

Alaska Board of Fisheries

June 30, 2011

Teleconference meeting regarding
Upper Cook Inlet Central District Drift
Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

Meeting Summary

The Board of Fisheries met by teleconference on Thursday, June 30, 2011 to consider a petition for an emergency regulation submitted by Kenai River Sport Fishing Association (KRSA) and the Mat-Su Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee (MSBRSC) requesting corrections to alleged errors in the language of the regulatory changes adopted by the Board at its February 22--March 5, 2011 meeting. Seven board members were present. Public listen-only teleconference sites were available at the Kenai, Anchorage, and Mat-Su legislative offices, and the Department of Fish and Game office in Juneau.

Board members discussed the information concerning the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan and the intent of the board action at the 2011 Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Board of Fisheries meeting. The Board members concluded that the regulatory language submitted by the Department of Fish and Game at issue in the petition did not represent the board intent from the 2011 UCI meeting. The Board adopted a finding of emergency in accordance with the Joint Board Petition Policy, 5 AAC 96.625(f), that the issues identified in the petition constituted an unforeseen, unexpected event that threatens a fish resource because measures intended to protect salmon stocks returning to the Northern District of the Upper Cook Inlet Area were not included in the codified language.

The Board also adopted emergency regulations that will provide for the following:

1. Fishing during the second regular fishing period from July 9 through July 15 is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1; not the expanded sections.
2. During the July 9 through July 15 period when the sockeye run strength is greater than 2,300,000 to the Kenai river, if an additional 12-hour fishing period is opened by emergency order, fishing will be restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1; not the expanded sections.
3. During the July 16 through July 31 fishing period, at run strengths of 2,300,000 to 4,600,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during one regular 12-hour fishing period per week will be restricted to either or both of the expanded Kenai and Kasilof sections or Drift Gillnet Area 1.

The Board scheduled a review of the emergency regulations for the October, 2011 Pacific Cod meeting for the purpose of determining whether the regulations will be made permanent or not; they specified that only written public comment will be accepted.