

SOUTH **K** BEACH **I**NDEPENDENT

RC 216

FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Protecting and Preserving the Kasilof River Aquarian System

March 7, 2017

To:

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Miscellaneous Business

Proposal 101 - Clarification

Chairman Jensen;

SOKI and effected Kasilof Section commercial setnet fishermen are very appreciative of the positive action taken on proposal 101. However, after further discussions with area commercial fisheries managers, the intent was not clear on when this Kasilof Section 600 feet alternate to the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) may be utilized for Kasilof River sockeye escapement management outside of the current limitations on hours stated for the Kasilof Section.

We are the proposers and we would respectfully request that the BOF clarify their intent to support opening this step down restrictive 600 feet area in the same manner as was approved for the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (KRLRK) prior to using the *Terminal* area.

Our clear intentions of the proposal was to use this provision in lieu of the KRSHA as specified currently in 5 AAC 21.365 *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (c) (3)*:

beginning July 8, the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section will be managed as specified in 5AAC 21.360(c); ... if the commissioner determines that further restrictions are necessary to aid in achieving the lower end of the Kenai River escapement goal, the commissioner may, in an emergency order, under this paragraph, further restrict fishing to within 600 feet of the high tide mark in the Kasilof Section;

We asked for the time restrictions in 5 AAC 21.359 to not apply to this 600-foot area, to treat it as an extension of the terminal area as it relates to *Emergency Order (EO)* authority regulated hours.

What simply needs clarification is when the 600-foot option is justified to conserve Kenai River bound sockeye; to achieve the minimum sockeye escapement goal for the Kenai River; will the EO hours to open this area apply against the specified hours currently stated in the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

Reviewing the record established 03.01.17 (log 4:32.29 to 5:06.10) the motion passed 5 -2.

Discussion at one point was centered around the question on when the 600-foot area would be used for sockeye were these hours also exempted as was approved by adopting this proposal for the KRLRK Plan. *Comments by board members would appear to approve this intent for the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (KRLRS).*

Clearly, board members voting in affirmative clarified their intent to use this 600-foot area in place of the Terminal area in whatever manner the Department would be inclined to use it. The Department had stated that they would be less likely to use this area if the current sockeye management hour restrictions in the Kasilof Section would still apply.

We understand that the Board has worked diligently for two weeks on proposals and do not wish to further burden the process but we are also very concerned that the Department will not use fully the 600-foot provision in the three-year interim (*board cycle*) without specific clarification of intent.

Thank you,



Paul A. Shadura II

Spokesperson