I am opposed to replacing the "Kasilof 1/2 mile openings" with "Kasilof Beach Net openings". To actually execute fishing in this manner would be impractical and unsafe. Fisherman would constantly be setting and pulling nets that were almost dry and starting to go dry. The surf is the most dangerous place to handle gear and on a site that stretches over a 1/2 mile or more of beach, it would be difficult to manage for the fisherman and enforce.

Thank you for taking the time to read my written comments, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Person

ADF&G, Alaska Board of Fisheries
BOF Comments, Upper Cook Inlet Finfish
via Fax 907 465-6094

2123 Hillcrest Place
Anchorage AK 99503-1757
February 4, 2011

Re: Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 77.540)
Amend Proposal #185

Dear Members of the Board:

I am a senior citizen (82 years old)^{*} utilizing the Kasilof personal use fisheries.
I can pick fish from a gill net, but not walk in the water with a net. This is how I get
my fish.

Due to overcrowding, I request that an additional July 10-26 personal use period
6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. be established for Kasilof Gillnet PU period.

I am an Alaskan resident since 1949, and appreciate this gillnet fishing opening.

Sincerely,

Della E. Barry
Della E. Barry (Mrs. Jefferson B. Barry)

907-279-1306

dellab@alaska.net

^{*}
a 61-year resident
of Alaska since 1949

Cohoe~Kasilof Community Council / Debra Holle Brown, President
Kenai Peninsula
Permanent Alaska Residents P.O. Box 592
Within 99610 Zip Code Kasilof, Alaska 99610
Delivery Area Cell: (907) 252-2273

February 4, 2011

TO: ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

RE: PERSONAL USE FISHING ~ KASILOF RIVER

The Cohoe~Kasilof Community Council, Inc. is lawfully certified with the State of Alaska as a Nonprofit Corporation. Alaska Entity # 131700

The boundaries encompassing the community represented by the Cohoe~Kasilof Community Council include residents whose permanent residence is located within the 99610 zip code delivery area as used by the United States Postal Service. This area lies on both sides of the Kasilof River and includes the area most highly impacted by both the set gill net and dip net Personal Use Fishery.

The Cohoe~Kasilof Community Council is here today to express our frustration and concern that the management tool called the Personal Use Fishery, authorized by the Board of Fish, is negatively affecting the habitat, possibly the water quality, but without question the quality of life in our community.

Residents of the Cohoe~Kasilof Community can verify thousands upon thousands of poundage of premium salmon being illegally harvested.

The underlying problem is the fact that half the state of Alaska is within a half day travel to the Kenai Peninsula to participate in the Personal Use fishery. There are way too many people crowded into an insufficient size area. The Cohoe~ Kasilof Community Council identifies this as mis-management by the Board of Fish. The result is habitat degradation, water quality concerns, and frustrated and often angry Personal Use fishermen.

The Council is requesting the Board to begin in 2011 to manage the Personal Use Fishery differently or eliminate it altogether.

Management Solutions:

- a. **Solution:** Open additional Personal Use (set-gillnet) harvest areas statewide to allow for a more constitutionally correct management of the Personal Use fishery for maximum benefit (utilization) of the resource for the people.
- b. **Solution:** Open the Personal Use fishing (set-gillnet) season *earlier* in June, for (set-gillnet) fishing prior to the opening of the regular Commercial Salmon harvest season. This will provide additional opportunity and more open coastline areas, significantly reducing the overcrowding at the mouth of the Kasilof River.

- c. **Solution:** Develop new Personal Use harvest areas within the Anchorage and Mat-Su Boroughs or in the unorganized regions of the State. This will help reduce the overcrowding and related habitat degradation problems at the mouth of the Kasilof River.
- d. **Solution:** Consider elimination of the use of "Dip Nets" near the mouth or in the Kasilof River. Doing so, would still allow the Personal Use fishery to take place, but only using the short (set-gillnets) which are staked into Cook Inlet. This single management change will reduce the overcrowding and associated negative impacts near the mouth of the Kasilof River.

Please understand, our Community Council is not suggesting that the Personal Use (dip-net) Fishery be eliminated on the Kenai River.

Specifically for the KASILOF RIVER, the Coho-Kasilof Community Council is strongly advocating for all of the above as reasonable solutions.

We are requesting the Board of Fish suspend the dip-net Personal Use Fishery, in order to significantly reduce the deplorable negative impacts caused by implementation of this management tool.

Included with this submission, is also copy of our letter to Governor Sean Parnell dated 26 January 2011.

Thank you.

**Debbie Holle Brown,
Council President**

Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council / Debra Holle Brown, President
Kenai Peninsula
Permanent Alaska Residents P.O. Box 592
Within 99610 Zip Code Kasilof, Alaska 99610
Delivery Area Cell: (907) 252-2273

January 26, 2011

**RE: DRAFT KASILOF RIVER SPECIAL USE AREA - ADL 230992
 (KRSUA)**

Dear Governor Sean Parnell:

It's important for you to know the appreciation Alaskans have of your strength of will to fight for us objecting to an over reaching Federal government. Restrictions based upon questionable reasoning and data must be opposed. We need you also to recognize this same battle must be fought within our own state government. The regulatory subdivisions of government at all levels need to be reined in.

With this letter the Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council requests you govern with a consistent strong hand. Stop the over-reach of Alaska Division of Natural Resources, the Division of Land, Mining & Water Southcentral Region Land Office. If swift action is taken by you Governor Parnell, and Commissioner Daniel Sullivan, there is time to *halt* this Land Office from moving ahead with their intent to make an "administrative decision" to create a huge PARK called the Kasilof River Special Use Area in early February.

Hundreds of Cohoe-Kasilof property owners are being disenfranchised and will forever be impacted. DNR has denied a request from local residents for additional meetings or participation in DNR's final decision process. DNR has not conducted one study, nor provided the public any evidence to support the creation of a 3000 acre park-like Special use Area. DNR justifies launching the creation of this new state park on concepts presented in a single letter dated 2/25/2010 on Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) stationery. *However, the KWF letter states "... as a group we are only asking for attention to habitat degradation and water quality concerns."*

The people of the Cohoe-Kasilof Communities recognize our salmon resource is very valuable to our families, the Kenai Peninsula Borough and to the State of Alaska. We do not appreciate the State of Alaska through the actions of the Board of Fish contributing to the continuation of thousands upon thousands of poundage of premium salmon being illegally harvested. We will no longer remain silent, while our own state contributes to mismanagement and willful destruction of our communities.

Please read our statements of primary objections to creating the KRSUA; we also present preferable solutions.

1. **Problem Statement:** Creation of a Kasilof River Special Use Area does not solve the underlying problem of too many people crowded into a small area. All overcrowding, water quality, and habitat related problems could be *eliminated* by making reasonable changes to the management of the Personal Use fishery by the Board of Fish. The Personal Use fishery is simply a management tool created by the Board of Fish to harvest salmon in time of abundance. This Board of Fish harvest tool has become destructive and should be significantly changed or eliminated.
 - a. **Solution:** Governor directs the BOF to open additional Personal Use (set-gillnet) harvest areas statewide to allow for a more constitutionally correct management of the Personal Use fishery for maximum benefit (utilization) of the resource for the people.

- b. **Solution:** Open the Personal Use fishing (set-gillnet) season *earlier* in June, for (set-gillnet) fishing prior to the opening of the regular Commercial Salmon harvest season. This will provide additional opportunity and more open coastline areas, significantly reducing the overcrowding at the mouth of the Kasilof River.
 - c. **Solution:** Develop new Personal Use harvest areas within the Anchorage and Mat-Su Boroughs. This will help reduce the overcrowding and related habitat degradation problems at the mouth of the Kasilof River.
 - d. **Solution:** Governor directs BOF to consider elimination of the use of "Dip Nets" near the mouth or in the Kasilof River. Doing so, would still allow the Personal Use fishery to take place, but only using the short (set-gillnets) which are staked into Cook Inlet. This single management change will reduce the overcrowding and associated negative impacts near the mouth of the Kasilof River. (No need for a KRSUA, restrictions or growth of costly government.)
2. **Statement:** Only in (July) are problems of overcrowding at the mouth of the Kasilof River causing concerns for water quality and habitat protection. There is little if any quantitative, scientific data to justify DNR creating a SUA or PARK. DNR, in the draft KRSUA communicates future development plans, (parking areas, boat launch, and permanent camping related facilities) which will cause more net loss of habitat, than the habitat they are seeking to save!
- a. **Solution:** Stop the creation of a KRSUA in the Cohoe-Kasilof Community. We believe the development of the KRSUA will not solve the existing problems, but create new problems, and a net loss of habitat.
3. **Statement:** Special Use Areas involve imposing user fees, and plans to hire new DNR enforcement officers to issue \$500 tickets for willful violation of KRSUA rules and regulations. One primary offense is adults and youngsters driving vehicles on the dune grasses. The Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council opposes all these plans for our community. We do not appreciate the state of Alaska or special interest groups deciding what is best for our home community. DNR employees held only (1) informational meeting in the Cohoe-Kasilof Community during the initial 45 day public comment period, during the week of October 25, 2010. Cohoe-Kasilof Community members expressed frustrations to DNR that evening, that no meeting or discussion had taken place prior or after developing the DRAFT KRSUA specifically for local residents or property owners.
- a. **Solution:** Allow the Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc. to complete our own community issue scoping process.
 - b. **Solution:** Support the spring 2011 placement of the state funded (Kasilof Regional Historical Association) fence with signage indicating people should stay on the seaward side of the fence. Continue using additional, temporary (July) staffing to State Troopers or Fish and Game officers. Year around beach access and recreational uses and activities are provided for (without a permit) in 11 AAC 96.020. We support state **enforcement** of existing Generally Allowed Use of State Land before creating new rules, permits or fees.
 - c. **Solution:** Encourage a local Cohoe or Kasilof non-profit group to make application to the State of Alaska for sufficient funds to contract with (2) local individuals to function as Community Outreach Hosts. If/when the Board of Fish opens the Personal Use fishery, the summer Community Outreach Hosts would . . .
 - 1. Educate the users of the Cohoe-Kasilof River beaches to protect water quality and sensitive habitat as identified by the Kasilof Historical Association's fenceline.
 - 2. Call upon help from State Troopers or Fish & Game officers if willful destruction of state land or property is taking place
 - 3. Coordinate placement and maintenance of temporary toilets and temporary fish waste management totes

If the Alaska Board of Fish authorizes the Personal Use Fishery to take place, then the State of Alaska should be responsible to fund the cost of meeting the temporary State Trooper staffing needs as well as the temporary sanitation needs of the public during those weeks.

The State of Alaska has a responsibility to the people for utilization and development our valuable natural resources consistent with Article 8 of Alaska's constitution. Governor Parnell, please don't look the other way or give a nod of approval to this un-necessary move to further control and restrict Alaskans from the use our state lands. It is our belief a Kasilof River Special Use Area will eventually be legislatively made into a State Park. Our communities do not want government to create more Federal Parks or more State Parks, many of which are roped off and closed with no explanation.

We know there are well intended people trying to do "something-anything" fast! to make these Kasilof River Personal Use fishing related problems go away. As you know, a series of poor decisions usually leads to more headaches.

Sincere thanks to you Governor, especially if you are willing to help the residents of the *usually* restful and happy communities of Cohoe and Kasilof.

Sincerely,

Debbie Holle Brown, President
Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc.

Cc: Daniel Sullivan, Commissioner of ADNR
Cora Campbell, Commissioner of ADF&G
Larry Hartig, Commissioner of ADEC

Cc: Gary Stevens, Senate President
Tom Wagoner, Senator
Mike Chenault, Representative, and House Speaker
Kurt Olsen, Representative
Paul Seaton, Representative

A Fax from Dynamic Properties Wasilla

Phone (907) 373-2950 Fax (907) 373-2959

To: Board of Fisheries Company: _____
 Fax#: 465-6094 Date: 2-4-11 Time: 5:57
 From: Terry Ellis, 892 EUSA Cir., Wasilla, AK 99654
 Reference: Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use/Dipnet Fishery
 Total pages including cover sheet: 1

Message: My family depends on the Kenai River
Dipnet (from boat) fishery for a major portion
of our food.

I ask that you make no changes
to Alaska residents access to this
personal use fishery.

Terry Ellis

If you did not receive all pages, please notify us at once.

Thank You

This message is a confidential and privileged communication intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed, and should not be read or used by anyone else. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify us by return e-mail or fax, delete message from your system, and retain no hard copies.



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FEB 04 2011
BOARDS

2/4/2011

Please accept these comments for the upcoming UCI BOF meeting

Proposal 229 - **PROPOSED BY:** Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition (HQ-10F-043)

The Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) is neutral toward the proposed action, but is supportive of some conservation action for Slikok Creek.

The proposed action is addressing a concern that KWF believes is real and needs attention. Our organization has monitoring programs that have existed on this creek since 1998. Our monitoring efforts have ranged from elementary aged educational efforts to sophisticated juvenile monitoring partnerships in collaboration with ADFG. Our organization has invested over \$500k in habitat restoration efforts in the Slikok Creek drainage. Despite our best efforts, Chinook numbers associated with Slikok Creek are dramatically depressed and entry patterns appear to be a week to 10 days later than they were a decade or even 5 years ago. We encourage the board to consider additional conservation action to assist this drainage as declines in the stock are obvious to those who have spent numerous hours in and around this stream.

Robert Ruffner
Executive Director
Kenai Watershed Forum
44539 Sterling Hwy #202
Soldotna AK 99669

(907) 260-5479 DL - office
(907) 394-4664 cell

<http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/>