ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS – KENAI SOCKEYE GOALS

1. What is the escapement goal for Kenai River late-run sockeye?

- Kenai is governed by an SEG and an OEG.
- The OEG includes the SEG of 700,000 to 1,200,000 plus an additional 200,000 added to the upper end.
- This addition limits exploitation rates on other stocks of sockeye, coho and late-run king salmon that move through the marine waters of UCI at the same time as Kenai sockeye to sustainable levels, when very large runs return to Kenai (5 million plus).

	Run size	Lower	Upper
SEG	--	700,000	1,200,000
OEG	--	700,000	1,400,000
Inriver goal (at sonar)	< 2.3 million	900,000	1,100,000
	2.3 – 4.6 million	1,000,000	1,200,000
	> 4.6 million	1,100,000	1,350,000

2. Is the SEG for Kenai sockeye based on the best available science?

- The Department has recommended that the SEG for late-run Kenai sockeye remain at 700,000 – 1,200.000.
- The report in RC4 tab 1 provides the details and additional information supplementing the oral report given by the department of escapement goals of UCI.
- This report concluded that the current OEG of 700,000 to 1,400,000 would be supportable as an SEG based on the most current, best available science:

> ***"The range of 750,000–1,400,000 meets the requirements for a SEG under the SSFP (5 AAC 39.222). This range also meets the common standard of Optimum Yield (≥90% of MSY) used by ADF&G"***
>
> *Erickson et al. ADFG FMS 17-03 (escapement goal report)*

3. Since 1999, how often has the escapement goal for Kenai late-run sockeye been exceeded?

- In-season sockeye management is a rifle, not a shotgun.
- The track record for meeting Kenai sockeye escapement goals is actually better since inriver goals (1999) than before.

	SEG/BEG met?	
	1987-1998	1999-2016
Under	0%	17%
Met	**25%**	**40%**
Over	75%	44%

4. What is the purpose of Kenai Sockeye in-river goals and do current goals fulfill this purpose?

- In-river goals are not escapement goals. They are management objectives measured as sonar counts.
- There are three in-river goals, one each for the three tiers of abundance.
- The in-river goals are supposed to provide enough fish to accommodate the sport harvest upstream of the sonar and distribute escapements throughout the OEG range in proportion to abundance. The current goals do not.
- The upper end of the in-river goal for the upper tier of abundance is 1,350,000 while the sport harvest upstream of the sonar will now harvest somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000.
- The following graph of sonar counts versus run size shows how hard it is the hit the very narrow current inriver goal ranges.