

Estimated sport catch, harvest, release, and slot releases for early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon, May and June, 1986-2010.

Year	Estimated Catch			Estimated Harvest			Estimated # Released	% released reported within the slot	# released reported within the slot	Other
	< Sold. Bridge	> Sold. Bridge	Total	< Sold. Bridge	> Sold. Bridge	Total	Total			
1974				1,685			-			
1975				615			-			
1976				1,665			-			
1977				2,173			-			
1978				1,542			-			
1979				3,661			-			
1980				1,946			-			
1981				4,525			-			
1982				5,466			-			
1983				6,360			-			
1986	10,122	1,819	11,941	6,337	1,819	8,156	3,785			
1987	16,007	2,333	18,340	11,224	2,333	13,557	4,783			
1988	17,266	3,260	20,526	11,949	3,260	15,209	5,317			
1989	9,034	1,683	10,717	6,711	1,683	8,394	2,323			
1990	3,285	2,818	6,103	723	1,084	1,807	4,296			
1991	3,716	2,030	5,746	891	1,054	1,945	3,801			
1992	3,901	2,028	5,929	1,365	876	2,241	3,688			
1993	9,906	3,910	13,816	6,846	2,496	9,342	4,474			
1994	6,399	6,230	12,629	4,722	3,449	8,171	4,458			
1995	11,360	4,434	15,794	7,733	2,484	10,217	5,577			
1996	5,552	5,562	11,114	4,166	2,457	6,623	4,491			
1997	6,782	5,093	11,875	4,942	1,487	6,429	5,446			
1998	1,869	3,274	5,143	648	522	1,170	3,973			
1999	7,186	5,015	12,201	5,534	2,595	8,129	4,072			
2000	2,309	2,397	4,706	1,149	669	1,818	2,888			
2001	1,837	3,755	5,592	1,428	971	2,399	3,193			
2002	419	1,704	2,123	376	523	899	1,224			
2003	2,817	6,095	8,912	1,948	891	2,839	6,073	-		44"- 55" slot
2004	3,534	3,862	7,396	2,285	1,101	3,386	4,010	-		44"- 55" slot
2005	4,430	3,327	7,757	2,876	934	3,810	3,947	35%	1,381	44"- 55" slot
2006	4,523	3,378	7,901	3,397	1,296	4,693	3,208	35%	1,123	44"- 55" slot
2007	3,944	2,987	6,931	2,645	848	3,493	3,438	30%	1,031	44"- 55" slot
2008	3,552	1,870	5,422	2,602	898	3,500	1,922	22%	423	46"- 55" slot
2009	1,058	1,919	2,977	898	568	1,466	1,511	15%	227	46"- 55" slot
2010	1,203	1,500	2,703	837	500	1,337	1,366	20%	273	46"- 55" slot

data from ADF&G creel survey and Statewide Harvest survey

RC 172

RC

173

**RE:** Committee A

Northern District Set Netters Assoc. substantially agrees with the body of the language contained in Committee A with one exception:

Proposal 117,118, 324 5. AAC 21.331 Gillnet specifications and operations has substitute language that does not include area registration. If included this provision would reflect the intent of permit stacking that would allow multiple permits to be retained by the family and fished by other family members in the a permit holders absence in *one registered area only*.

This was a generally agreed upon in committee and should be reflected in the substitute language.

Page Herring  
NDSNA  
Public Panel, Committee A

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RC 148

- ✓ KRSA supports the concept of reducing the use of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) due to associated impacts on delivery of kings and sockeye to sport and personal use fisheries, and escapement in the Kasilof River. At the same time, KRSA does not support significant liberalization of the Kasilof set net fishery due to incidental impacts on Kenai kings and sockeye.
- ✓ RC 148 submitted by Joel Doner proposes to add an option to allow fishing of set gillnets in the Kasilof section within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark as a stepdown action prior to opening of the KRSHA.
- ✓ The approach identified in RC 148 is consistent with a consensus desire to reduce use of the KRSHA.
- ✓ Support by KRSA for this proposal would be conditional on increases in the Kasilof River sockeye escapement goal and KRSHA trigger point consistent with the increase in Kasilof sockeye BEG identified by the Department.
- ✓ Nothing in this proposal supersedes KRSA's continuing support of other revisions to the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan as identified in proposals 163 and 164.

Regulatory language consistent with the intent of this proposal would be:

*(f) ... It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the commissioner opens the KRSHA, it is the board's intent that:*

- (1) additional fishing time be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first; ~~and~~
- (2) secondly, that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, and
- (3) thirdly, that the Kasilof section be reduced in area to within 600 feet from the mean high tide mark;

*if necessary to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is defined as those waters within one and one-half miles of the navigational light located on the south bank of the Kasilof River, excluding waters of the Kasilof River upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located near the terminus of the river and waters open to set gillnetting under 5 AAC 21.330(b) (3)(C)(ii) and (iii). The following apply within the special harvest area when it is open:*

- (1) set gillnets may be operated only within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;*
- (2) a set gillnet may not exceed 35 fathoms in length;*
- (3) drift gillnets may not be operated in waters within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;*
- (4) no more than 50 fathoms of drift gillnet may be used to take salmon;*
- (5) a permit holder may not use more than one gillnet to take salmon at any time;*
- (6) a person may not operate a gillnet outside the special harvest area when operating a gillnet in the special harvest area;*
- (7) there is no minimum distance between gear, except that a gillnet may not be set or operated within 600 feet of a set gillnet located outside of the special harvest area; and*
- (8) a vessel may not have more than 150 fathoms of drift gillnet or 105 fathoms of set gillnet on board.*



## Matanuska - Susitna Valley & West Cook Inlet

# Silver Salmon

Silver salmon, also called coho salmon, can be found throughout Cook Inlet and Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Valley drainages. Silvers are sought after both for their table fare and for their fighting ability, which provides excellent sport fishing fun for all ages.

Silver salmon abundance varies widely from year to year. During the high years, as many as 1 million silvers return to Cook Inlet streams. To measure run strength, ADF&G relies in part on the catch numbers in both the recreational fishery and the commercial fishery. A few weirs are also in place to count escapement

### Management

The recreational fisheries of the Mat-Su Valley and West Cook Inlet areas are managed by the Division of Sport Fish Palmer office, 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite Suite 4, Palmer, Alaska, 99645, (907) 746-6300. Their web site is [www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/Region2/areas/nci/ncihome.cfm](http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/Region2/areas/nci/ncihome.cfm)

The Division manages recreational fisheries for sustainability and opportunity, often under management plans given us by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

For opening dates, daily limits, regulations, and special tackle restrictions, consult the Southcentral Alaska regulation booklet.



*Anglers spend a sunny day fishing at Eklutna Tailrace (page 4).*

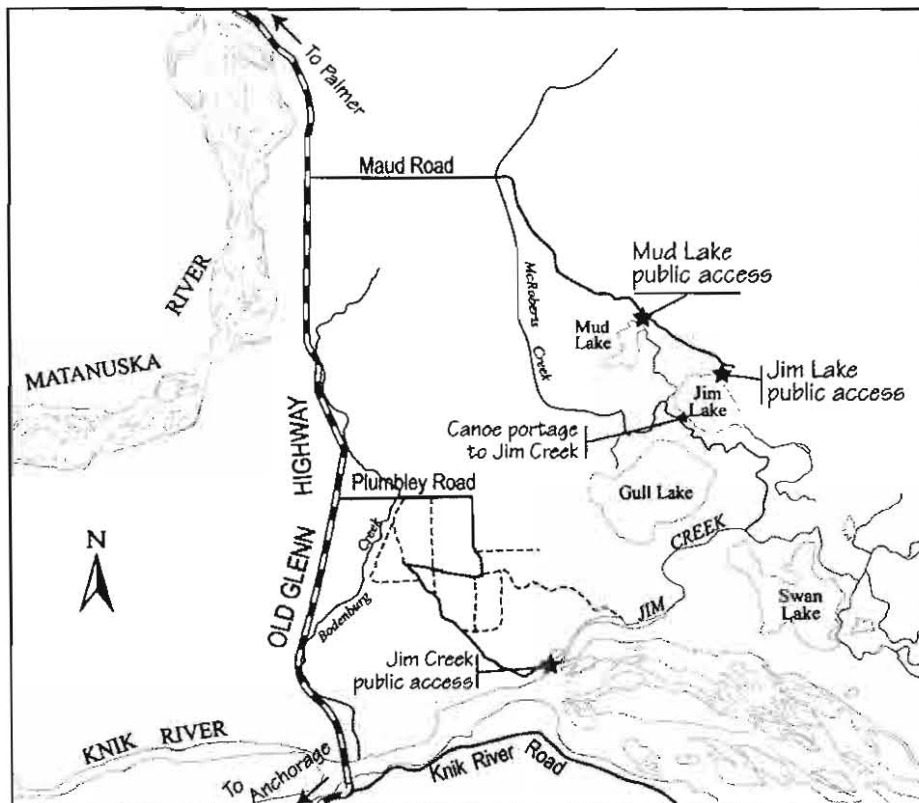
Regulations may change by Emergency Order if the sustainability of a stock is at risk, or if additional fishing opportunities are available.

Emergency Orders are sent to newspapers, radio and television stations, other agencies, recorded on telephone hotlines, and posted right away on our web site. Call (907) 267-2504 (Anchorage), (907) 746-6300 (Palmer), or visit [www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us) and click on "Emergency Orders and News."

Anglers can also call the Anchorage Sport Fish Southcentral Region Information Center at (907) 267-2218, or e-mail to [sfreg2@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:sfreg2@fishgame.state.ak.us)

Silvers just entering freshwater are very sensitive to hooking and handling, particularly when using bait. A study conducted on the Little Susitna River concluded that 70% of "ocean-bright" coho salmon hooked and released using bait did not live to spawn.

In part because of the results of this research, many waters have special regulations for retention and release



*Jim Creek*

you to a dirt road to the left. This road leads to a parking area on the Palmer Hayflats State Game Refuge near the mouth of Cottonwood Creek.

This section of Cottonwood Creek is intertidal, so most anglers fish about 1 to 2 hours before high tide.

This section has special fishing regulations, including limited opening and closing times, so please read the regulations before going to the creek.

**Fish Creek** crosses the Knik-Goose Bay Road about 16 miles from Wasilla.

The best fishing here is also where the clear creek and the muddy Cook Inlet waters meet. Again, most anglers fish the incoming tide. Be careful when fishing near the mouth of Fish Creek! The Knik Arm tide comes in very fast and it is possible to be trapped by sticky mud and rising water.

Fish Creek has special fishing regulations, including opening and closing times and later start dates.

**Jim Creek**, near Palmer, drains a wetland of shallow lakes then enters the Knik River about 10 miles upstream from saltwater.

These waters provide the latest fishable run of coho in the Mat-Su Valley, with silvers available from late

July through freeze-up in October/November. Red salmon and a few chum salmon are also present in Jim Creek.

You can reach Jim Creek by taking the Old Glenn Highway to Plumley Road, which is near Bodenberg Butte. Follow Plumley Road to Caudill Road and take a right. After about 1 mile you will come to a large parking area on the left. From here you will follow a rough gravel road for about 2 miles to the mouth of Jim Creek.

A word of caution. On warm days the nearby Knik Glacier melts rapidly and swells the shallow Knik River to flood stage. It is possible for the unwary person to become marooned on a temporary island or return to find his/her vehicle underwater. And worse yet, when the water's high, the fishing success for silvers declines drastically.

**Other smaller fishing areas** abound. In fact, just about any place where clear water mixes with the Knik or Matanuska rivers you will find a few silver salmon, generally during August. The mouth of **Moose Creek** at Mile 54.5 of the Glenn Highway is one often-overlooked fishing spot.

Many silver salmon fisheries have special regulations, so be sure to read the regulations before you head out to fish.

#### Little Susitna River Silvers

The Little Susitna River produces the second-largest freshwater harvest of silver salmon in the State of Alaska. The "Little Su," as it is locally known, has 70 river miles of prime coho salmon fishing, from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway bridge at Houston (Mile 58).

#### Little Susitna Access

The Little Su wanders through part of the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, over 300,000 acres of prime waterfowl, moose, coyote, wolf, and bear habitat. Access to the refuge is managed by ADF&G for the protection of fish and wildlife, their habitats, and public use

westside Susitna River silver salmon, you can launch from one of the access sites described in the Eastside Susitna River section, or launch at the Port of Anchorage, cross Northern Cook Inlet to the Susitna River, then head upstream.

**CAUTION!** Northern Cook Inlet has 30-foot tides and strong winds ... not a good place to begin a boating career! If, however, you are experienced, and have a properly-equipped 20-foot or better boat, or a saltwater-capable inflatable, crossing the Inlet is an efficient way to reach the streams located in the lower Susitna River drainage.

Just remember to enter and exit the river's mouth during the hours of high tide. When reading the tide book make certain that you adjust for the difference in time that high tide arrives at Anchorage and then at the mouth of the Susitna River.

Small plane access to Westside Susitna River silver fisheries is quite good. However, even for the experienced pilot, tricycle gear is not recommended. There is only one developed and maintained airport in the area, located in the community of Skwentna (year-round population 20), and Skwentna's 2,500-foot-long runway is not monitored.

Once you land at Skwentna, you will find a roadhouse offering guide services, rooms, meals and a post office. To find silvers from Skwentna you must have access to a boat.

Other than the Skwentna airport, unless you have a properly-equipped wheel plane and are familiar with gravel bar landings, a float plane is your best option. Float planes can access the mouths of most tributary streams, many of the lakes adjacent to the rivers, or the rivers themselves.

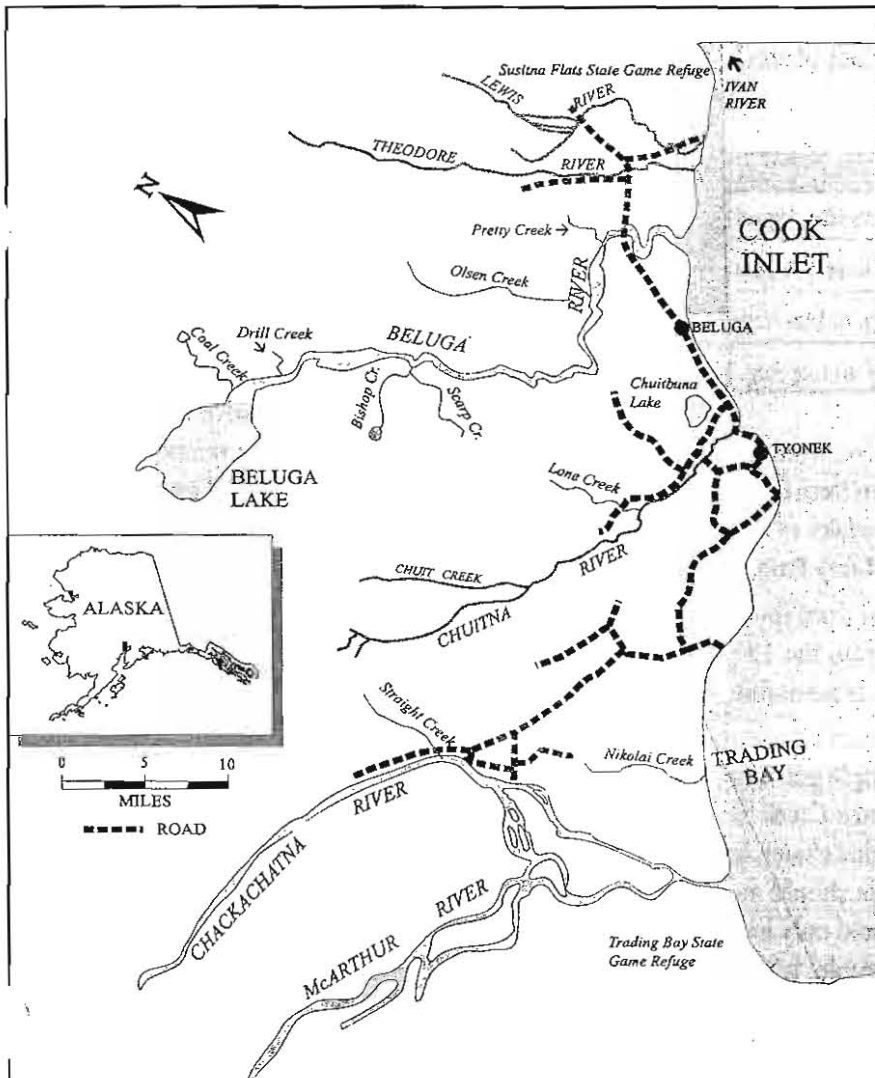
The best advice for pilots is to land only where you feel safe. Call an air charter operator in Anchorage's Lake Hood or Merrill Field and ask where they land. They may not give out any "secret spots," but in the interest of safety they will tell you where the traditional landing areas are.

## West Cook Inlet Drainages

West Cook Inlet offers some of the finest silver salmon fishing around. Since these streams are accessible only by small plane, anglers looking for a less crowded silver salmon experience might want to try one of the air taxi or guide services leaving from Anchorage's Lake Hood or Merrill Field.

As with any remote fishery, public access and services are limited and specific knowledge of the area is often the difference between success and explaining that you "had a good time anyway."

The West Cook Inlet area consists of all waters north of the latitude of the southern tip of Chisik Island and the mouth of the Susitna River.



West Cook Inlet

Landing is close to downtown Talkeetna, near the confluence of the Talkeetna, Chulitna, and Susitna rivers. The launch was initially developed by the community of Talkeetna for public use, and has been upgraded with Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds.

The Parks Highway Mile 104 "boat launch" is basically an un-maintained gravel bar with a road approach. The access road starts from the small state campground on the southeast side of the bridge, then continues through private land to the river. It can be extremely hazardous at high water levels.

#### Road-Accessible Fishing: Parks Highway Roadside Streams

**Willow Creek** (Parks Hwy. Mile 71.3) offers easy shore access at the state-operated campground at the mouth, and limited shore access at the state-operated campground upstream at the Deception Creek confluence. There are also several privately-operated campgrounds upstream near the Parks Highway bridge.

Many anglers fish the mouth, but remember that silvers can be found throughout the river as far as Deception Creek. The best time to fish Willow Creek is late July and early August, when the silvers first pass through this area.

The **Kashwitna River** crosses the Parks Highway at Mile 83.1. This is a glacial system, and it get even cloudier in mid-summer and during rains. As glacial melt slows down in early fall, the water level drops and clarity improves, and so does the silver fishing.

Susitna Landing, Mile 82.4, offers a boat launch with camping facilities with excellent handicapped access right at the mouth of the Kashwitna River. Many fishing guides and charters also use Susitna Landing as their launch site.

The mouth of **Sheep Creek** is reached by driving west on Resolute Avenue (Parks Hwy. Mile 86.3). At the mouth of the creek is a seasonally-maintained camping area with public rest rooms. A short trail from the parking area leads to the confluence of Sheep Creek and the Susitna River. Silver salmon can arrive as early as late July, but fishing improves in early August.

Sheep Creek crosses the Parks Highway at Mile 88.4. There is a small unmaintained fishing area on the downstream side of the bridge (within the road right-of-way only), along the north bank. Silvers generally reach this upstream location by mid-August.

**Montana Creek** at Mile 96.5 of the Parks Highway is a popular silver fishing spot. Coho provide good action here by mid-August. Camping and RV parking is available in privately-operated campgrounds at the highway bridge.

Access to the mouth of **Rabideux Creek** is just north of where the Parks Highway crosses the Susitna River at Mile 105. When the Susitna River is running high, water often floods the road to Rabideux Creek. When this happens, an alternative route from a turnout at Mile 105.4 on the Parks Highway may be usable.

At Mile 105.5 the Parks Highway crosses Rabideux Creek. A large hole on the downstream side of the culverts (within the road right-of-way) provides fair silver fishing. Passable numbers of silvers may be available even after the Labor Day weekend.

Access to the mouth of **Sunshine Creek** is by a gravel road at Parks Hwy. Mile 102.5. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough maintains a parking area near the mouth of the creek. Silvers typically arrive here by mid-August.

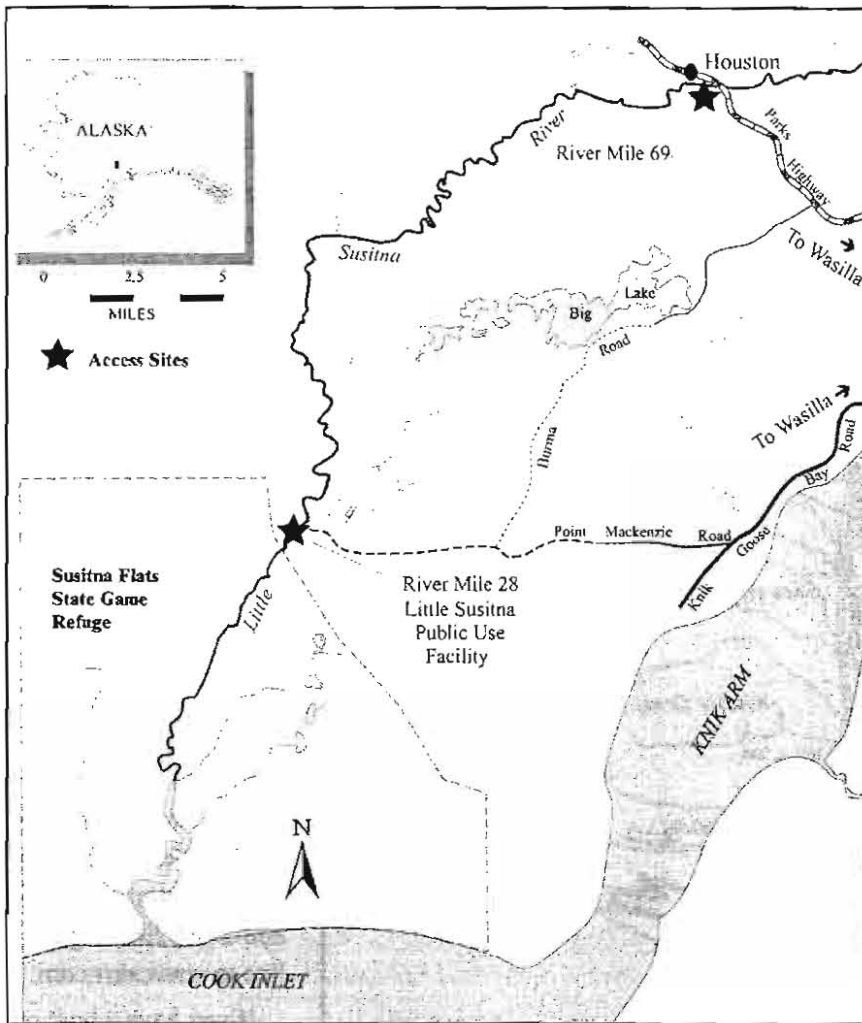
#### Boat-Accessible Eastside Susitna River Streams

**Little Willow Creek** (Parks Hwy. Mile 74.8) is accessible immediately adjacent to the Parks Highway bridge, but you'll need to boat to get to its confluence with the Susitna River where the best fishing takes place. There are no facilities and no boat launch at Little Willow Creek, and the property outside the road right-of-way along that stream is privately-owned. Silvers arrive at the Parks Highway bridge by mid-August.

**Grey's Creek** crosses the Parks Highway at Mile 81.8. Outside the road right-of-way, the shoreline is private property, and there is no public shoreline access to the mouth from the Parks Highway bridge. Access to the mouth is by boat only, by launching at one of the previously-described facilities. The mouth can provide good silver fishing in August.

The mouth of **Caswell Creek** can be an excellent silver fishing spot. A large gravel turnout at Mile 84 begins the 1/2-mile gravel access road to the mouth and a primitive campground with limited public restrooms and trash service.

The uplands around the mouth of **Goose Creek** is privately-owned, and fishing is boat only. Silvers are usually here by mid-August.



*The Little Susitna River*

of the area. Uses of state refuge lands are controlled to prevent habitat changes which would be harmful to the wildlife or habitat.

There are three primary ways to access the Little Su. Experienced boaters can gain access to the intertidal reaches of the Little Susitna by launching from the Port of Anchorage and crossing Cook Inlet.

**CAUTION!** Northern Cook Inlet has 30-foot tides and strong winds ... not a good place to begin a boating career! If, however, you are experienced, and have a properly-equipped 20-foot or better boat, or a saltwater-capable inflatable, crossing the Inlet is an efficient way to reach the mouth of the Little Susitna River.

Just remember to enter and exit the river's mouth during the hours of high tide. When reading the tide book make certain you adjust for the difference in time that high tide arrives at Anchorage and then at the mouth of the Little Su.

If the river is running high, power boats can sometimes travel from the mouth up to the Parks Highway bridge. During low water, however, most power boats travel up only as far as river mile 28.

The second access site, the Little Susitna Public Use Facility boat launch and campground, is the most popular site for boat anglers, and for bank anglers who don't have a boat or don't want to risk the strong tides of Cook Inlet.

To reach the LSPUF, drive to Wasilla, then turn southwest on the Knik-Goose Bay Road. After about 18 miles, you'll reach Point Mackenzie Road. Turn right (west). Turn right at the "T" and follow the blue boat launch signs.

The Parks Highway bridge at Mile 58, near the community of Houston, offers the third primary way to access the Little Susitna. Bank angling is available here, and many anglers also launch rafts or canoes at the bridge, then take out at the LSPUF. The scenic 42-mile float trip to the LSPUF takes 2-3 days.

If you don't have your own boat, there are several charter and guide services operating from the communities of Wasilla, Willow, and Houston. The Houston area also has a large private campground and other services to make your fishing trip more enjoyable.

### Fishing the Little Susitna

Productive fishing usually begins mid-July and continues until September. Tagging studies indicate that silvers migrate slowly up the Little Su, and remain available to the fishery for about 4 weeks. In 2000, the average silver length was about 24 inches.

Fishing is generally good in the lower river during the first few weeks of the run. As the run migrates upstream in early August, fishing in the Houston area, near the Parks Highway bridge, picks up.

You can also fish from shore in the Houston area downstream of the Parks Highway bridge (remember: salmon fishing is closed upstream of the bridge!) Silvers



ment line with about 10-14 pound test. Slightly heavier line—as high as 20 lb.—is suggested if you plan to fish in fast current.

Fly fishers use a 6- or 7-weight rod about 9 feet in length. Fly fishing line should be a weight-forward, rapid-sinking line, which will get the fly quickly down to the fish. A 6-foot tippet of 10-14 pound test monofilament will do.

Fishing for silvers is an excellent opportunity to introduce the pleasures of sport fishing. You don't have to cast long distances when fishing the slow waters where silvers tend to mill around.

Be sure to teach ethical angling practices, including hooking, fighting, and landing or releasing a fish.

Where it's legal, many local silver anglers prefer bait, especially preserved salmon egg clusters.

Regulations concerning the use of bait vary from stream to stream. In some streams or sections of streams unbaited, artificial lures or single-hook artificial lures are required year-round. A review of the regulations is recommended before fishing.

Under the right water and light conditions, brightly colored spoons and spinners can out-fish bait. Although many types of lures will catch a feisty silver, pay special attention to the size and color of the lure. Many novice coho salmon anglers use lures intended for king salmon, which are generally too large for silvers.

Stick with number 2 through 5 spinners and 1/2-ounce spoons. Red is more visible in silty water or near the surface, while greens and blues are more visible in clearer water and at greater depths. Small diving plugs intended for steelhead will also attract silver salmon.

The best bait hooks are size 2/0 or 3/0 single hooks. Most people simply attach a 1/2-ounce sinker 16-18

inches above a quarter-sized gob of eggs, and let it rest on the bottom. The idea is that the silver will pick up the scent trail of the eggs and follow it to the baited hook.

Some anglers also drift the eggs through fishing holes. Other highly productive methods of bait fishing include using a slip bobber, which presents your bait to fish in different levels of the stream.

Silvers will also strike a fly, but the fly must be presented correctly. There are many fly patterns, but it's hard to beat a black or purple egg-sucking leech pattern, preferably one that includes some sparkly material.

Most of the top fly patterns for coho are dark with a bright attractor, but egg patterns can also be effective.

The top 5 coho patterns are Electric Egg-Sucking Leech (black & purple w/pink head); the Marabou Popsicle (black, purple & brown); Bunny Leech (black or purple w/pink head); Dr. Bill's Spin Tail (dark colors); and the Hairball Leech (dark colors).

## Check the Regs!

Always check the regulations before fishing. If in doubt about any fishing regulations, check the website [www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us), or call ADF&G Palmer Office at (907) 746-6300 or the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement Palmer Office at (907) 745-2131 for clarification.

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For information about camping, accommodations, fishing guides, and other visitor services, contact the agencies listed in this brochure, or the Alaska Travel Industry Association at 2600 Cordova Street, Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503  
Web: [www.travelalaska.com](http://www.travelalaska.com) E-mail: [info@AlaskaTIA.org](mailto:info@AlaskaTIA.org)

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Southcentral Region  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Sport Fish

Northern Cook Inlet  
Recreational Fishing Series

# Matanuska - Susitna Valley & West Cook Inlet

## King Salmon

### King salmon fishing in the Northern Cook Inlet area

Kings are the largest of the Pacific salmon, and the first salmon to arrive each summer. Every year, thousands of anglers visit the Northern Cook Inlet area hoping to take home a 25-, 30-, maybe even 50-lb. king (Chinook) salmon.

The top seven king salmon streams in Northern Cook Inlet, in number of kings harvested are 1) Talkeetna River, 2) Deshka River, 3) Willow Creek, 4) Montana Creek, 5) Lake Creek (Yentna drainage), 6) Little Susitna River, and 7) Alexander Creek. A relatively new opportunity has been added at the Eklutna Powerplant tailrace.

The sprawling Susitna River drainage is made up of several major glacial tributaries, including the Yentna, Skwentna, Chulitna, and Talkeetna rivers. These rivers each have dozens of clear water streams flowing into them (see map on page 2).

The streams that empty into the east side of the Susitna River begin high in the Talkeetna mountains. These streams are generally accessible by car from the Parks Highway (Alaska Highway 3).

The streams that flow into the west side of the Susitna begin in the Alaska Range. These streams are more remote, requiring a boat or small plane access.

The Susitna River king salmon run is the fourth largest in the state, behind the Yukon, Kuskokwim,

For opening dates, daily limits, regulations, and special tackle restrictions, consult the Southcentral Alaska regulation booklet.

*A Northern Cook Inlet king salmon caught in early June.*



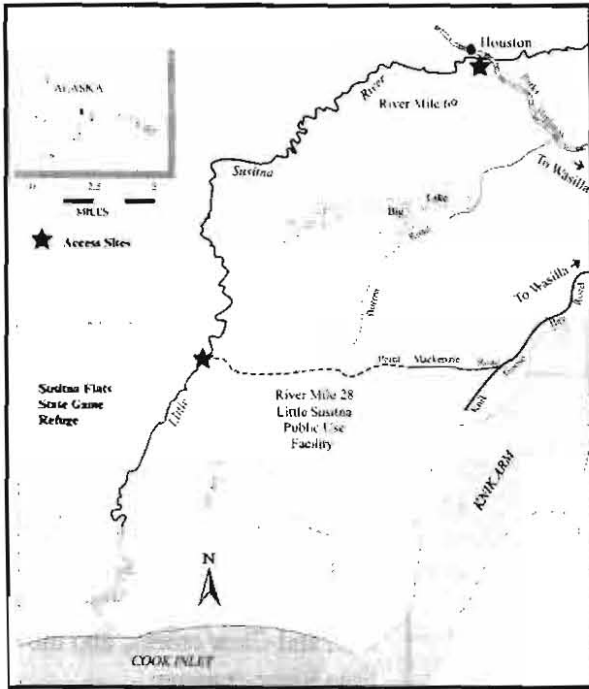
and Nushagak rivers. Between 100,000-200,000 king salmon return every year to the Susitna River drainage ... about twice the number bound for the Kenai River!

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### *The Little Susitna River*

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### King salmon at the Eklutna Powerplant Tailrace (Knik Area)

The Eklutna Hydroelectric Project tailrace is approximately 34 miles north of Anchorage, near Mile 3.5 of the Old Glenn Highway. The sport fishery is confined to the 1/2-mile long tailrace, which extends from the Old Glenn Highway down to the Knik River. The Knik within a 1/2-mile radius of the tailrace and downstream to an ADF&G marker located 2 miles downstream of the confluence; is also open to king salmon fishing from January 1 to December 31.

This fishery is supported by king salmon smolt raised by the Fort Richardson State Fish Hatchery. Kings were first stocked in 2002, and the fishery started in 2004. A few king salmon of Knik River or Matanuska River stock may also be found at the tailrace. Tailrace anglers use a wide variety of lures, most sweetened with a clump or two of preserved salmon eggs as bait.

Silver, red, and chum salmon are also found in tailrace waters.

### Access

From Anchorage, drive north on the Glenn Highway and take the Old Glenn Highway exit. Turn right, and the tailrace is located at Mile 3.5 of the Old Glenn. The recently-improved access site includes paved parking, and wheelchair-accessible paved trails, foot bridge, and toilets.

### Fishing for kings on the Little Susitna River (Knik area)

After the Eklutna tailrace, the Little Susitna River is the next king salmon fishing opportunity as you drive north of Anchorage. After the Little Su, the next king salmon fishing opportunity is Willow Creek, covered under the next section.

### Access to the Little Su

There are three primary ways to access the Little Susitna. Experienced boaters can gain access to the intertidal reaches of the Little Susitna by launching from the Port of Anchorage and crossing Cook Inlet.

**CAUTION!** Northern Cook Inlet has 30-foot tides and strong winds ... not a good place to begin a boating career! If, however, you are experienced, and have a properly-equipped 20-foot or better boat, or a saltwater-capable inflatable, crossing the inlet is an efficient way to reach the mouth of the Little Susitna River.

Just remember to enter and exit the river's mouth during the hours of high tide. When reading the tide book make certain that you adjust for the difference in time that high tide arrives at Anchorage and then at the mouth of the Little Su. If the river is running high, power boats can sometimes travel from the mouth up to the Parks Highway bridge. During low water, however, most power boats travel up only as far as river mile 28.

If you don't have a boat, or don't want to risk the strong tides of Cook Inlet, drive to the Little Susitna River Public Use Facility (LSPUF) boat launch and campground. In Wasilla, turn west on the Knik-Goose Bay Road and follow the signs to the LSPUF (or follow the signs on Burma Road from Big Lake).

The Parks Highway bridge at Mile 58, near the community of Houston, offers foot, boat, canoe, or raft access. Many anglers launch rafts or canoes at the

Deshka Landing is located off the Willow Creek Parkway at Parks Highway Mile 71.3. Susitna Landing is located at Parks Highway Mile 82.5. There is also bank fishing and handicapped access. Talkeetna Landing is close to downtown Talkeetna, near the confluence of the Talkeetna, Chulitna, and Susitna rivers. The launch was initially developed by the community of Talkeetna for public use, and has been upgraded with Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds.

The Parks Highway Mile 104 "boat launch" is basically an un-maintained gravel bar with a road approach. The access road starts from the small state campground on the southeast side of the bridge, then continues through private land to the river. It can be extremely hazardous at high water levels.

#### Road-Accessible Fishing: Parks Highway Roadside Streams

**Willow Creek** (Parks Hwy. Mile 71.3) offers easy shore access at the state-operated campground at the mouth. There are also several privately-operated campgrounds upstream near the Parks Highway bridge.

Willow Creek has been enhanced with chinook salmon smolt since 1985. Although you'll find eager king salmon anglers as early as the first week of June, the best time to fish Willow Creek is mid-June through the season closure. Many anglers fish the mouth, but keep in mind that kings can also be found throughout the lower river upstream to the Parks Highway bridge. Most of the harvested kings are 3- or 4-ocean fish, around 25 to 30 pounds, although a few 50- 60-pounders are caught every year.

The **Kashwitna River** crosses the Parks Highway at Mile 83.1. This is a glacial system, and it gets even cloudier in early and mid-summer, creating less than optimal fishing conditions during peak return times. Still, lucky anglers may find one or two fish at the mouth during late June.

Susitna Landing, Parks Highway Mile 82.4, offers a boat launch and camping facilities with excellent handicapped access right at the mouth of the Kashwitna River. Many fishing guides and charters also use Susitna Landing as their launch site.

The mouth of **Sheep Creek** is reached by driving west on Resolute Avenue (Parks Hwy. Mile 86.3). At the mouth of the creek is a seasonally-maintained camping area with public rest rooms. A short, hilly

trail from the parking area leads to the confluence of Sheep Creek and the Susitna River. King salmon can arrive as early as mid-June, but fishing improves until the season closure.

There is a small un-maintained fishing area on the downstream side of the Parks Highway bridge (Mile 88.4), on the north bank of the creek. Kings generally reach this upstream location by the first week of July.

**Montana Creek** at Mile 96.5 of the Parks Highway is a popular king salmon fishing destination. King salmon provide good action here by late June through the season closure. Camping and RV parking is available in privately-operated campgrounds at the highway crossing.

Access to the mouth of **Rabideux Creek** is just north of where the Parks Highway crosses the Susitna River at Mile 105. When the Susitna River is running high, water often floods the road to Rabideux Creek. When this happens, an alternative route from a turnout at Mile 105.4 on the Parks Highway may be usable. The last week of June until the close of king salmon season offers anglers the best shot of hooking a chinook.

A gravel road at Parks Highway Mile 102.5 offers access to the mouth of **Sunshine Creek**. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough maintains a parking area near the mouth of the creek. Kings typically arrive here by late June, and anglers fish here until the close of king season.

**Birch Creek** crosses the Talkeetna Spur Road near Mile 9, and there is good king fishing at the mouth during late June until the season closure.

#### Boat-Accessible Eastside Susitna River Streams

**Little Willow Creek** (Parks Hwy. Mile 74.8) is accessible at the Parks Highway bridge, but you'll need a boat to get to its confluence with the Susitna River where the best fishing takes place. There are no facilities at Little Willow Creek, and the property along that stream is privately owned. The best fishing takes place at the mouth from mid-June to late June.

**Grey's Creek** crosses the Parks Highway at Mile 81.8. The shoreline is private property, and there is no legal public shoreline access to the mouth from the Parks Highway bridge. Access to the mouth is boat only, by launching at one of the above-described facilities. The best fishing at the mouth is from mid- to late June.

The mouth of **Caswell Creek** produces wild king

stream of the Deshka River to Cook Inlet.

This area includes the Deshka River, the Yentna River drainage including Indian Creek, Fish Lake Creek, Moose Creek, Lake Creek, the Kahiltna River drainage including Peters Creek, and the Skwentna River drainage including the Talachulitna River.

Access to westside fisheries — boat or plane only

If you plan to use your own boat to gain access to westside Susitna River king salmon, you can launch from one of the access sites described in the east side section, or launch at the Port of Anchorage, cross Northern Cook Inlet to the Susitna River, then head upstream.

Small plane access to west side Susitna River king salmon fisheries is quite good. However, even for the experienced pilot, tricycle gear is not recommended. There is only one developed and maintained airport in the area, located in the community of Skwentna (year-round population 20), the 2,500-foot-long runway is not monitored.

Once you land at Skwentna, you will find a roadhouse offering guide services, rooms, meals and a post office. To find king salmon from Skwentna you must have access to a boat.

Other than the Skwentna airport, unless you have a properly-equipped wheel plane and are familiar with gravel bar landings, a float plane is your best option. Float planes can access the mouths of most tributary streams, many of the lakes adjacent to the rivers, or the rivers themselves.

The best advice for pilots is to land only where you feel safe. Call an air charter operator in Anchorage's Lake Hood or Merrill Field and ask where they land. They may not give out any "secret spots," but in the interest of safety they will tell you where the traditional landing areas are.

In the **Deshka River**, 20,000-40,000 king salmon run up this iron-colored stream, and many more leave the glacial waters of the Susitna River to rest at the mouth of the Deshka before heading further up the Susitna River to their spawning stream. In the past 10 years, anglers have harvested 4,000-10,000 king salmon per year from the Deshka River, and caught and released nearly twice that.

The **Yentna River** enters the Susitna River from the



*The Deshka River weir. Weir counts are posted on the ADF&G Sport Fish South-central Region website.*

west, approximately 30 river miles upstream from Cook Inlet. This river system drains the high peaks of the Alaska Range from Mount McKinley to Rainy Pass.

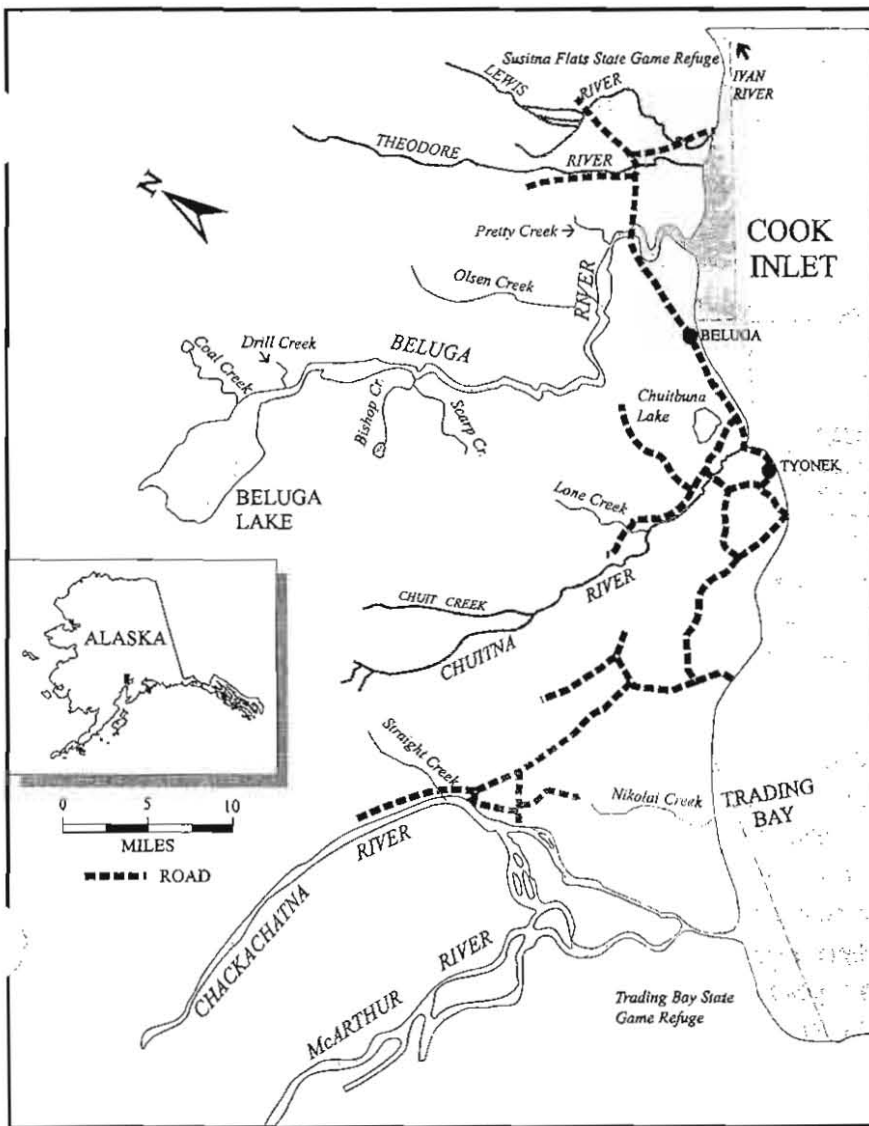
**Lake Creek** is the number one producer of king salmon in the Yentna River drainage. The best fishing found between June 10-25.

The mouth of Lake Creek can be fished from shore or from a boat. Boat rental is available from the 15+ local lodges or air charter services, but it is advisable to make reservations ahead of time.

Hiking up Lake Creek is tough. Few people get very far, so boating is the preferred choice. Lake Creek is shallow, rocky, and fast, and there are braided channels and fallen trees. Only experienced boaters should attempt Lake Creek, with extreme caution, and only in a light, nimble jet boat, an 18-footer for example, with a 40- or 50-horsepower jet outboard. Even with this suggested rig, because of the current, sweepers, and rocks, boaters are limited to 3-5 miles of creek. Above 5 creek miles, Lake Creek becomes hazardous and very hard on your valuable equipment.

Lake Creek can also be an exciting float trip, but it is not recommended for beginners. There are stretches of Class III water, so don't overload your raft. Use at least a 12- or 13-foot self-bailing raft with a rowing frame, and tie down your gear. Start in Chelatna Lake and plan on at least four to five days to complete the trip. There are also private guides offering float trips.

Bulchitna Lake, about two miles upstream of Lake Creek's confluence with the Yentna River, offers an



*The West Cook Inlet area.*

by as much as one week.

As with any remote fishery, public access and services are limited and specific knowledge of the local area is often the difference between success and explaining that you "had a good time anyway."

#### Access — boat or plane only

The West Cook Inlet area is not linked by road to the highway system of Southcentral Alaska. There are a number of Merrill Field air taxi operators that run regularly-scheduled flights to the area. Once you have arrived in the area you will find a well-developed road system, and this is the key to reaching much of the available fishing.

The Chuitna, Lewis, Theodore, and Beluga rivers are

the only streams open to king salmon fishing along this road network. Once servicing oil and gas exploration and the timber industry, these roads are now largely unused and un-maintained. Even though landing strips were also constructed, with a couple of exceptions, these landing areas are now privately owned and not available to the angling public.

Once on the ground you may still have to hire transportation, but the cost of a shuttle to the fishing holes is usually reasonable. Wheel plane access to a few of the streams is quite good, using the old road as a runway.

The oil and gas industry is still very active in the Beluga area, so be careful to avoid their work sites and watch out for equipment on the roads.

If you plan to use a boat to gain access, you are faced with a number of significant logistical challenges. Realistically, boats are not practical in this area. The first challenge you face is crossing northern Cook Inlet with its 30-foot tides and frequent high winds. In addition, because of boulders, snags, shoals, and extremely fast currents, none of the West Cook Inlet streams

(with the exception of the Chakachatna-McArthur and Beluga River systems) are boatable above their intertidal zones. If you get into either the Chakachatna-McArthur or Beluga Rivers, you won't go very far without a jet drive.

The Beluga, Lewis, and Theodore all wander through part of the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, over 300,000 acres of prime waterfowl, moose, coyote, wolf, and bear habitat. The lower reaches of the Chakachatna-McArthur rivers flow through the Trading Bay State Game Refuge.

Access to the refuges is managed by ADF&G for the protection of fish and wildlife, their habitats, and public use of the area. Uses of state refuge lands are controlled to prevent habitat changes which would be harmful to the wildlife or habitat.

During the first week of the fishery, anglers have the most success near the mouth. The first deep hole is a real producer right after the high tide. By June 10, king salmon are distributed throughout the lower ten miles of river, and are still coming into the mouth.

Access to the river is quite limited. The uplands on both sides of the river are owned by the Tyonek Native Corporation (TNC), except for a few parcels and the lands in section 30, T.12 N., R.10 W., which are owned by either the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) or by private parties.

In addition, since the Bureau of Land Management conveyed the southern half of the lower 9 miles of the Chuit to TNC (along with the uplands to the south), TNC views any public use of the southern shore as trespass. However, the public may stand and walk on the northern shore, from mid-channel up to the ordinary high water mark.

The "ordinary high water mark" is defined by the vegetation line along the bank, or by erosion, shelving, or changes in the soil caused by the river water. The ordinary high water mark usually includes sandbars and islands.

Other than the following access sites listed below, there are no other public easements to the Chuit across the private uplands.

- River mouth access: you may boat or walk up the river from its mouth at Cook Inlet.
- Pan Am Road access: you may enter the Pan Am Road through a public easement on Chuitbuna Lake. The public may not use the old road that runs south from the Pan Am Road to the river about 1 mile west of Chuitbuna Lake. This road is private property.
- At Mile 1.2 of the Pan Am Road there is section line access through Kenai Peninsula Borough property (see below).
- At Mile 7 of the Pan Am Road you will find a trail easement and a 1/2-acre site easement for public access to the river.
- At Lone Creek, Mile 9 of the Pan Am Road, you can put in rafts or canoes from the 100-foot road easement and float down the creek to the Chuit's mouth.
- Beluga Road access: a portion of the Beluga Road



***Plan on releasing your fish? Here's a fish-friendly way to get a photo of your great catch.***

1. Land the fish as quickly as possible. Playing the fish to complete exhaustion takes away the energy it needs for spawning. Do not remove the fish from the water
2. Never place anything --hands, fingers, hooks -- under the fish's gill covers. This injures fragile gill arches and causes almost certain death.
3. Gently grasp the fish around its body to remove the hook. A long-nosed pliers is excellent for this task.
4. Don't wet your hands: it makes the fish more difficult to handle.
5. If the hook cannot be easily removed, cut the line as close as possible to the fly, and leave it in the fish. Do this if it appears that removing the hook will cause more damage than leaving it in.
6. Immediately return the fish to the water and point it upstream. Gently cradle it in this position until it swims on its own.

## Catch and Release

Snagging or trying to snag a fish is illegal in all fresh waters of Alaska. Also, in some Alaskan fisheries, if you plan to release a fish, you may not remove it from the water, even to take a photo. In these fisheries, once you remove a fish from the water, it's counted as your harvest. Check the regulations carefully before going fishing.

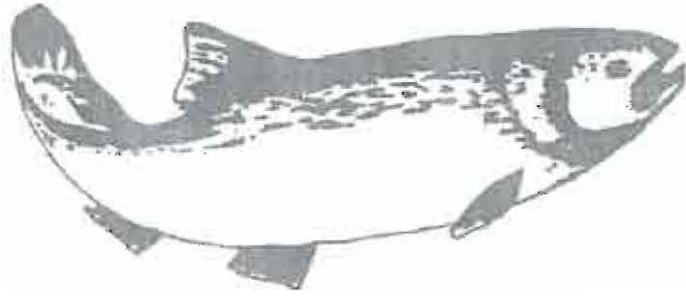
At one time or another, almost everyone accidentally foul-hooks or "snags" a fish. The fish must be released immediately, and if released correctly, will suffer little permanent injury and will spawn successfully. Here are some suggestions that minimize harm to fish:

RC 177

**NORTHERN DISTRICT SET NETTERS ASSOCIATION OF COOK INLET**

P.O. Box 101480 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1480

Est. 1954



27 February 2011

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Anchorage, Alaska

SUBJECT: Northern District King Salmon Management Plan – Considerations During Stock of Concern Deliberations

1. The Northern District commercial king salmon fishery is a minor harvester of king salmon.
  - ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish (2008:1) reported “Between 100,000-200,000 king salmon return every year to the Susitna River drainage...about twice the number bound for the Kenai River!” This 100,000-200,000 return does not include any west side streams.
  - The average annual Northern District harvest from 2002-2010 is approximately 2,400 fish.
  - Based on these numbers, the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery harvests at a rate of 1.2 to 2.4% of the annual run to the Susitna River (exclusive of west side streams).
2. Disparity in management practices in addressing stocks of concern.
  - Susitna River sockeye salmon are a stock of yield concern. In the *Susitna River Sockeye Salmon Action Plan*, there are no restrictions placed on the sport sockeye fishery because the sport fishery is considered a minor harvester of sockeye salmon. Based on the harvest amount by the Northern District set netters, they are also a minor harvester of king salmon.
3. Consider catch and release mortality
  - According to ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish (2008:7), “In the past 10 years, anglers have harvested 4,000-10,000 king salmon per year from the Deshka River, and **caught and released nearly twice that**” (emphasis added). Thus, the catch and release on the Deshka River alone is approximately 8,000 to 20,000 king salmon annually (prior to 2008).
  - RC 131 indicates that catch and release of all Northern Cook Inlet king salmon averaged approximately 56,000 kings from 1996 to 2009, with 23,000 catch and release kings in 2009.
  - Using a 10% mortality on catch and release equates to a sport fish catch and release mortality of 5,600 Northern Cook Inlet king salmon from 1996 to 2009 and 2,300 in 2009 or approximately equal to and over twice the average annual Northern District set net harvest from 2002-2010.
4. The Northern Cook Inlet annual sport harvest of king salmon is approximately 10 times larger (25,000 king salmon) than the 2002-2010 Northern District harvest of 2,400. The current management plan provides for a ten-fold priority for sport fishing over Northern District set netters.



5. The current Northern District King Salmon Management Plan provides for **NO** in-season expansion of the commercial fishery, joins commercial closures to sport closures, and does not prevent the in-season Emergency Order (EO) expansion of sport fishing based on in-season abundance.
  - The set net fishery is already limited by area registration (approximately 60 current users), one day a week fishing, one net per permit, 1,200 ft between nets, and closures along corresponding beaches if the Theodore, Lewis, Ivan, or Chuitna rivers are closed.
  - The commercial fishery cannot expand in-season (e.g., no extra time, area, or gear is allowed by EO).
  - The sport fishery does expand in-season based on run strength.
6. Liberalization of Northern Cook Inlet king salmon sport fishing by Board of Fisheries and Division of Sport Fish EO (Source: Oslund and Ivey 2010:124-134) has occurred.
  - 2000 Division of Sport Fish issued three EOs liberalizing sport fishing in 10 rivers.
  - 2001 Division of Sport Fish issued five EOs liberalizing sport fishing area, hours and gear in multiple rivers.
  - 2002 The Board of Fisheries liberalized sport fishing for king salmon (increased bag limit for West Susitna tributaries) (Commercial fishery started on first Monday after May 25, but was capped at three periods. Also tied commercial closures to in-river restrictions).
  - 2002 Division of Sport Fish issued an EOs liberalizing sport fishing in three creeks (Willow, Sheep and Montana)
  - 2003 Division of Sport Fish issued two EOs liberalizing sport fishing the Deshka River and Willow, Sheep, and Montana creeks.
  - 2004 Division of Sport Fish issued three EOs liberalizing sport fishing in two rivers.
  - 2005 The Board of Fisheries liberalized both sport and commercial king salmon fishing
  - 2005 Division of Sport Fish issued two EOs liberalizing sport fishing in Deshka River.
  - 2006 Division of Sport Fish issued one EO liberalizing sport fishing in Deshka River.
  - 2007: Division of Sport Fish issued one EO liberalizing sport fishing in Deshka River.
  - 2008-10: EO restrictions, including corresponding restrictions in commercial fishery as mandated in the *Northern District Chinook Salmon Management Plan*. In 2010, Division of Sport Fish EO rescinded earlier prohibition and liberalized sport fishing for the use of bait in the lower portion of the Deshka River.
7. Under the current *Northern District Chinook Salmon Management Plan*, both sport and commercial fishing for Northern Cook Inlet are tied to abundance, and managers have the ability to liberalize the sport fishery in-season and restrict both fisheries as indicated by run strength.
  - In addition to triggers in the management plan to restrict Northern District set netters, the Department has closed the Northern District king salmon fishery by E.O. if escapement indicators warranted such an action. This has occurred in the past with the support of the Northern District set netters.
8. There are 361 streams that are known to produce king salmon in Northern Cook Inlet. In a commercial fishery that catches approximately 1-2% of the total run, will the savings realized from a

reduction in harvest from such a minor harvester even be measurable, especially in single aerial surveys of the streams that are being considered for stock of concern status?

- Do commercial closures offer a significant impact on escapement?
- The Northern District king salmon fishery is a mixed stock fishery, not targeting on any one stock.

9. Fishing season/12 hour openings

- The last Monday in May to June 25 openings one day a week provide an opportunity for the Northern District set netters to harvest a relatively modest number of king salmon from a stock of 150,000 to 200,000 with no disproportionate harvest of small stocks (e.g., the harvest is spread out over the entire run and does not focus on any specific stock) to fill custom markets.
- Due to the extreme tides in the Northern District (e.g., -4 to +33), in a six hour opener many sites cannot effectively fish. Many Northern District set netters are either “flood” or “ebb” fishers, based on the location of their sites, and six hours can translate to no fishing for that day.
- Add to the limitation of a six hour opener, weather (i.e., wind) and it is not uncommon for set netters to miss an entire period and wait until the next opening.

10. Uneven counting of commercially caught king salmon versus sport caught king salmon?

- For sport fishing harvests, king salmon under 20 inches do not count against annual or seasonal limits. It is unclear if they are counted in the total sport fish king salmon harvest totals.
- In the Northern District king salmon harvest, ALL king salmon go on a fish ticket, including “jack” king salmon and are included in the harvest total.

11. 5AAC 39.222(f)(4) Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries “burden of conservation”...will be generally applied to users in close proportion to the users’ respective harvest of the salmon stock.”

- The sport fishery catches 10 times more Northern Cook Inlet king salmon than the commercial fishery

12. The Northern District set netters have built specialty markets that rely on a continuous supply of fresh, high value salmon to the fish buying public.

13. For any regulatory restrictions to the Northern District king salmon set net fishery, we request a sunset clause.

### References

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish  
2008 Matanuska-Susitna Valley & West Cook Inlet King Salmon. Northern Cook Inlet Recreational Fishing Series.

Oslund, S. and S. Ivey  
2010 Recreational Fisheries of Northern Cook Inlet, 2009-2010: Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, February 2011. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish. Fishery Management Report No. 10-50.

RC 178

Chairman Webster and Board Members,

My name is Debbie Petroze and I have lived in Soldotna since 1983. I personally utilize the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery and have done so since it opened.

I am concerned that this fishery is not restricted when escapement goals and preseason projections are low. The burden should be on all users, and restrictions should apply to everyone.

I would like to see the following changes:

- (1) Lower bag limits to 15 per head of household and 5 for each member.
- (2) Liberalize/increase bag limits to 5 per household member if the lower end of the escapement goal is met.
- (3) Shorten the time allotment to 12 hours per day
- (4) Total harvest level for the Kenai River of 350,000

Last I have never been approached by enforcement in all the years that I have fished in the dip net fishery. Enforcement is a necessity during this fishery. Kenai has booths for parking/access to the beach and someone should be posted here to check for fishing licenses, permits when entering and to check fish when leaving.

I believe that this fishery needs guidelines and would like to see all of the above listed utilized in some manner, if not all then some reduction in bag limit, time limitations or a harvest level.

Debbie Petroze  
(907) 262-7775  
(907) 262-7230

Submitted by Christine Brandt

RC 122

To: Chairman Webster and Board of Fisheries:

Issue: RC 122

Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association strongly opposes RC 122. RC 122 negates the important contribution made to all fisheries within Upper Cook Inlet and the fishing communities that depend on these stocks. KRSA suggests that Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks are minimal and therefore the BEG can be jeopardized to produce lost yields. KRSA further suggests that under all run strengths for Kenai late-run sockeye - the Kasilof BEG can be ignored, dismissed, over escapements don't harm fishing communities, Kasilof sockeye salmon stocks productivity, and all resource users. Again, this logic ignores the foundation of Alaska Fisheries management practices on salmon stocks - to ensure, sustain, protect, and develop the fishery resources of this state.

The former BEG range of 150,000-250,000 sockeye salmon encompassed a range of 100,000 sockeye. The new BEG range of 160,000-360,000 sockeye expanded the range by 200,000 sockeye. Increasing the upper end by 50,000 fish will jeopardize the Kasilof BEG; the Escapement Goal Review states the risk on exceeding the BEG will reduce the yield by 50 percent. KRSA dismisses the economic losses which would result by adding 50,000 fish to the upper end of the BEG; an indifference to those who have depended on this fishery resource since statehood.



Robert Williams, president

Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

RC 180

Chairman Webster, BOF members

Issue: RC 121

KPFA Strongly opposes the options and explanations laid out in RC 121.

First, the Hidden Lake component is already adjusted for in the DIDSON escapement goal range of 700,000 – 1,200,000. The additional 200,000 is incorrect both in numbers and Hidden Lake contribution. The Department deducts the Hidden Lake component when calculating the spawning escapement.

Second, restating the additional 200,000 fish (Hidden Lake component incorrectly) in the in-river goal tiers.

Third, implying standardization to all tiers at the upper end and lower end negates the SEG developed by the Department of Fish and Game; a complete misrepresentation on known harvest levels in the tiers on Kenai late-run sockeye.

Please refer to RC 158 addressing this issue.



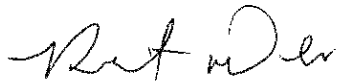
Robert Williams, President KPFA

RC 181

Chairman Webster and board members,

Attn: Age composition of chinook salmon harvested in Central District, Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet fisheries, Upper Cook Inlet, Alaska. 1987 to present.

Table 41 and chinook harvest percentages of age 1.1 and age 1.2 (under 28 inches) clearly shows the 5 -year average (2006-2010) is 47 percent of all harvest. For example, in 2010 the total harvest was 7,059 chinooks; of which 3,035 were less than 28 inches.



Robert Williams, president

Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

Year	ESSN Set Gillnet Harvest	Jacks Under 20" harvest	ESSN Harvest minus 20" jacks	Kings Under 28"	Harvest minus 28" kings	20" % male (viscerally checked)	28" % male (viscerally checked)
1986	19,824						
1987	21,150						
1988	12,859						
1989	10,914						
1990	4,139						
1991	4,893						
1992	10,718	421	10,297	2,148	8,570		
1993	13,977	446	13,531	2,223	11,754	93%	65%
1994	15,562	563	14,999	2,033	13,529	100%	74%
1995	12,068	529	11,539	2,949	9,119	98%	73%
1996	11,564	469	11,095	2,144	9,420	98%	98%
1997	11,325	727	10,598	2,159	9,166	95%	89%
1998	5,087	546	4,541	1,681	3,406		
1999	9,463	334	9,129	2,694	6,769		
2000	3,684	397	3,287	901	2,783		
2001	6,009	789	5,220	2,766	3,243		
2002	9,478	999	8,479	3,577	5,901		
2003	14,810	869	13,941	6,351	8,459		
2004	21,684	723	20,961	4,422	17,262	95%	75%
2005	22,101	947	21,154	5,992	16,109	100%	100%
2006	9,956	1,495	8,461	5,215	4,741		
2007	12,288	1,199	11,089	5,915	6,373	94%	92%
2008	7,573	815	6,758	2,163	5,410	100%	97%
2009	5,588	1,405	4,183	3,513	2,075	96%	96%
2010	7,059	1,410	5,649	3,012	4,047	99%	97%
Averages	11,351	794	10,258	3,256	7,797	97%	87%

ADFCG, TABLE PROVIDED

HARVEST  
MINUS 28"  
KINGS COLUMN  
TOTALS

20F3

**Table 41.**-Age composition of chinook salmon harvested in the Central District, Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet fisheries, Upper Cook Inlet, Alaska, 1987 to present.

Year	Sample		Percent Composition by Age Class (%)														
	Size		0.2	1.1	0.3	1.2	2.1	0.4	1.3	2.2	1.4	2.3	1.5	2.4	2.5	1.6	Total
1987	1,212		0.08	2.06	0.08	14.69			33.01	0.17	48.50	0.25	1.07	0.08			100
1988	870			3.22		10.81		0.23	14.25	0.35	68.50	0.12	1.83	0.69			100
1989	854			0.94		15.11			21.08	0.23	53.28		9.37				100
1990	437		0.22	1.14	0.22	29.48	0.92	0.46	28.99	0.46	32.66	0.43	3.43	1.59			100
1991	446		0.22	0.67		24.90	0.22	0.45	32.06		38.54	0.67	2.02	0.22			100
1992	688			2.46		14.97			27.62	0.58	49.56	0.88	3.78	0.15			100
1993	992			3.33		14.01			20.76	0.10	56.46	0.80	4.04	0.50			100
1994	1,502			3.53		12.28	0.08		14.67	0.25	61.28	0.45	5.81	1.59		0.05	100
1995	1,508			2.73		22.35	0.09		32.88	0.76	34.95	0.11	5.9	0.19	0.05		100
1996	2,186			3.25		15.83	0.06		34.87	0.15	42.34	1.55	1.49	0.46			100
1997	1,691			6.38		13.51	0.27		31.08	0.27	45.64	0.72	0.73	1.40			100
1998	911		0.46	11.75	0.22	23.18	0.34	0.10	21.06	1.57	38.38	0.54	1.87	0.56			100
1999	1,818		0.05	2.32		26.30	0.16		24.52		43.46	0.40	2.78				100
2000	991			9.15	0.08	12.19	0.88		38.65	0.33	37.61	0.27	0.77	0.08			100
2001	989			11.68		40.04			14.53		32.52		1.23				100
2002	1,224			10.60	0.04	29.28			36.68		22.57		0.71	0.12			100
2003	678			3.83		51.77			23.60	0.3	18.73		1.77				100
2004	1,409			3.54		19.83	0.07		48.22		27.64	0.04	0.67				100
2005	482		0.21	2.90		26.97			20.13	0.42	47.50		1.66	0.21			100
2006	560			12.86		35.35			21.96	0.18	27.14		2.5				100
2007	789			4.82		42.71			22.44	0.13	28.51		1.27	0.13			100
2008	380			10.27		19.73			27.64		40.78		1.59				100
2009	487			13.75		51.35			12.32		21.96		0.62				100
2010	743			18.27		24.62			35.95	0.11	20.06	0.16	0.82				100
Mean			0.05	6.06	0.03	24.64	0.13	0.05	26.62	0.27	39.11	0.31	2.41	0.33	0.00	0.00	100.00

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**COMMITTEE C MATERIAL**

**INTENT:** To provide historical information regarding changes made in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery.

**SUBMITTER:** Cheryl Sutton, United Fishermen of Alaska, Statewide Chair, Ninilchik Setnetter

The proposals before the Board of Fisheries in the 2011 meeting that have been presented as “tweaking” or “minor changes” for the Cook Inlet commercial fishery would have enormous negative consequences for the commercial fishery.

Some current board members have been through Cook Inlet meetings but some have not. None of the board members have served through the period of time reflected below. The following information is provided to add perspective.

- This meeting is not ground zero for commercial fishermen.
- There is a long history of restrictive regulatory changes in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery.
- Seasons have been shortened at both ends.
- Opening dates are also bifurcated in the Eastside Setnet fishery.
- Within the more restrictive open and close dates, mandatory windows of closure have been instituted.
- Management flexibility has been taken away. This impedes the Department’s ability to respond to real time conditions which results in additional lost opportunity for commercial fishermen.

- Time and area closures have been imposed.
- Harvest opportunities for numerous stocks have been removed.
- Escapement numbers have been changed numerous times which results in additional foregone harvest opportunity in the commercial fishery.
- Area registrations for the setnet fishery have been imposed. This prevents a setnetter from fishing his permit in more than one location in the same year even though the CFEC permit is for Cook Inlet salmon. This instituted the pre-season buoy sticker permit registration in the setnet fishery.

Most of the fishermen in the Eastside setnet fishery are third and fourth generation fishing families. Some committee participants stated that the “good old days” are no longer possible. It was stated that population explosions in the Mat-Su and Anchorage MUST change how the commercial fishery is conducted.

I ask the board to consider the issue of displacement particularly in the context of the numerous restrictions that have already been placed in the commercial fishery – many of which were made solely for the purpose of satisfying this burgeoning population. Displacement is not development nor does it serve the resource.

The commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet are largely fishing families who pioneered Kenai Peninsula communities and are the social fabric of these communities. This is equally true in the Northern District where many set netting families live and work in the Matanuska Valley.

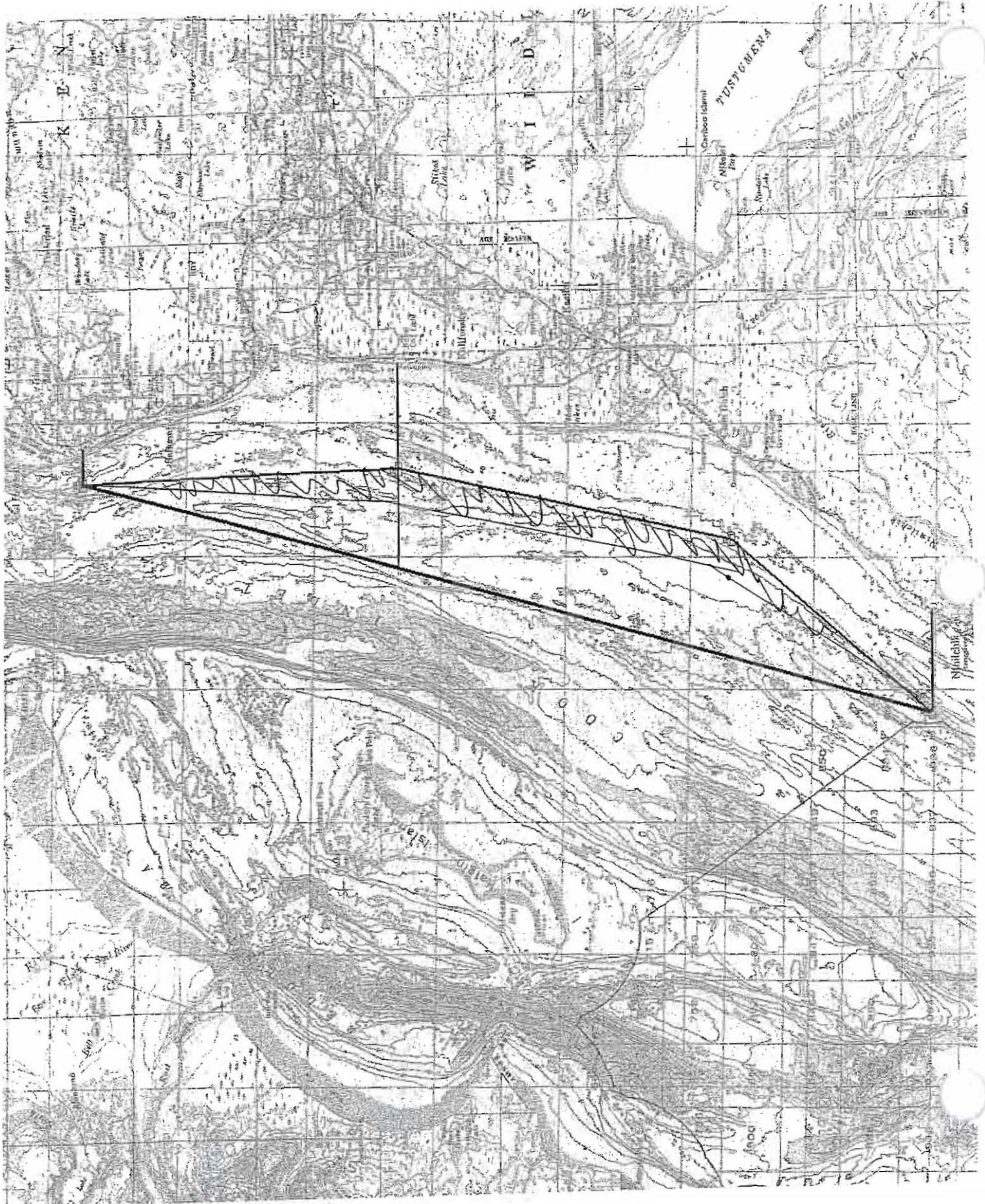
## KRSA and MBSC Comments on Committee of the Whole Susitna Sockeye Salmon Action Plan

- ✓ Susitna sockeye salmon have been identified as a stock of yield concern and actions taken to date have failed to restore this run.
- ✓ The action plan is intended to increase escapement of Susitna-bound sockeye and while also allowing for continuing harvest of Kenai River sockeye.
- ✓ RC 164 issued by the Board identifies Committee of the Whole action plan considerations for Susitna sockeye in the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 21.353).
- ✓ Changes to the Drift Gillnet plan identified in RC 164 do not significantly reduce drift net fishery exploitation rates and may actually increase harvest relative to the current plan.
  - Elimination of drift area 1 during one regular period from July 9 through July 15 will reduce Susitna sockeye harvest during the interval of peak abundance.
  - However, benefits are offset by the liberal expansion of the corridor to include a large portion of area 1 and 2.

This RC recommends the following actions as an effective alternative for reducing drift net fishery harvest of Susitna sockeye consistent with their stock of concern designation:

Reduce the area of the expanded corridor to the area utilized in 2005 in order to concentrate harvest on Kenai sockeye while avoiding harvest of Susitna sockeye. The revised outer corridor definition involves expanding the offshore boundary of the Kenai and Kasilof sections for drift gillnetting to include waters out to the following four points.

1. 60° 40.35' N. Lat. and 151° 27.00' Long.
2. 60° 27.10' N. Lat. and 151° 29.50' Long.
3. 60° 12.75' N. Lat. and 151° 38.30' Long.
4. 60° 04.02' N. Lat. and 151° 52.60' Long.



K E N

W I L D

MUSUMBA

Nifitichik

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1:50,000

1:50,000

As a representative of the Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee I appreciate the Board's efforts to make positive regulation changes to the Susitna Sockeye Salmon Action Plan that should result in pass through of additional salmon of all species from the Central District into the Northern District.

In consideration of RC 164:

during the period from July 9 through July 15:

I request BOF members to consider that as far back as ADF&G has commercial fishing records (and a Yentna / Susitna sockeye salmon goal) -- the ONLY years ADF&G fully attained minimum Yentna / Sustina sockeye escapement were years in which ADF&G entirely closed or limited the drift fleet to the Kenai and Kasilof sections for at least one of the two regular periods during this time frame. In addition to this action, other actions were also necessary on years the escapement minimum was attained.

Therefore, in order to ensure possibly meeting the Yentna / Susitna minimum escapement I suggest the first drift period between July 9 and 15 would better be limited to the standard Kenai and Kasiloff sections. This could be accomplished by simply the two uses of the word Outer from section (i) of the action plan.

The fishing area for the second regular drift period as described in section (ii) seems reasonable as a way to avoid harvesting a large portion of the Northern bound salmon originally protected by the section (i) provision, while still providing ample drift fleet opportunity to harvest Kenai and Kasilof bound sockeye.

Section (iii) is most troubling. I would agree to providing additional drift openings in the standard Kenai and Kasiloff sections or possibly even one opening in an Outer Kasilof and or Kenai section. However -- providing a second drift opening in Drift Gillnet Area 1 in addition to the changes outlined above would seem to negate most positive pass through of Northern bound salmon accomplished by the earlier changes. Therefore I request BOF members to remove the opportunity for the drift fleet to fish any additional openings in Drift Gillnet Area 1 during the July 9 - 15 portion of the season. This could be accomplished by simply removing Drift Gillnet Area 1 from section (iii) of RC 164.

In the last paragraph -- section (ii) of RC 164 I recommend removing Drift Gillnet Area 2 from the open fishing area. For the wording of this paragraph to add any positive pass through for Northern bound salmon stocks such a wording change must be made.

Those are my concerns on the Sustina Sockeye Salmon Action Plan (RC 164),



Andrew N. Couch, Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

I would like to provide the following comments concerning the Willow and Goose Creek King Salmon Action Plan RC 166.

Concerning the statement: the waters upstream of the Parks Highway are open to sport fishing, except for king salmon.

I request that the Board make clear board intent that this language only applies to Caswell Creek, Little Willow Creek, Sheep Creek, Grey's Creek, and Willow Creek in Unit 2 --- and does not apply to Kashwitna River and Montana Creek.

In addition I would like to mention that All the king salmon action plans: RC 165, 166, 167 include no reduction in time and or periods as discussed in RC 111 fro the Northern District setnet fishery. I request the board add these to the action plans.

Thank You,



Andrew N. Couch, Matanuska Valley AC=

**KRSA and MBSC Comments on  
Committee of the Whole  
Chuitna, Theodore, and Lewis Rivers King Salmon Action Plan Considerations  
5AAC 21.366 Northern District King Salmon Management Plan**

The purpose of these regulatory changes are to afford conservation protections for Chinook salmon destined for waters of the Northern District. There are six king salmon stocks in the Northern district that have been designated stock of concern. This points to a serious conservation condition that will require conservation actions directed at set gill net commercial fisheries and in-river sport fisheries.

Our review of Chuitna, Theodore, and Lewis Rivers King Salmon Action Plan Considerations; 5AAC 21.366 Northern District King Salmon Management Plan suggest several deficiencies exist. Restrictions in the commercial fishery are insufficient to address the conservation concern and sport regulations, although substantial should be refined. We recommend the following amendments:

Commercial Fishery

- **Add in the priority language as requested in proposal 143 and RC 111.**

This is necessary to provide clear direction to the public, staff and future Boards as runs recover.

- **Add 1 mile radius commercial fish closures for Chuitna, Theodore, and Lewis Rivers. Additionally we recommend the 1 mile radius be included for the Little Susitna**

These closures are essential to affording protections consistent with other streams in the state and consistent with the degree of concern we have for these stocks.

- **Reduce commercial fishing times from 12 hours to 6 hours**

It is only appropriate that commercial fishing time be reduced in a manner that is commensurate with the restrictions we believe are necessary in the in-river fisheries. Reducing commercial fishing time is an effective tool for conservation. Maintaining the current condition is not sufficient for conservation purposes.

- **Delay start date in commercial fishery from May 21 too June 4**

This date change will focus the conservation measures on king salmon.

Sport Fishery

- **Add bait restrictions in Doshka until June 1**

Necessary for the conservation of king salmon as it reduces efficiency in the sport fishery by as much as 30 percent.

Given these consideration we offer the following amended Action Plan for the Boards consideration. We believe this melds the concerns of Committee participants with effective conservation measures necessary to conserve Northern District king Salmon.

### **Chuitna, Theodore, and Lewis Rivers king Salmon Action Plan Considerations**

#### **Northern District King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.366)**

5AAC 21.366 is amended to read:

(a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the Northern District king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon over the entire run, as measured by the frequency on river restrictions. The department shall manage the Northern District for the commercial harvest of king salmon as follows:

(1) except as specified in (7) of this section, the season will open for commercial fishing periods with the first fishing period beginning on the first Monday on or after June 4, [May 25] except when June 4 [May 25] falls within a closed period, in which case the season opens the next following open period and continues through June 24, unless closed earlier by emergency order;

(2) fishing periods are six (6) hours on Mondays from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm; [from 7:00 am to 7:pm on Mondays]

[(3) harvest may not exceed 12,500 king salmon]

(3) [4] set gill nets may not exceed 35 fathoms in length and six inches in mesh;

(4) [5] no CFEC permit holder may operate more than one set gillnet at a time;

(5) [6] no set gillnet may be set or operated within 1,200 feet of another set gill net;

(6) [7] no CFEC permit holder may set a gillnet seaward of a set gillnet operated by another CFEC permit holder;

(7) [8] Close the area from ADFG regulatory marker located one mile south of the Chuitna River to the Susitna River to commercial king salmon fishing. [from May 25 through June 24, the area from the Theodore River to the Susitna River is open to fishing the second regular Monday period only]



(8) no commercial fishing within a 1 mile radius of the mouth of the Chuitna, Theodore, and Lewis Rivers. Additionally no commercial fishing within a 1 mile radius of mouth Little Susitna [9 if the Theodore, Lewis, or Ivan.....]

(8) [10] if the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing or to the retention of king salmon (catch and release), the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section.

[11 if Chuitna River.....]

(b) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363 (e).

Susitna Sockeye Salmon Action Plan

ll 187

Committee of the whole Action Plan Considerations RC's 164-167

1. UCIDA prefers that the original action plan dated Feb 2008 remain unchanged as passed by the Board of Fisheries.

Rationale; there has not been sufficient time to complete the research on the effect of Pike,  
There has not been sufficient time to access the current escapement goals  
The sport fishermen are protected from cutbacks in harvest

2. The proposed changes, as contained, in the 'action plan considerations' must provide for the sharing of the yield concern 'conservation' burden by the sport fishermen. They must contribute some of their harvests in order to demonstrate their compliance with BOF policies.

3. The commercial harvests were adjusted in 2008. We alone have borne the yield of concern 'conservation' burden.

4. Other options have not been biologically outlined or explored by the public process.

Rotatman

Submitted by Steve Runyan

RC 188

In panel discussions, the department testified that the department's actions to "minimize harvest of Northern District coho" in Central District fishing are dictated by Board action, not in season actions. The efficacy of these board directed actions are to be reviewed by the board post season. The measuring stick is whether or not sweeping restrictions to sport fisheries in the Northern District have been enacted. The regulation referencing this measuring stick does not specify whether these are emergency or stat restrictions.

Valley streams had the bag limit on coho restricted to 2 fish from 3 fish in the 90's when conservation concerns existed for the Inlet. They still remain in this restricted state. I believe this qualifies as "restrictions placed on sport fisheries." Many of the restrictions that were in place on the commercial gill and set gillnet fleets of Central and the East side have been lifted, and the harvest of coho has increased correspondingly, to over 200,000 inlet wide in 2010. This is roughly double the 10 year average harvest, which spans years of very good returns as well as low returns.

In all proposals requesting an increase in the limit of coho on road accessible streams in the Susitna Drainage, Knik, Anchorage Bowl and Kenai Peninsula back to the original 3 fish limit, the Department was opposed, citing concerns of over harvest in years of average or low abundance. The Department also cites the 2010 coho run strength as average or below average.

With the inlet's commercial catch double the 10 year average, on a year of low coho abundance, I submit to the board that the same concern should exist throughout the range of this species' run, not just in its streams of origin. If the state is treating Northern District coho as a unit throughout its run, it is apparent that current regulations are not giving coho adequate protections in lower and Central Cook Inlet. I request that the Board undergo a review of regulations directing Department of Fish and Game actions that affect the numbers of coho caught, and protections for this stock be built into all management plans which affect this run.

RC 189

Submitted by Steve Runyan

RC for proposals 286 and 287, liberalize methods and means for pike in Big and Nancy Lakes.

Remove reference to "swede books" from both proposals. Also, provide a definition for "double bait holding hooks" that means 2 single hooks of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " gap or greater, attached to a single piece of bait. Also allow spearing of pike year round. (Department comment is that this is already allowed, so many be redundant.)

**Amendment to the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan**

5 AAC 77.540(c)(1)

(1) in the Kenai River, from July 10 through July 31, as follows:

(A) Based on preseason forecasts and inseason evaluations of the total Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return during the fishing season, the personal use fishery will be managed as follows:

(x) at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.;

(x) at run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; the commissioner may extend, by emergency order, the personal use fishery to 24-hours per day subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal;

# STATE OF ALASKA

Sean Parnell, Governor

David Martin, Chair  
PO Box 468  
Clam Gulch, AK 99568  
907-567-3306  
dmartin@alaska.net

## Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee

RC 191

Pink Salmon Management Plan

Feb. 27.2011

- (a) Pink salmon returns in Cook Inlet shall be managed consistent with the Alaska's salmon management policy and other pink salmon management plans and practices through out the State.
- (b) All fishery management plans (pinks) are designed to achieve maximum or optimum salmon harvest, the board and department must consider factors including data uncertainty, management programs and habitat issues.
- (c) To effectively assure sustained yield and habitat protections for salmon stocks, fishery management plans require guidelines and criteria.
- (d) The department shall manage pink salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses by providing commercial fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources based on abundance.
- (e) The department shall manage pink salmon stocks to provide a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources over the entire run.
- (f) The department shall use emergency order authority to achieve the objective of this plan.

*David Martin, Chair*

**Subject:** catch and release  
**From:** "Catherine & Erik" <cark1@att.net>  
**Date:** Sun, 27 Feb 2011 17:58:26 -0900  
**To:** "Roland Maw" <rmaw@ucida.org>

RC 192

In case you and Dave missed this a few years ago when I got this in the Clarion and the ADN.  
Erik

Letter to the Editor

Well it's that time of year again. Yup, it's time to get ready for all those non-residents showing up for the spring catch and release cow moose hunt. For you folks that didn't know about this, here's the details. This hunt starts every spring, just before the cows start calving. The boundaries of the hunting area are as follows, west of Skilak Lake and within the Kenai River Special Management Area. "Hunters" get to go out on their ATV's (which are limited to 35 hp to protect the habitat) and ride up close to the cow moose. Then they throw a line with a grapple hook over the back of the moose and drive off rapidly, hooking the critter. Once the cow is hooked, (keeping the line tight is real important here) they tow it around for awhile and when it's bleeding and can't stand up anymore they get their picture taken with it. Then after unhooking the grapple, the "hunter" rides off to bag another one. At the end of the season, if all the pregnant cow moose were released, the Sporty Organizations will present the "hunter" with a plaque (usually signed by Ted Stevens) saying what a damn fine sportsman they are and thanking them for participating in the Release a Cow Program. Wouldn't that be nice. Bet you would be proud to have that hanging on your wall.

Now, just in case you're not the quickest trout in the creek, this is actually a parody of the in-river King fishery.

Erik Huebsch  
Kasilof

Board of Fisheries February 20 – March 5 Upper Cook Inlet meeting at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska

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126	Andy Couch	Withdraw Prop 264	1
127	Roland Maw	Conflict of Interest - Kluberton	
128	ADF&G – SF	Sport harvest of Coho in Cook Inlet	1
129	Chris Brandt	Anch Daily News 2-19-10 article	2

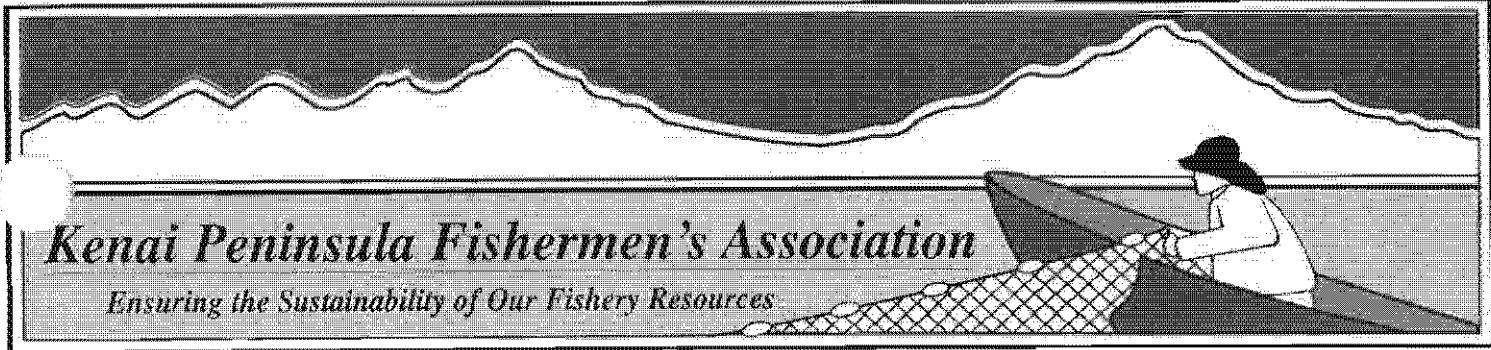
**Board of Fisheries February 20 – March 5 Upper Cook Inlet meeting at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska  
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131	UCIDA	Fish released data 1996 – 2009	10
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133	Steve Runyan	Revised Prop 140	3
134	Ken Federico	Revised Prop 195	1
135	KRPGA	Amend Prop 213	1
136	Paul Shadura	Peninsula Clarion editorial re: science based management	1
137	Paul Shadura	Fish shipping information	10
138	Paul Shadura	Fish shipping information	10
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141	Scott Eggemeyer	Withdraw support Prop 212	1
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144	Steve Runyan	Prop 270 amendment	1
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152	Board of Fisheries	Subsistence proposal	2
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154	Joe Haines	Prop 250 amendment / map	1
155	Nathan Corr	Prop 170 amendment	1
156	Roland Maw	Withdraw support of Prop 242	1
157	Jeff Beaudoin	#321-331 sonar counts	1
158	KPFA	Comments / data on escapement	4
159	Jeff Beaudoin	Creel census data / table	1
160	Dennis Randa	Letter re: Kenai River vessels	2
161	Cheryl Sutton	Legislative & Board background on PU fishery	10
162	KRPGA	Kenai early King salmon plan	1
163	ADF&G SF	Map of area closed to King by boat on Willow	1
164	ADF&G CF	Susitna Sockeye salmon Action plan options	3
165	ADF&G CF	Chuitna, Theodore & Lewis R. King salmon Action plan options	3
166	ADF&G CF	Willow & Goose Creek King salmon Action plan options	1
167	ADF&G CF	Alexander Creek King salmon Action plan options	1
168	Andy Szczesny	Prop 215 alternative amendments	1
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171	Greg Johnson	Prop 105 – Comm A response	2
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177	Page Herring	N Dist King salmon mgmt plan	3
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179	Chris Brandt	RC 122 comments	1
180	Chris Brandt	RC 121 comments	1
181	Chris Brandt	Age composition	3
182	Cheryl Sutton	UCI Commercial fishery history	2
183	Ray Beamesderfer	Comm of the Whole-Susitna sockeye	2
184	Andy Couch	RC 164 Sockeye action plan	1
185	Andy Couch	RC 166 Willow/Goose Creek King salmon	1
186	KRSA, Mayor Blue Ribbon	Committee of the Whole Action plan comments	3
187	Roland Maw	Action plan comments	1
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192	David Martin	Erik Huebsch Letter to the Editor re: Catch & Release	1
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RC 194



43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276  
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: [kpfa@alaska.net](mailto:kpfa@alaska.net)

February 28, 2011

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

RE: RC 164

Attention: Chairman Vince Webster

KPFA would like to comment and question the directives that will result from any of these proposed actions. We are concerned that the *action and reaction* principle will interfere with the orderly harvest opportunity for setnet fishermen within Cook Inlet (CI).

In order to respond to the perceived issue of sockeye moving north through the central district, we need to have the Department give us a range of numbers that they feel will reach our spawning objectives. What percentage of the current harvest of sockeye are we trying to address?

Our view of the current proposed expansion of the Kasilof and Kenai corridors will result in a modest increase in the return. Depending on the tide, there are three *rips* in central CI. The expanded Kenai area will include the east *rip* and possibly the middle *rip*. These *rips* are the known traveling highways that sockeye ride on there way to their natal streams. The Kasilof Outer will intersect a very long portion of the *east rip*.

We see little reduction in harvesting Kenai bound stocks either the Kasilof or the Kenai Outer sections. We find that most danger of intercepting northern bound stocks remains in the boundaries of Area One.

We would caution the board in its attempt to deal with a yield concern that will continue to impact setnet fishermen in an adverse way.

There is minimal relief for setnet fishermen in the Northern District. The directed fishery for King salmon will be no longer available after the Board had just reinstated it in 2008.

This fishery is a long standing historical harvest and has not exceeded its cap for several years.

*At a minimum, any action to restrict fisheries should have a sunset clause timed to the next cycled board meeting as part of the plan.*

*The Department should have a more confidence building plan of action that will verify the returns to the Chuitna, Lewis, and Theodore Rivers. Ground assessment should be part of the program as well as weir, tower or sonar counts of returning adults. Some production model should include smolt out and a habitat assessment. Consideration should be given to habitat enhancement and of course, enforcement.*

*Fisheries managers should be instructed to come out of the restrictions if numbers of sockeye or king salmon improve to the sustainable levels before the three years are expended.*

We encourage the Department to continue with liberalizing methods and means, time and area to reduce invasive pike to manageable levels.

We believe that any net restrictions of the Northern District setnetters should be lifted in the month of August. It really makes no sense to continue these restrictions when the drift fleet is not restricted during this time frame.

We are not clear about the discussion of the decoupling aspect. We really do not know what this means in a real time situation.

(A) Would seem to allow managers on EO opening of 12 hours at runs over 2 million.

*What would the setnet fishery be doing when this opening is in effect?*

(B) Within this range there seems to be no allowance for EO openings other than an inclusion of more areas.

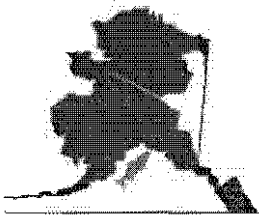
It is not clear what happens at runs over 4 million.

*Setnet fishermen will still have their weekly restrictions based on run strength and run size, we also will have our allowable EO hours as well as the two prescribed 12 hour periods. Will we be fishing at different times?*

We believe that fishing at different times may impact the inriver fishery in a negative way. A consideration in timing for the in river user may require setnet fishermen to fish independently of the drift fleet.

With respect,

  
President Robert Williams



Kenai  
Area  
Fisherman's  
Coalition

PROTECTING YOUR FISHING RIGHTS & RESOURCES

RC 195

Issue: Proposal 207 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June Charitable or Educational Event

KAFC wishes to withdraw proposal 207. We believe we have made our point that the BOF should not take up anything new during deliberations that did not go through the proposal comment and BOF committee vetting process.

Submitted By:

Dwight Kramer, KAFC Chairman



Kenai  
Area  
Fisherman's  
Coalition

PROTECTING YOUR FISHING RIGHTS & RESOURCES

RC 196

**Issue: Proposal 246 – Additional Drift Day**

**Amendment:** This amended language is intended to add an additional drift only day on Thursday but reduce the area to the Moose River downstream to the Soldotna bridge (Approx. 16rm). This compromise language would allow both user groups (powerboat and drift boat) to share the river and still provide additional opportunity to those who enjoy the drift boat experience. This type of sectioning of the river, to offer additional drift boat days, is consistent with the suggestions offered in the 2009 Kenai River Use Study.

**Language:**

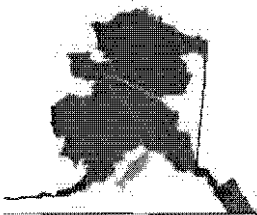
**Original** - Under the heading “Drift-only Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake” change to read: Downstream of Skilak Lake no one may fish from a motorized vessel on Mondays (except Memorial Day) **and Thursdays** during May, June and July.

**New** - Under the heading “Drift-only Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake” change to read: Downstream of Skilak Lake no one may fish from a motorized vessel on Mondays (except Memorial Day) during May, June and July **and Thursdays from the Moose River downstream to the Soldotna bridge during June and July.**

**Submitted By:**

**Dwight Kramer, KAFC Chairman**





Kenai  
Area  
Fisherman's  
Coalition

PROTECTING YOUR FISHING RIGHTS & RESOURCES

re 197

**Issue: Proposal 235 – Slot Limit Structure / Time / Area**

**Amendment:** This amended language is intended to change the size structure of the slot limit so that it will offer more protection to 1.4 and 1.5 female Chinook salmon. Additionally, we agree with the Kenai / Soldotna AC that the slot limit should stay in effect throughout the entire King salmon season above the Soldotna Bridge where most of the spawning occurs.

**Language:**

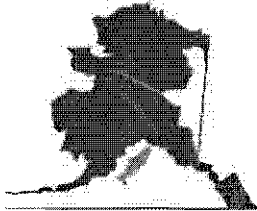
**Original** - The extension of the early run slot limit through July, thereby offering the same protection for large July Kings as is currently provided for large May/June Kings.

**New** - Mouth of the Kenai River to Soldotna bridge Jan. 1 – June 30 ... 1 per day / 1 in possession... must be less than 42" or 52" or longer.

Soldotna bridge upstream to Skilak Lake Jan. 1 – July 31 ... 1 per day / 1 in possession... must be less than 42" or 52" or longer.

**Submitted By:**

**Dwight Kramer, KAFC Chairman**



Kenai  
Area  
Fisherman's  
Coalition

PROTECTING YOUR FISHING RIGHTS & RESOURCES

RC 198

**Issue: Proposal 229 – Slikok Creek proposed sanctuary extension**

**Amendment:** This amended language reduces the original downriver section of the sanctuary extension we were seeking from 1mi. to 3/4mi. This concession would then put the popular fishing hole of “Sunken Island” outside of the proposed sanctuary but still offer an additional protected area for Slikok Creek bound Chinook salmon.

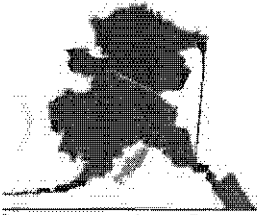
**Language:**

**Original** - From Jan. 1 – July 31, The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 1 mile (300 yd) downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to ADF&G markers about 0.25 miles (100 yd) upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek is a fly fishing only water and is closed to fishing for King salmon.

**New** - From Jan. 1 – July 31, The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 0.75 miles (300 yd) downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to ADF&G markers about 0.25 miles (100 yd) upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek is a fly fishing only water and is closed to fishing for King salmon.

**Submitted By:**

**Dwight Kramer, KAFC Chairman**



Kenai  
Area  
Fisherman's  
Coalition

PROTECTING YOUR FISHING RIGHTS & RESOURCES

RC 199

**Issue: Proposal 247 – Drift Boat Motorized Exception to Exit the Kenai River Fishery**

**Amendment:** This amended language is intended to define a drift boat for the purposes of this proposal. Some guides on the committee tried to co-opt this proposal by saying they would be able to drift the river in their motorized riverboats if this proposal passed. The intent of this proposal was to make the lower 8rm below Eagle Rock more accessible to drift boat users and add the capability to exit the river more safely.

**Language:**

**Original** - Under the heading “Drift-only Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake” change to read: Downstream of Skilak Lake no one may fish from a motorized vessel on Mondays (except Memorial Day) during May, June and July. **Except on drift boat only days motors may be used downstream of Cunningham Park (approximately RM 6.6) for downstream navigation only after fishing from the boat has stopped for that trip.** (FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS REGULATION, A MOTORIZED VESSEL IS ONE THAT HAS A MOTOR ON BOARD)

**New** - Under the heading “Drift-only Mondays downstream of Skilak Lake” change to read: Downstream of Skilak Lake no one may fish from a motorized vessel on Mondays (except Memorial Day) during May, June and July. **Except on drift boat only days motors may be used downstream of Cunningham Park (approximately RM 6.6) for downstream navigation only after fishing from the boat has stopped for that trip.** (FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS REGULATION, A MOTORIZED VESSEL IS ONE THAT HAS A MOTOR ON BOARD. ADDITIONALLY, A DRIFT BOAT IS DEFINED AS A BOAT CHARACTERIZED BY A WIDE FLAT BOTTOM, FLARED SIDES, A NARROW OR POINTED BOW, AND A POINTED STERN WHEREBY THE TRANSOM IS LESS THAN HALF OF THE BOAT WIDTH)

Submitted By: 

**Dwight Kramer, KAFC Chairman**

**Susitna Sockeye Salmon Action Plan Considerations**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

5 AAC 21.353(a)(2)(A)(i)-(iii) are amended to read:

(a) The department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:

- (1) weekly fishing periods are as described in 5 AAC 21.320(b);
- (2) the fishing season will open the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever

is later, and

(A) from July 9 through July 15,

(i) fishing during the **first** [TWO] regular fishing period[S] is restricted to the **expanded** Kenai and **expanded** Kasilof Sections [AND DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1] **additional fishing time between the first restricted period and the second period during this time frame may be allowed in the expanded Kenai and expanded Kasilof sections;**

**(ii) fishing during the second regular fishing period is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1;**

[(ii)] **(iii)** at run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1;

(B) from July 16 through July 31,

(i) at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1;

(ii) at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during two regular 12-hour fishing periods will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2;

**5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections.**

5 AAC 21.200(b)(2) is amended by adding new subparagraphs to read:

(b) Central District: all waters between a line extending from Boulder Point at 60° 46.39' N. lat., to Shell Platform C, to a point on the west shore at 60° 46.39' N. lat., and the latitude of Anchor Point Light (59° 46.15' N. lat.)

...

(2) Upper Subdistrict: all waters within a line from Boulder Point to Shell Platform C, then bearing 223° to Northwest Point at 60° 31.25' N. lat., 151° 55.75' W. long., then following the eastern shore of Kalgin Island to the South Kalgin Island Light at 60° 20.80' N. lat., 152° 05.09' W. long., then to a point at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 46.60' W. long. to the Ninilchik small boat harbor, excluding the waters of the Kalgin Island Subdistrict;

....

**(C) Expanded Kenai Section: all waters enclosed by a line from a point located on the shore at 60° 40.35' N. lat., 151° 23.00' W. long., westerly to a point located at 60° 40.35' W long., southerly to a point at the latitude of the Blanchard Line located at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 33.75' W. long., easterly to a point on the beach at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 16.94' W. long.**

[C]**(D)** Kasilof Section: all waters enclosed by a line from a point on the beach at 60° 27.10' N. lat., to a point at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 25.70' W. long., to a point at 60° 12.75' N. lat., 151° 32.05' W. long., to a point at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 46.60' W. long., to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 38.90' W. long.;

**(E) Expanded Kasilof Section: all waters enclosed by a line from a point on the beach at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 16.94' W. long., westerly to a point at the Blanchard Line located at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 33.75' W. long., southerly to a point located at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 46.60' W. long., easterly to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 38.90' W. long.;**