UPPER COOK INLET

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

REPORT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

February 2017

by Pat Shields
CFEC PERMITS

- **735 active set gillnet permits in Cook Inlet**
  - 610 registered to fish in UCI in 2016
  - One person may own and operate 2 setnet permits

- **568 active drift gillnet permits in UCI**
  - 504 permits reported fishing in 2016
  - Two permit holders may fish on one vessel (D-Boat)
UCI COMMERCIAL FISHING DISTRICTS

COMMERCIAL FISHING OPENING DATES (EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE)

EARLY SEASON FISHERIES
North. District King: May 25
Big River Sockeye: June 1

REGULAR SALMON SEASON
Western Subdistrict: Jun 16
Drift Gillnet: June 19
Kasilof Section (set): June 20
All others: June 25
Kenai – E. Foreland: July 8
NORTHERN DISTRICT DIRECTED KING SALMON FISHERY

Registration begins
Closed to Commercial Fishing
NORTHERN DISTRICT SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan directs the department to manage chum, pink, and sockeye salmon primarily for commercial uses, but also states the purpose of the plan is to minimize the harvest of coho salmon bound for the Northern District.
Chelatna Lake Sockeye Salmon Escapement

SEG = 20,000 – 65,000
Larson Lake Sockeye Salmon Escapement

SEG = 15,000 – 50,000
Fish Creek Sockeye Salmon Escapement

Point Goal
Met Goal: 13 years (65%)
Missed Goal: 7 years (35%)

SEG
< Minimum: 4 years (27%)
In range: 6 years (40%)
> Maximum: 5 years (33%)

Point Goal = 50,000
SEG = 20,000 – 70,000
KASILOF RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN
Provides direction to the department for management of Kasilof River sockeye salmon from June 25 through July 7.
Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Escapement

**BEG**
- Below: 4 yrs (9%)
- Within: 17 yrs (33%)
- Above: 24 yrs (58%)

**OEG**
- Below: 0 yrs (0%)
- Within: 6 yrs (40%)
- Above: 9 yrs (60%)
KENAI RIVER LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON PLAN
States that the department shall manage Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance, while minimizing the harvest of Northern Dist. coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon.
1999 KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

RUN STRENGTH (< 2 MILLION)  INRIVER (650,000 - 850,000)

RUN STRENGTH (2 - 4 MILLION)  INRIVER (750,000 - 950,000)

RUN STRENGTH (> 4 MILLION)  INRIVER (850,000 - 1,100,000)
CURRENT KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

RUN STRENGTH (< 2.3 MILLION) INRIVER (900,000 - 1,100,000)

RUN STRENGTH (2.3 - 4.6 MILLION) INRIVER (1,000,000 – 1,200,000)

RUN STRENGTH (> 4.6 MILLION) INRIVER (1,100,000 – 1,350,000)
Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Sonar Passage & Inriver Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Years</th>
<th>&lt; Minimum</th>
<th>Within Range</th>
<th>&gt; Maximum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 (8%)</td>
<td>13 (33%)</td>
<td>23 (59%)</td>
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Kenai River Sockeye Salmon SEG & OEG Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Goal</th>
<th>Not Met</th>
<th>Met</th>
<th>Exceeded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEG</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEG</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
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No. of Fish

Goal     Not Met   Met   Exceeded
SEG         3   6     8
OEG         3   10    4
UCI Commercial Sockeye Salmon Harvest, 1970-2016

DECADAL AVERAGES

1970-79: 1.1 million
1980-89: 4.4 million
1990-99: 3.8 million
2000-09: 3.0 million
2010-16: 3.0 million
UCI Sockeye Salmon Total Runs with 2017 Forecast
CENTRAL DISTRICT DRIFT GILLNET MANAGEMENT PLAN
States that the department shall manage the drift gillnet fishery
to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River
coho salmon to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a
reasonable opportunity to harvest these stocks.
DRIFT GILLNET CORRIDORS

Kenai Section

Expanded Kenai Section

Expanded Kasilof Section

Kasilof Section

Anchor Point Section
**Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2**

- **Drift Area 1**
- **Drift Area 2**

[Map showing Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2 with anchor points.]
Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4

Drift Area 3

Drift Area 4

Anchor Point
CENTRAL DISTRICT DRIFT GILLNET MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Season opens third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later.

- From July 9-15:
  - Both regular periods restricted to Drift Area 1 & Expanded Corridors
  - On Kenai sockeye salmon runs > 2.3 million, option for a 3rd period

- From July 16-31: Restrictions based on the size of the Kenai sockeye run.
  - < 2.3 million: all fishing time restricted to Expanded Corridors & AP Section
  - 2.3 – 4.6 million: one period/week restricted to one or all of the following: Drift Area 1; Expanded Corridors; AP Section. All other fishing time is restricted to Expanded Corridors/AP Section
  - > 4.6 million: one period/week may be fished district-wide. All other fishing time is restricted to Expanded Corridors/AP Section
KENAI RIVER LATE-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

ESSN King Salmon Harvest

- **Other stocks**
- **Kenai mainstem**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Labeled</th>
<th>Unlabeled</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4,536</td>
<td>2,523</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5,135</td>
<td>2,562</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>2,289</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1,401</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>1,793</td>
<td>3,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,787</td>
<td>2,906</td>
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- **Large**
- **Small**
UCI commercial coho salmon harvest, 1970-2016

Decadal Averages
1970-79: 190,000
1980-89: 530,000
1990-99: 350,000
2000-09: 190,000
2010-16: 170,000
Drift Gillnet coho salmon harvest, 1970-2016

Decadal Averages
1970-79: 75,000
1980-89: 290,000
1990-99: 176,000
2000-09: 107,000
2010-16: 101,000
ESSN coho salmon harvest, 1970-2016

Decadal Averages

1970-79: 31,000
1980-89: 62,000
1990-99: 38,000
2000-09: 19,000
2010-16: 13,000
UCI Commercial Chum Salmon Harvest, 1970-2016

No. of Fish

**CHINITNA BAY PEAK AERIAL CHUM SALMON SURVEYS**

Point Goal = 50,000

SEG = 3,800 – 8,400