

Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, my name is Kevin Delaney and I am here today in the capacity of a fishery management consultant with Kenai River Sport Fishing Association.

Thank you for your service.

Chairman of KRSA Bill Eckhardt has laid out who we are and Executive Director Ben Mohr has effectively made the point that Upper Cook Inlet is different and accurately described the problems that exist and in general, the desired outcomes that would accrue from constructive problem solving.

My purpose here today is to describe what we believe needs to be done at this meeting to substantially address the problems.

Embodied in six proposals, four submitted by KRSA and one each by the Matanuska Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Matanuska Susitna Advisory Committee are the changes that this Board needs to adopt to effect positive movement toward solving the problems outlined.

Before I list the six things that need to change and highlight the proposals by number, I would like to reflect on something that has helped me to understand management of salmon fisheries and in drafting regulatory language.

In salmon management most all of what appears in regulation can be described as either a TARGET or a TOOL. In UCI escapement goals and the very important in-river goals for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon are TARGETS. Everything else is a TOOL.

That having been said there are six proposals that must be adopted to effect positive change.

Proposal #88 if adopted would increase the in-river goals for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon. This is the most important TARGET for management of the commercial fishery in UCI. Raising this TARGET will incorporate the Department's new SEG and improve opportunity for non-commercial fishermen not only in the Kenai River but throughout UCI.

Proposal #133 if adopted would amend the Central District Drift Gill Net Fishery Management Plan with additional mandatory restrictions designed to move fish into the Northern District. This plan is a TOOL.

Proposal #195 if adopted would establish a 2% rule after August 1 for the East Side Set Net fishery to provide for a numerically triggered orderly transition from sockeye into coho management.

Proposal #104 if adopted would make four very important amendments to the Kenai River late-run king salmon management plan. These amendments include establishment of an Optimal Escapement Goal (a TARGET), date changes to include the entire in river run, a size limit for management of the sport fishery and adjustments to the paired restrictions (all TOOLS).

Proposal #234 if adopted would establish a limited personal use fishery in the Yentna/Susitna rivers.

And finally,

Proposal #78 which seeks to amend the State's long-standing allocation criteria to tailor those criteria to meet the now and future needs of the UCI region.