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**i. Mixed Stock Fishery Complexity - Pete**

- Every July and August, five different species of salmon, comprised of numerous stocks, swim through Upper Cook Inlet around the same time. Some of the major stocks which management plans focus on include the Kenai and Kasilof sockeye, Kenai kings, Northern Cook Inlet cohos and sockeye, all migrating in the same area with a commercial fishery primarily targeting Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.
- You can easily say when compared to other mixed stock fisheries within Alaska, this area represents one of the more difficult and divisive fisheries to manage. Balancing salmon sustainability and allocation with the need to move smaller and less productive stocks through an area where intense fishing occurs targeting much larger and more productive returns to Kasilof and Kenai rivers is the major challenge.
- Farther up Cook Inlet are the northern set gillnets. Still farther north are subsistence, personal use, and, finally, the inriver sport fishery.
- Historically, the larger the pre-season projections of Kenai sockeye by ADF&G, the fewer Susitna coho and sockeye successfully made it north to their natal streams to spawn. Large runs tend to trigger more liberal commercial fishing in the mixed-stock fishery of the Conservation Corridor.
- In managing this type of a mixed stock fishery, northern bound salmon stocks especially sockeye cannot sustain the same harvest rates as the strong more productive Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.
- Northern District sockeye average 1.5 return per spawner and are less than Kenai River sockeye which average 4.5 fish per spawner and therefore need greater protection.

- By further refining mixed-stock fishery locations and identifying and fishing individual systems, **terminal stock management** practices may be fine-tuned to help focus the harvest on the larger and more productive stocks.
- Fishing the drift fleet primarily in the more terminal areas, even on years of high sockeye projections, provide a more a conservative management effort which will help in supporting healthy, sustained populations of salmon in the Northern District and Upper Cook Inlet.
- Given the variability of run timing year-to-year and the uncertainty of what will happen in EEZ waters a conservative management approach and use of terminal stock management and the Conservation Corridor concepts are necessary to manage this complex fishery and maximize positive outcomes.