

Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Action Plan



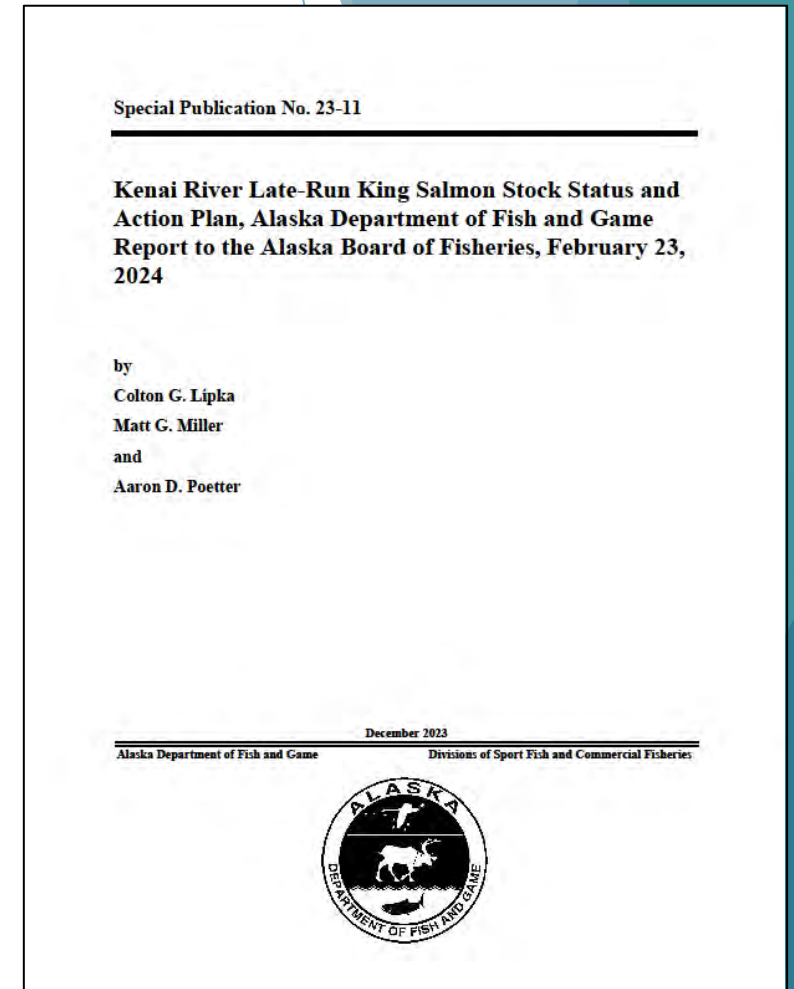
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RC 3 - Tab 4B
Action Plan RC 3 - Tab 2

Kenai River late-run king salmon designated a stock of management concern

- A. Salmon Habitat;
- B. Identification of rebuilding goals and objectives;
- C. Management actions to achieve rebuilding goals in proportion to each **fishery's** use of a salmon stock;
- D. Descriptions of new or expanding salmon fisheries, management concern, yield concern, or conservation concern; and
- E. Performance measures



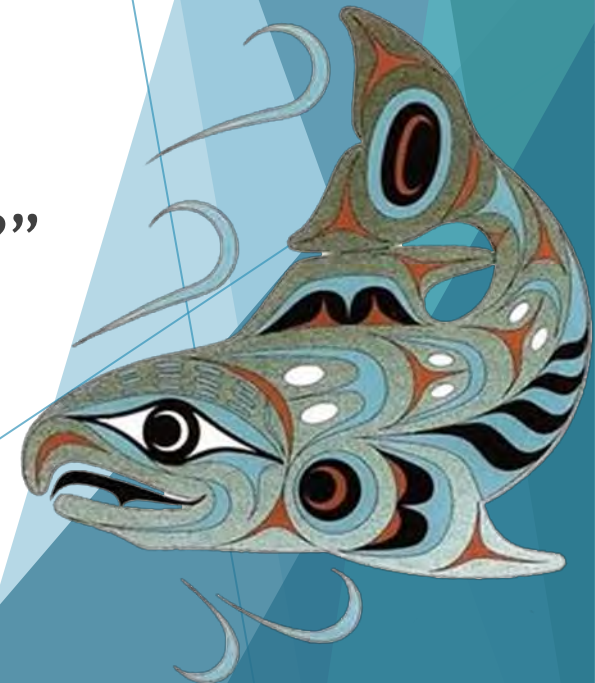
Working through the Plan

ADF&G

- present information
- present potential actions
- discuss options
- provide expertise
- present options for removing the Stock of Concern status

Board of Fisheries

- identify goals for rebuilding- **“What does rebuilding look like?”**
- consider actions to achieve those goals
- consider how far-reaching actions extend



Parts of the Action Plan

- ▶ Conditions for Delisting a SOC
- ▶ Background Information
- ▶ Stock Assessment and Escapement Goal History
- ▶ Fishery Management- recent actions to sport, PU and commercial
- ▶ Research and Monitoring Plans
- ▶ Tables and Figures



Management Options for Addressing Stocks of Concern (page 13)

- ▶ Potential options for fisheries that impact rebuilding
- ▶ Goal- Rebuild to achieve management objective and provide harvest
 - OEG- Board decide to keep the OEG or change management targets
- ▶ Plan recognizes king salmon and sockeye salmon management intertwined
- ▶ Framework for board and stakeholders to discuss options/combination options
- ▶ Board may choose to:
 - Pick one option for a fishery as a stand-alone action
 - Pick more than one option for a fishery to provide a step-down approach through the season
 - Pick an option or options for a fishery that trigger(s) actions in other fisheries

Potential management actions in the plan, other than status quo, are allocative and do not indicate endorsement by the department



Sport Fisheries (page 14)

1. Kenai River Late-Run Inriver Sport Fishery

Objective: Reduce mortality of Kenai River directed late-run king salmon in the Kenai River sport fishery.

Option 1A – Status quo

Specific Action: Follow the existing management plan, 5 AAC 21.359 *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (KRLRKSMP), and use EO authority to restrict and (or) close Kenai River late-run king salmon sport fishery as needed, preseason and (or) inseason, if the OEG is not projected to be achieved. Absent board action, the department anticipates restricting or closing the Kenai River inriver king salmon sport fishery as appropriate based on preseason forecasts and inseason projections as necessary to achieve the escapement goal. Inseason stock assessment is based in part on RM 14 sonar estimates, inriver gillnetting, creel and commercial sampling when available, run-timing, and performance of other Cook Inlet king salmon stocks.

Benefits: Benefits of continuing to manage Kenai River late-run king salmon sport fishery with EO authority include keeping regulations consistent while retaining the ability to provide some opportunity based on inseason conditions and assessment. Actions are specific to Kenai River late-run king salmon.

Detriments: Regulations can change inseason, making it difficult for anglers and businesses to plan their season. This action allows an unknown level of Kenai River late-run king salmon mortality depending on forecast strength, run timing, and abundance.



Sport Fisheries (page 16)

1. Kenai River Late-Run Inriver Sport Fishery

Objective: Increase harvest of Kenai River sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof River inriver fisheries to reduce the likelihood of exceeding the sockeye salmon BEG.

Option 1X → Increase sockeye salmon bag limit to 6/day, 12/possession

Specific Action: Board action increases the bag limit of Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon. Currently, EO authority requires that the department projects exceeding the sockeye salmon escapement goal before the bag limit can be liberalized. This doesn't occur until late July depending on run strength. The department could use EO authority to further restrict but not liberalize.

Benefits: This action allows additional harvest by anglers early in the run. This action with selective gear would result in minimal impact to Kenai River king salmon. This would reduce the probability of exceeding the sockeye salmon BEGs.

Detriments: Sockeye salmon fishing is typically not very productive in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers until large numbers of fish move into the river.



Sport Fisheries (page 16)

1. Kenai River Late-Run Inriver Sport Fishery

Objective: Reduce mortality of Kenai River directed late-run king salmon in the Kenai River sport fishery.

Option 1A – Status quo

Option 1B – Restrict fishing for king salmon to nonretention

Option 1C – Reduce the king salmon sport fishing season

Option 1D – Allow inriver sport fishing opportunity when preseason and inseason projections of Kenai River king salmon escapement are above 13,500 large fish and below 15,000

Option 1E – Close king salmon sport fishery

Option 1F – Remove bait during the August inriver sport fishery

Objective: Increase harvest of Kenai River sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof River inriver fisheries to reduce the likelihood of exceeding the sockeye salmon BEG.

Option 1X – Increase sockeye salmon bag limit to 6/day, 12/possession



Sport Fisheries (page 17)

2. Cook Inlet Marine Sport Fisheries

Objective: Reduce mortality of Kenai River late-run king salmon in the Cook Inlet marine sport fisheries.

Option 2A – Status quo

Option 2B – Modify the *Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Plan*

Option 2C – Restrict to nonretention

Option 2D – Reduce the king salmon sport fishing season

Option 2E – Reduce the king salmon sport fishing area

Option 2F – Close Cook Inlet marine king salmon sport fishery



Commercial Fisheries (page 19)

3. Central District Drift Gillnet

Objective: Reduce mortality of Kenai River late-run king salmon in the Central District Drift Gillnet fishery.

Option 3A – Status quo

Option 3B – Prohibit CDDGN fishery within 2 miles of shore

Option 3C – Close CDDGN fishery in state waters



Commercial Fisheries (page 20)

4. Upper Subdistrict Set Gillnet

Objective: Reduce mortality of Kenai River late-run king salmon in the Upper Subdistrict Set Gillnet fishery.

Option 4A – Status quo

Option 4B – Allow restrictive ESSN opportunity when preseason and inseason projections of Kenai River king salmon escapement are above 13,500 large fish and below 15,000 large fish

Option 4C – Allow ESSN opportunity when preseason and inseason projections of Kenai River king salmon escapement are above 13,500 large fish and below 15,000

Option 4D – Allow dip nets to be legal commercial fishing gear in UCI and create specified commercial dip net zones or times in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Allow use of beach seines in the ESSN area by UCI set gillnet permit holders

Option 4E – Close ESSN fishery

Objective: Increase harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon in the ESSN fishery to reduce the likelihood of exceeding the sockeye salmon BEG.

Option 4X – Allow opening of Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) when ESSN is closed for king salmon conservation to target Kasilof River sockeye salmon



Personal Use Fisheries (page 23)

5. Kenai River Dipnet Fishery

Objective: Reduce mortality of Kenai River late-run king salmon in the Kenai River Dipnet

Option 5A – Status quo

Option 5B – Allow retention of king salmon less than 20 inches in the personal use fishery

Option 5C – No retention of king salmon in the personal use fishery

Option 5D – Restrict time or close Personal Use Fishery

Objective: Increase harvest of Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon in the personal use dipnet fisheries to reduce the likelihood of exceeding the sockeye salmon BEGs.

Option 5X – Increase area of Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dipnet fishery

Option 5Y – Increase time of Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dipnet fishery



Personal Use Fisheries (page 24)

6. Kasilof River Personal Use Fisheries

Objective: Reduce mortality of Kenai River late-run king salmon in the Kasilof River Personal Use fisheries.

Option 6A – Status quo

Option 6B – Restrict time or close personal use fishery

Objective: Increase harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon in the Kasilof River personal use gillnet fishery.

Option 6X – Reduce legal mesh size of Kasilof River personal use gillnets



Table 7—Summary of potential management options if projecting to achieve the SEG.

	Sport Fisheries		Commercial Fisheries		Personal Use dip net	Personal Use setnet
	(1) Kenai inriver	(2) Cook Inlet Marine	(3) Central Drift	(4) ESSN	(5) Kenai/Kasilof	(6) Kasilof
Management options to decrease mortality of Kenai River late-run king salmon						
A	Status quo	Status quo	Status quo	Status quo	Status quo	Status quo
B	Nonretention	Modify UCISWKSMP	Prohibit < 2 miles	Opportunity/13,500-15,000	Retention < 20 in	Reduce time or close
C	Reduce days/week	Nonretention	Close State waters	4 periods/13,500-15,000	Nonretention	
D	Opportunity/13,500-15,000	Reduce season		Nonlethal gear/dip nets	Restrict time/close	
E	Close King fishery	Reduce area		Close ESSN		
F	August no bait	Close UCI				
Management options to increase harvest of sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers inriver fisheries						
X	Increase sockeye bag limit			Fish KSHA	Increase area	Reduce mesh size
Y					Increase time/season	

Kenai River Late-run Action Plan Worksheet

		Sport Fisheries		Commercial Fisheries		PU dip net	PU setnet
		(1) Kenai inriver	(2) Cook Inlet Marine	(3) Central Drift	(4) ESSN	(5) Kenai/Kasilof	(6) Kasilof
reduce king mortality	A	Status quo	Status quo	Status quo	Status quo	Status quo	Status quo
	B	Nonretention	Modify UCISWKSMP	Prohibit < 2 miles	Opportunity/13,500-15,000	Retention < 20 in	Reduce time or close
	C	Reduce days/week	Nonretention	Close State waters	4 periods/13,500-15,000	Nonretention	
	D	Opportunity/13,500-15,000	Reduce season		Nonlethal gear/dip nets	Restrict time/close	
	E	Close king fishery	Reduce area		Close ESSN		
	F	August no bait	Close UCI				
increase sockeye	X	Increase sockeye bag limit			Fish KSHA	Increase area	Reduce mesh size
	Y					Increase time/season	

Kenai River Late-run Action Plan Worksheet

		Sport Fisheries		Commercial Fisheries		PU dip net	PU setnet
		(1) Kenai inriver	(2) Cook Inlet Marine	(3) Central Drift	(4) ESSN	(5) Kenai/Kasilof	(6) Kasilof
reduce king mortality	A	X				X	○
	B		X	○ Mdcne in 3ghfo		○ Wen 45 I ofif jinf Cn9 h rurr-furrnf	X
	C	○ Mdkjncirk ni oeinonaf Fjni 60 jdn		X	○ Nc9ehi 08 of qiff	Pr ue	
	D	X	○ Jncuh neu Ber8n 34hnoo ir		X		
	E	Iurfvnan iwjfb 08jf ggkrm			X		
	F	X					
increase sockeye	X	○			X	○ Quhc 08 34 nrffjns!;fi nijffw	
	Y						

Kenai River Sandwich Worksheet

	(1) Bread	(2) Meat	(3) Cheese	(4) Condiment	(5) Extras	(6) Side
A	Sliced White X	Sliced Ham	American	Ketchup	Lettuce X	Potato salad
B	Sliced Wheat	Sliced Turkey X	Swiss	Mustard	Pickles <i>Macgheer 08 of qiff</i>	Chips
C	Sourdough	Sliced Roast Beef	Cheddar X	Horseradish	Onion	
D	Pita X	Tuna		Tzatziki X	Jalepeno	
E	Croissant	Meatball		Mayo X		
F	Kaiser Roll X	Falafel				
X	Hamburger Bun			Relish X	Cucumber	Brownie
Y					Sprouts	



