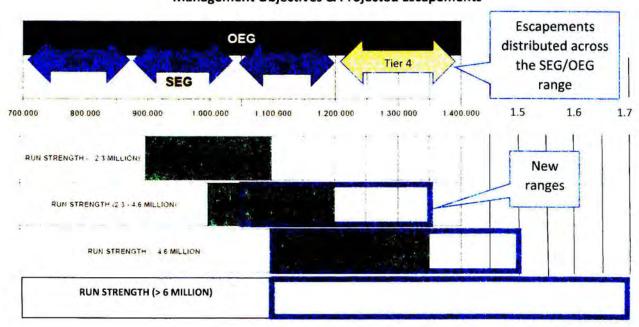
# Kenai Sockeye In-River Goal Revisions (Proposal 116 Substitute Language)

- Proposal #116 by the Department calls for review of the Kenai late-run in-river goals and OEG but did not identify specific numbers.
- The problems are: a) the inriver goals no longer distribute escapements throughout the SEG
  at current sport harvest numbers above the sonar, and b) the inriver goal ranges are too
  narrow to consistently hit.
- In order to address this problem, the upper end of the tiers need to be increased.
- The Department has indicated that an appropriate top end for the SEG of 700,000 to 1,200,000 would be 1,500,000 with current sport harvest of 300,000 above the sonar.
- The current plan also identifies an OEG with an additional 200,000 fish above the SEG in order to conserve weak stocks during big runs.
- This proposal revises current in-river goals for consistency with the current SEG, OEG and sport fish harvest levels, as follows:

Tier	Current C	Revised
< 2.3 million	900,000 - 1,100,000	same
2.3 – 4.6 million	1,000,000 - 1,200,000	1,050,000 - 1,350,000
4.6 – 6.0 million	1,100,000 - 1,350,000	1,100,000 - 1,500,000
> 6 million	u	1,100,000 - 1,700,000

## **Management Objectives & Projected Escapements**



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## **Regulatory Language**

### 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

- (a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.
- (b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to
  - (1) meet an optimum escapement goal (OEG) range of 700,000 1,400,000 late-run sockeye salmon when run size is projected to exceed 6,000,000;
  - (2) achieve inriver goals as established by the board and located at river mile 19;

(3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly size of the run; and

The OEG is applicable only at run sizes exceeding 6 million (consistent with the original intent)

- (c) Based on preseason forecasts and in-season evaluations of the total Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return during the fishing season, the run will be managed as follows:
  - (1) at run strengths of less than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon,
  - (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 900,000 1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19; and
  - (B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21 department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, be periods of no more than 24 hours per week, except as provide.

Middle tier realigned for current sport harvest above the sonar

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- (2) at run strengths of 2,300,000 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,
- (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of [1,000,000 1,200,000] 1,050,000 1,350,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;
- (B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 51 hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; and

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- (C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for one continuous 24-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Monday and 7:00 a.m. Wednesday;
- (3) at run strengths [GREATER THAN] of 4,600,000 6,000,000 sockeye salmon,
- (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 1,100,000 [1,350,000] 1,500,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;
- (B) su ons of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict Inet fishery 4th tier added will fish re periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21 SEG top end of at really big departme nation of run strength, whichever 1,200,000 plus 300,000 runs determine n inriver goal will not be met, the ted as sport harvest above the consistent necessary may, by emergency order, allow than sonar 84 hours with OEG provided in 5 AAC 21.365; and

(f) the opper subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

#### (4) at run strengths greater than 6,000,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 1,100,000 - 1,700,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, to or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, a of no more than 84 hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365;

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- (C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.
- (d) The sonar count levels established in this section may be lowered by the board if noncommercial fishing, after consideration of mitigation efforts, results in a net loss of riparian habitat on the Kenai River. The department will, to the extent practicable, conduct habitat assessments on a schedule that conforms to the Board of Fisheries (board) triennial meeting cycle. If the assessments demonstrate a net loss of riparian habitat caused by noncommercial fishermen, the department is requested to report those findings to the board and submit proposals to the board for appropriate modification of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver goal.
- (e) Repealed 6/11/2005.
- (f) Repealed 6/11/2005.
- (g) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River as specified in 5 AAC 77.540.

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- (h) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall manage the sport fishery on the Kenai River, except that portion of the Kenai River from its confluence with the Russian River to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1,800 yards downstream, as follows:
  - (1) fishing will occur seven days per week, 24 hours per day;
- (2) the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is three per day, with six in possession, in the sport fishery, unless the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye salmon exceeds 2,300,000 fish, at which time the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit as the commissioner determines to be appropriate; and
- (3) if the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is less than 900,000 fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit, as the commissioner determines to be appropriate, for sockeye salmon in the sport fishery above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19.
- (i) For the purposes of this section, "week" means a calendar week, a period of time beginning at 12:00:01 a.m. Sunday and ending at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday.
- (j) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e).