

Maija DiSalvo
Long Range Planner
Matanuska Susitna Borough
Public Testimony

Introduce the Mat Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission, Booklet and Topics - Maija DiSalvo

My name is Maija DiSalvo. I am a long-range planner for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and staff the Borough's Fish & Wildlife Commission. The FWC is a 9-member board advising Borough officials, state or federal agencies, and other organizations on interests that may affect the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat across an area the size of West Virginia. The region contains four indigenous communities: Chickaloon, Knik, Eklutna, and Tyonek, and includes commercial, personal use dip net, sport fish, and subsistence users.

The commission produced the 2024 It Takes Fish to Make Fish booklet, referenced in PC 138, to inform Board members on the issues and concerns of residents regarding fisheries in the Northern District. We have organized subsequent presentations and will be referencing key topics in this booklet throughout our testimony. We have also submitted the Borough comments on Proposals (RCs 25&26).

Andy Couch, Chairman of the FWC will address the Conservation Corridor.

- Mr. Couch has been a professional salmon guide for 40 years, has served on Matanuska Valley AC for 30 years, and has years of experience in the Board of Fish Regulatory Arena.
- Andy has also written a fishing column for the Frontiersman newspaper for 14 years.

Larry Engle will address the History and efficacy of the Conservation Corridor.

- Mr. Engle is a former Fisheries Biologist with an ADF&G career spanning 30 years in Cook Inlet, beginning in 1960.
- He is a former Board of Fisheries Member, serving from 1994 to 2003.

Pete Probasco will address the complexity of Mixed-stock fisheries in UCI.

- Mr. Probasco served with ADF&G for 23 years and retired as the Commercial Fish Division Regional Supervisor in Kodiak. He also spent 17 years with the Federal Subsistence program, migratory birds, and state programs.

Howard Delo will address Northern District Stocks of Concern

- Mr. Delo is a former ADF&G Biologist having served the Department and the people of the State of Alaska for 21 years, spending 15 years in the state hatchery program and 6 years in sport fish boating access.
- He also served on the Board of Fisheries from 2007 to 2010, and has spent 22 years writing an Outdoors in Alaska newspaper column.

Kendra Zamzow will address Federal Fisheries Management and the EEZ

- Ms. Zamzow has a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences
- She formerly held a Copper River drift gillnet permit
- She also has extensive scientific research experience, most recently as the Environmental Program Manager with Chickaloon Native Village

Gabe Kitter will provide comments on the habitat conditions as they relate to fisheries in the Mat Su and Northern District.

- Mr. Kitter is a lifelong Mat-Su resident and local hunting guide.

Jim Sykes will inform Board members on the extensive habitat protection and restoration work that the Mat Su Borough has accomplished.

- Mr. Sykes served on the Borough Assembly from 2013 to 2019

Mac Minard will close our presentation by highlighting the challenges ahead of us at this meeting.

- Mr. Minard served with ADF&G for 22 years and during that time led the commercial fish research efforts in western Bristol Bay, served as the Bristol Bay Area Sport Fish Biologist and retired as the AYK Regional Supervisor.
- Mr. Minard has extensive experience in complex fisheries management issues and the regulatory process.