

Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC)
February 14, 2024
JP Jones Center, Fairbanks, Alaska
Comments on Upper Cook Inlet Proposals, Alaska Board of Fisheries 2024

This record of decisions on Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries proposals is being submitted by the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) pending completion of minutes of February 14, 2024, to be submitted shortly.

This meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mark Richards, Acting Chair. There was a quorum and the FAC passed two motions relevant to these proposals:

- (1) To give full FAC support to the deliberations of the FAC Fisheries SubCommittee on the proposals
- (2) To nominate Virgil Umphenour as the FAC representative to the Alaska Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet Board meeting beginning February 23, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Previously, there were two FAC Fisheries SubCommittee meetings (January 8, 2024 and February 12, 2024) in preliminary review of the proposals, including consultation with ADF&G Sports Division for South Central. All meetings were noticed and open to the public.

The Fisheries SubCommittee met again February 21, 2024. As a result, the FAC took the following action on Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries proposals 2024.

The FAC SUPPORTS:

Proposals # 135, 136, 137, 141, 142, **43**, 146, 147, 148, 150, 160, 161, 163, 164, 173, 175, 176, 177, 180, 185, 197, 199, 200, 202, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 212, 214, 216, 217, 222, 226, 228, 229, 1, 3, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 243, 244, 246, 247, 248, 249, 251, 253, 255

The FAC OPPOSES:

Proposals # 75, 76, 77, 78, 82, 100, 104, 111, 113, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 134, 138, 139, 140, 143, 144, 145, 149, 151, 152, 154, 157, 159, 171, 172, 189, 190, 191, 192, 195, 196, 201, 215, 218, 2

Alaska Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet Meeting Proposals

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FAIRBANKS FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC) COMMENTS

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
75	Remove the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon OEG.		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
76	Remove the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon OEG		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
77	Modify the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon OEG		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
78	Remove the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon OEG		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
82	Repeal portions of intent language from the <i>Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan</i> and shorten plan duration		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
100	Allow a 600-foot set gillnet commercial fishery when Kenai River late-run large king salmon escapements exceed 13,500 fish		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
104	Adopt a new Kenai River late-run king salmon management plan for the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
111	Adopt a Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon optimal escapement goal		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
113	Adopt an optimal escapement goal for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
115	Modify intent of the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i>		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
116	Repeal mandatory weekly closures in the commercial set gillnet fishery		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
117	Repeal 'paired restrictions' from Upper Cook Inlet salmon management plans		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
118	Reduce the Kasilof River sockeye salmon optimal escapement goal		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
119	Allow the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area to remain open when the remainder of the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict is closed		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
120	Repeal portions of intent language within the <i>Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan</i>		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
121	Modify intent language within the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
124	Repeal the “one percent rule” from Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery management plans		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
125	Repeal sections of the <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> to provide additional commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
126	Increase drift gillnet fishing opportunity in Drift Gillnet Area 2		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
127	Modify weekly fishing periods in the <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i>		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
128	Provide additional commercial salmon fishing opportunity with set gillnet gear in the Upper Subdistrict		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
129	Increase Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial salmon fishing opportunity		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
131	Modify Northern District weekly commercial fishing periods		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
132	Provide additional commercial salmon fishing opportunity in Upper Cook Inlet based on salmon escapement		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
133	Modify weekly fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict and adopt new ‘paired restrictive’ management measures		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
134	Modify weekly fishing periods		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
135	Close the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict to commercial fishing for salmon		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
136	Increase waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
137	Increase waters closed to commercial fishing in Upper Cook Inlet		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
138	Allow use of a seine lead in the set gillnet fishery and define minimum distance between gear		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
139	Allow use of reef nets in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
140	Allow use of reef nets in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
141	Restrict set gillnet gear in the Upper Subdistrict		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
142	Establish new commercial fishery reporting requirements in Upper Cook Inlet		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
143	Allow Upper Cook Inlet set gillnet permit holders to fish in more than one registration area per year		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
43	Amend Basic Management Plans as follows (<i>This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting</i>)		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		See RC021 "Fairbanks AC Clarification on Proposal 43"
144	Amend the <i>Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan</i>		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
145	Increase commercial fishing opportunity in the <i>Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management</i>		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
146	Align the Kenai River Drainage Area method and means provisions with the season dates for Kenai River king salmon		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
147	Modify the Kenai River king salmon annual limit		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
148	Prohibit fishing for king salmon from a motorized vessel in the Kenai River		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
149	Require mandatory retention of Kenai River king salmon		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
150	Create a Kasilof River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
151	Add days and area to the nonmotorized restrictions on the Kenai River		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
152	Prohibit motorized vessels on the Kenai River		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
154	Allow guiding on the Kenai River without day and time restrictions if the king salmon fishery is closed		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
157	Allow anglers to fish on the Kenai River on Mondays in August and September from a guided vessel		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
158	Allow sport fishing from a guide vessel on Sunday and Monday with no hour restrictions		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
159	Allow sport fishing from a guide vessel on the Kenai R on Mondays from Aug 1–Nov 30		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
160	Limit guided activities on the Kenai River from May 1–July 31		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
161	Restrict guided shoreline anglers on the Kenai River to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., from July 1 to August 15		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
163	Reduce the time fishing from and anchoring a guided vessel is allowed in the Kasilof River		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
164	Limit sport fish guiding in the Kasilof River		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
171	Allow anglers to fish downstream of the Soldotna Bridge after taking a limit of coho		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
172	Allow fishing from a vessel after retention of a limit of coho salmon on the Kenai River		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
173	Modify regulations for the Kenai River August coho salmon fishery		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
175	Reduce the coho salmon limits in the Kenai River to two fish after August 30		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
176	Reduce the coho salmon limit on Kenai River after September 1		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
177	Modify Kenai River coho salmon season and bag limits		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
180	Close waters of the Kenai River from the Sterling Highway Bridge to Kenai Lake to sport fishing		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
185	Allow only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures in the Kasilof River		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
189	Require personal use guides in Cook Inlet to adhere to sport fishing guiding requirements		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
190	Establish requirements to guide in Upper Cook Inlet personal use fisheries		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
191	Adjust annual limits in Cook Inlet personal use fisheries based on abundance		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
192	Close personal use fisheries based on commercial openings		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
195	Restrict EO authority to only extend fishing time of the shore-based fishery in the Kenai River personal use fishery		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
196	Prohibit personal use fishing on the Kenai River from an anchored vessel		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
197	Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Kenai River personal use fishery		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
199	Prohibit transport of Kasilof River personal use fish by motorized vessel		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
200	Close the Kasilof personal use gillnet fishery when Kenai or Kasilof Rivers sport fisheries are closed		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
201	Close the Kenai River personal use fishery when drift fishery is restricted		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
202	Reduce the legal mesh size of a set gillnet in the UCI personal use fisheries		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
206	Reduce the number king salmon commercially harvested in Northern District of UCI		
SUPOORT	UNANIMOUS		
207	Adopt additional restrictions in the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
208	Restrict the commercial king salmon fishery in the Northern District		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
209	Close the commercial king salmon fishery in the Northern District		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
210	Modify the Northern District Salmon Management Plan and Northern District King Salmon Management Plan		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
212	Adopt additional restrictions in the Northern District Salmon Management Plan		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
214	Adopt new 'paired restrictive' management measures for the commercial salmon set gillnet fishery within the <i>Northern District Salmon Management Plan</i> .		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
215	Provide additional commercial fishing opportunity for salmon within the <i>Northern District Salmon Management Plan</i>		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
216	Reduce the commercial smelt guideline harvest level in Upper Cook Inlet		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
217	Repeal the Cook Inlet Smelt Fishery Management Plan		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
218	Allow harvest of king salmon between 20 and 24 inches in Unit 4 of Susitna River DA		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
222	Increase the Susitna River drainage sport fish limits for pink salmon		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
226	Allow anglers to use two artificial lures in tandem in Susitna River Drainage waters.		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
228	Close dipnetting in the vicinity of Anderson Creek during the personal use fishery on the lower Susitna River		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
229	Increase the number of days the Susitna River dip net fishery is open		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
1	Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan <i>(This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting):</i>		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
2	Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan <i>(This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting):</i>		
OPPOSE		UNANIMOUS	
3	Amend the management plans for the Upper Cook Inlet Summer and Kenai River late-run king salmon fisheries <i>(This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting):</i>		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
234	Clarify the northern boundary of the Knik Arm management area and the Palmer-Wasilla Zone and exclude certain flowing waters from the Palmer-Wasilla Zone		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
235	Reduce the size of the Palmer - Wasilla Zone		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
236	Update the stocked lakes list for the Knik Arm drainage area		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
237	Allow bow and spear as legal gear for northern pike and Alaska blackfish year round in the Palmer- Wasilla Zone		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
239	Establish a large king salmon escapement goal for the Little Susitna River		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		

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243	Create a bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon in the Knik Arm Drainages		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
244	Define the mouth of Fish Creek		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
246	Update the lists of lakes where anglers may use five lines while fishing for northern pike through the ice in designated Northern Cook Inlet waters		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
247	Prohibit chumming in Big, Mirror, and Flat Lakes		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
248	Restrict Big Lake Arctic char to catch-and-release in the Fish Creek drainage		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
249	Remove the effective date of regulation pertaining to sport fishing from a motor driven boat		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
251	Modify the Eklutna River drainage salmon bag and possession limits		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
253	Allow anglers to use two artificial flies in tandem in a portion of Campbell Creek		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		
255	Create a personal use dip net fishery for salmon in the 20-Mile and Placer Rivers		
SUPPORT	UNANIMOUS		

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Gale K. Vick, FAC Fisheries SC Chair

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____