
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Work Session

Anchorage | October 28-29, 2025

On-Time Advisory Committee Comments

Anchorage AC.....	AC01
Copper Basin AC.....	AC02
Copper River/Prince William Sound AC	AC03
Eagle AC	AC04
Fairbanks AC.....	AC05
Matanuska Valley AC	AC06

**Anchorage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 7th, 2025
William Jack Hernandez Hatchery**

1. Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:07 pm.
(Advise Guests of Public Testimony signup sheet)

I. Roll Call

No	First Name	Last Name	Present/ Excused/ Unexcused
1	Kevin	Taylor	Present
2	Matt	Moore	Present
3	Nicole	Schmitt	Present
4	Bryce	Eckroth	Present
5	Paul	Warta	Present
6	Christina	Ahlstrom	Excused
7	Ernie	Weiss	Present
8	Katya	Karankevich	Excused
9	Kneeland	Taylor	Present
10	J R	Gates	Present
11	Michelle	Bittner	Present
12	Ed (Harold)	Horton	Present
13	Scott	Crowther	Present
14	Tom	Vania	Present
15	Lynette	Moreno Hinz	Unexcused
16	Matthew	Stone	Unexcused
17	Grace	Kirkey	Excused

Number Needed for Quorum on AC:

List of User Groups Present:

- II. Fish and Game Staff Present: Leila Williams, Brittany Blain-Roth
AC asked Brittany about PWS shrimp: Shrimp harvest had lower allocation and lower productivity; first time having to shorten the season. Will have final reporting soon. Commercial was open 9 days, 60/40 split stayed the same between commercial and personal use.
AC asked about regional staffing for sport fish: New Deputy Director, New Regional Supervisor, a few more positions in sport fishing yet to be filled for regional staff
- III. Guests (Public) Present:
Andy Couch, Staci Peterson, Roger Peterson, Arenza Thigpen Jr

IV. Approval of Agenda: Approved

V. Public Comment

- a. Andy Couch with Matanuska Fish and Game Advisory Committee in support of ACR5 (testimony attached below)
- b. Arenza Thigpen Jr.: Testify in support of ACR 7
- c. Roger Peterson: Testify in support of ACR 7

VI. Old Business

- a. Discussion of results of July 14th BOG special meeting: Mulchatna Bear Control Program passed
- b. Update on the WACH (Western Arctic Caribou Herd) working group: Matt is lead, Ed is alternate; December 9th – 11th meeting will be held in Anchorage with experts guiding through process and status of herd.
- c. Update on Wood Bison Restoration project: The new wood bison herd on the Minto Flats State Game Refuge was released in mid-May after nearly a year-long soft-release phase, in which the 60 animals (aged 1-3) were held and cared for in a makeshift pen on the Refuge. One calf was born in the pen prior to release and at least 1 additional calf has been observed in the herd since release. The soft-release strategy has worked well, with most animals staying near the release site. ADF&G biologists will continue to closely monitor the population through this coming winter. ADF&G will receive an additional shipment of yearling wood bison from Parks Canada in the spring of 2026. These animals will be temporarily housed at the Large Animal Research Station in Fairbanks until they are released into the wild. Plans for the next release are currently being made, and announcements will come shortly.
- d. Moose updates: Nothing yet from JBER on final draft EA for fencing; good year for moose with most conflicts coming from homeless encampments; Chair hopes to invite ADFG to next meeting for more discussion.

VII. New Business

- a. Prepare comments for AK Board of Fisheries 2025/2026 Agenda Change Requests

Tom Vania gave overview of requirements for ACRs, reminding members that the board (and therefore the AC) accepts request to change its schedule under certain guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 39.999. The board will accept these agenda change requests (ACRs) only:

- 1) for a fishery conservation purpose or reason; or

- 2) to correct an error in regulation; or
 3) to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

Only one of the criteria above is needed to be considered for an ACR. The board (and therefore the AC) will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new compelling information, as determined by the board [5 AAC 39.999 (a) (2)].

The AC was reminded that the votes before them were not based on the merit of the proposals, but on whether they met the above ACR criteria. AC members confirmed that a vote in opposition to a proposal indicated that the proposal did *not* meet at least one of the conditions of an ACR, while a vote in support of a proposal indicated that the proposal *did* meet at least one condition of an ACR and should be taken up with the Board of Fish.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests for Work Session October 28-October 29 2025 Anchorage, AK Comment Deadline October 13, 2025			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
ACR 1	Delay opening of the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery to June 1		
Oppose	2	10	Oppose: Just had PWS meeting to consider these variables, achieving the goals, feels like an out of cycle proposal without clear conservation concern since the December meeting Support: Believes there is a conservation concern to preserve Chinook, concerns about validity of mark recapture data
ACR 2	Close waters of the Copper River District inside the barrier islands to commercial fishing for salmon		
Oppose	2	10	Oppose: Just had PWS meeting to consider these variables, Dept is achieving the goals, feels like an out of cycle proposal without clear conservation concern since the December meeting Support: Believes there is a conservation concern to preserve Chinook, concerns about validity of mark recapture data
ACR 3	Close waters of the Copper River District to commercial fishing for salmon inside and outside the barrier islands from May 21 – June 30		

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Oppose	2	10	Oppose: Reduction in daily sonar objectives is not reflective of health of population but more an indication of run timing (how it compares to average); appreciate public comment and engagement but does not feel there's a conservation concern Support: Believes there is a conservation concern to preserve Chinook, after the Board meeting the Department reduced daily sonar objectives by 40% or more (ex: Miles Lake cumulative and daily objectives); any possibility that escapement isn't met is an emergency, believes Dept is trying to usurp the BoF authority to manage fisheries
ACR 4	Adopt an Optimal Escapement Goal for Copper River sockeye salmon		
Oppose	2	10	Oppose: Run timing has shifted, does not believe that constitutes conservation concern; has allocative impacts that are best addressed at BoF cycle; OEG almost always allocative; doesn't feel question of run timing is sufficient enough emergency to be taken up out of cycle; felt BoF took conservative action at last meeting Support: Trying to establish early and late season is important, want to preserve early portion of the run for genetic diversity; OEG would be nothing new, would be a return to the objectives at the BoF meeting – maybe run timing has changed, but Dept should acknowledge that overharvest could be a variable in why not seeing early fish; believes this is a conservation concern
ACR 5	Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area		
Oppose	5	7	Oppose: Huge Kenai run; weir wasn't in because of flooding, believe proposal is allocative in nature Support: Northern district coho stocks are low, drifters catch more northern district coho, this ACR meets both the conservation concern and unforeseen regulation criteria because of changes to setnetting regs; Third year of missing conservation concern; at BoF meeting they were very concerned about Coho conservation; drift fleet catches way more Coho than setnetters
ACR 6	Establish paired restrictions for Little Susitna River coho salmon sport fishery and Northern District commercial set gillnet fishery to conserve Little Susitna River coho salmon		

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Oppose	2	10	Oppose: There have been similar proposals to close fishing at mouth of Little Susitna; the BoF has discussed this issue many times, doesn't feel this merits an out-of-cycle discussion Support: Setnetters allowed to fish within one mile of mouth of rivers; Dept has authority to set it back but hasn't, concerned about Little Susitna; in 5th the management plan the Dept is supposed to be managing for late season Coho and they're not, this is a possible remedy
ACR 7	Prohibit the sport fishing technique of "flossing" in Ship Creek		
Oppose	1	11	Oppose: Seems to be a problem with enforcement as well, not sure ACR will change that; didn't feel met the criteria of ACR but encouraged the proposer to submit to next Cook Inlet cycle with clear definition of 'flossing' Support: Supports the proposer's intent and engagement with process
ACR 8	Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon		
Oppose	0	12	Oppose: Seems allocative, does not meet criteria for ACR Support: None
ACR 9	Prohibit carrying other groundfish gear types on vessel registered for the Pacific cod jig fishery in the Kodiak Management Area		
Oppose	0	12	Oppose: Kodiak comes up next year, agree with Dept assessment that is doesn't meet criteria for ACR Support: None

a. Confirm subcommittee assignments

- a. Game: Matt, Nicki, Paul, Kneely, JR, Michelle, Ed, Matthew
- b. Fish: Kevin, Bryce, Christina, Ernie, Katya, Scott, Tom, Lynette, Grace

b. Discuss comment deadlines and schedule subcommittee meetings

Tentative schedule for AC votes is as follows:

- November: None. AC will not likely be able to meet in time to review/vote on BoF proposals for Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific Cod or Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish
- December meeting: Bristol Bay Finfish proposals

- January: Southeast Game proposals
- February: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues, any remaining time will be used to vote on Southcentral Game proposals
- March: Remaining Southcentral Game proposals

c. Other Fish and Game Business as Needed: None.

VIII. Set next meeting date: The next regular Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at the William Hernandez Fish Hatchery at 6pm

IX. Other: Nicki has an excused absence from November meeting, so another member will need to take notes.

X. Adjourn: Approved.

XI. Adjournment: 7:56pm

Public
Testimo
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attachm
ent:

Agenda Change Request #5 Conservation Reason / Purpose. — Andy Couch

The Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan devotes the whole first paragraph to the purpose of the plan as adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF):

5 AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

- (a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate escapement and a harvestable surplus of salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District salmon and Kenai River coho salmon in order to provide all users with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. The department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as described in this section.

In the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Staff Comments on Agenda Change Requests (RC2), for ACR#5 under Additional Information, however, the department states a markedly different purpose for the plan, *"The CDDGFMP directs the department to manage the mixed stock drift gillnet fishery to primarily harvest Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks while also minimizing harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks."*

The discrepancy in the board-adopted purpose of the plan, compared to the department's statement of the "PRIMARY" plan purpose needs BOF clarification / resolution — or the department will likely continue using the plan primarily to harvest Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye — at the expense of failing to attain the two primary Upper Cook Inlet coho salmon sustainable escapement goals (SETs), and at the expense of failing to provide, "all users with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions"

The amount of commercial drift gillnetting allowed under the plan has demonstrated over the past three years an ability to overharvest Little Susitna River and Deshka River coho stocks each year — when compared to the board adopted purpose of the plan.

Note: over the past three years there have been inriver restrictions followed by coho closures at Little Susitna River and Deshka River each year.

2025 — Little Susitna & Deshka coho salmon fisheries restricted / no bait / 1 coho limit - Aug. 15
— Little Susitna and Deshka coho salmon fisheries closed to harvest - Aug.21
Weir Counts Little Su 4,506 coho (9,200 - 17,700). Deshka coho 3,869 coho (10,200 - 24,100)

2024 — Little Su, Jim Creek, Susitna River drainage restricted no bait / 1 coho limit - Aug. 6
— Susitna and Knik River drainages, Little Susitna closed to coho fishing — Aug 15.
Weir counts: Little Susitna 964 coho. Deshka 642

2023 — Little Su restriction no bait. Aug 12.
— Deshka / Susitna River drainage restricted to 1 coho bag limit. Aug 14
— Little Su restricted to 1 coho bag limit Aug 17.
— Deshka closed to coho harvest Aug 17
— Little Susitna River and Jim Creek closed to coho fishing Aug 19
Weir counts: Little Su 3,726 coho. Deshka 1,817 coho.

Minutes Recorded By: Nicole Schmitt
Minutes Approved By: Kevin Taylor
Date: 10/10/2025

Copper Basin Advisory Committee
Thursday, October 9th, 2025
Glennallen High School Library

I. Call to Order: 5:42 by Chuck McMahan

II. Roll Call

No.	First Name	Last Name	Profile	Designated Seat	Present/ Excused/ Unexcused
1	Chuck	McMahan	Chair	Gakona/Gulkana	X
2	Wade	Simpson	Vice Chair	Copper Center	X
3	Mercedes Starr	Knighten	Secretary	Glennallen	X
4	Mike	Willard		Chitina	X
5	Vacant			Copper Center	
6	Nicholas	Jackson		Gakona/Gulkana	UE
7	Karen	Linnell		Glennallen	X
8	Sarah	Gallt		Kenny Lake	UE
9	Jim	Odden		Lake Louise	X
10	Dave	Sarafin		Tazlina	X
11	Robert	Cyr		Tazlina	X
12	James	Horrell		Tazlina	UE
13	Kirk	Wilson		Undesignated	X
14	Greg	Parish		Undesignated	X

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: Ahtna, Inc.

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: none

IV. Guests Present: Kathryn Martin, Ahtna, Incorporated, Mark Sommerville (non Gov)

V. Approval of Agenda-Jim Odden made a motion to approve agenda with removal of Reports, seconded by Kirk Wilson. Motioned passed unanimously

VI. Reports

- a. Chair's report
- b. ADF&G
- c. Others

VII. Public Comment-no public comments, had conversations with the two participants

VIII. Old Business-no old business

IX. New Business

- a. Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests for Upcoming Work Session
 - i. Motion was made to accept ACR 1-3 for adoption by Kirk Wilson and Seconded my Karen Linnell. Voted 4 against and 5 for motion carries.
- b. Other Fish and Game Business as Needed-no agenda items to discuss

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ACR 1	Delay opening of the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery to June 1		
	6	4	Comments below.
ACR 2	Close waters of the Copper River District inside the barrier islands to commercial fishing for salmon		
	6	4	Comments below.
ACR 3	Close waters of the Copper River District to commercial fishing for salmon inside and outside the barrier islands from May 21 – June 30		
	6	4	Comments below.
ACR 4	Adopt an Optimal Escapement Goal for Copper River sockeye salmon		
			Took no action.
ACR 5	Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area		
			Took no action.
ACR 6	Establish paired restrictions for Little Susitna River coho salmon sport fishery and Northern District commercial set gillnet fishery to conserve Little Susitna River coho salmon		
			Took no action.
ACR 7	Prohibit the sport fishing technique of “flossing” in Ship Creek		
			Took no action.
ACR 8	Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon		

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			Took no action.
ACR 9	Prohibit carrying other groundfish gear types on vessel registered for the Pacific cod jig fishery in the Kodiak Management Area		
			Took no action.

Motion to take up ACRS 1-3 as a conservation concern vote for 4 against 6 in favor, motion carries, discussion included comments like the date change in 2024 made slight improvement but still not meeting escapement goal and sport fishing concerns with restrictions upriver. Discussion was made on how the proposals would affect the current regulations. The criteria for opening the agenda was discussed and the most common comment was about conservational effect. Was this going to make a conservational change that would be good for the salmon population. We don't want to have continual changes each year we feel like the need to see how this current change has its effects then we can make other changes in the future. However, once we voted the motion carried in favor of these being a conservational concern.

- X. Set next meeting date-December do a poll vote on the date and the next proposals are due March 6, 2026
- XI. Other-non to discuss
- XII. Adjourn motion

Adjournment: Kirl Wilson, seconded by Robert Cyr @ 6:55pm

Minutes Recorded By: M. Starr Knighten

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: 10/13/2025

Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee
Friday, September 26th, 2025
CDFU Building & Zoom

I. Call to Order: 6:03pm by Chair Trae Lohse

II. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Present	Excused/ Unexcused
Trae	Lohse	X	
Dennis	Zadra	X	
Kyle	King	X	
Garrett	Collins	X	
Jamie	Foode	X	
Ardy	Hanson	X	
Chelsea	Haisman	X	
Makena	O'Toole	X	
Brett	Bradford		X
Mike	Collins	X	
Dave	Glasen		X
Chris	Hottinger	X	
Jake	West	X	
John	Renner	X	
Marc	Cloward		X
Milo	Burcham		X
Brad	Sapp	X	

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present:

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Jeremy Botz, Leila Williams

IV. Guests Present: Finn Gross, Kim Clark, Mike Webb, Jason Lee

V. Approval of Agenda

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: None to approve

VII. Reports

a. Chair's report

- b. ADF&G
- c. Others

VIII. Public Comment :

Jason Lee spoke on behalf of ACR 8. He presented satellite imagery as well as public testimony to oppose ACR 8. Making points like; “only 5 of 210 potential permits participate in this fishery”, “2024 fishing season saw the same river changes where the two rivers merged”. All indicating that this ACR does not meet the criteria as an out of cycle ACR with new information or emergency status, with escapement goals being met for the time frame that ACR was drafted.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- a. Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests
- b. Other Fish and Game Business as Needed

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ACR 1	Delay opening of the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery to June 1		
	0	11	Concerns were discussed about the impact of these proposals (ACR 1-4) on subsistence fishing, and the management of different salmon runs such as the local delta coho run. The current wording and implications of the proposals are poor, particularly regarding safety and ethical considerations. There are issues with the proposals' criteria and there are potential negative effects on local communities and fisheries management in the Sound.
ACR 2	Close waters of the Copper River District inside the barrier islands to commercial fishing for salmon		

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	0	11	These proposals lack data to support their implementation and are out of cycle, potentially serving as a guise to limit commercial fishing opportunities. The group agreed that these proposals are allocation-focused and do not address mid-river fishing issues. There needs to be more data and a balanced approach to regulation changes going forward.
ACR 3	Close waters of the Copper River District to commercial fishing for salmon inside and outside the barrier islands from May 21 – June 30		
	0	11	Same comments as for ACRs 1 and 2.
ACR 4	Adopt an Optimal Escapement Goal for Copper River sockeye salmon		
	0	11	Cordova's fishery saw the lowest Chinook Salmon harvest in 50 years. The harvest was kept to 5,300 fish with a regular schedule, and there was anecdotal evidence of good king fishing upriver. The group discussed challenges with fish wheel operations due to low water levels, which affected the accuracy of early run estimates. The group also talked about ongoing work to improve estimates and potentially update escapement goals based on new information from sonar and other sources. Jeremy Botz explained the updated L-curve for managing salmon escapement goals currently, noting a 40% difference between the new and old curves in cumulative catch projections.
ACR 5	Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area		
	0	11	No Comments were recorded
ACR 6	Establish paired restrictions for Little Susitna River coho salmon sport fishery and Northern District commercial set gillnet fishery to conserve Little Susitna River coho salmon		
			Took no action
ACR 7	Prohibit the sport fishing technique of "flossing" in Ship Creek		
			Took no action
ACR 8	Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon		
	0	11	Discussion took place on harvest numbers, commercial vs sport caught salmon, making a point that if there is an escapement concern its thought that more salmon are harvested via sport than commercially harvested. Fish & Game biologists can manage both rivers and have enforced regulations in the past without additional proposals. There is low participation in this fishery, with only 5 out of potentially 210 permits being utilized to fish in this area. The rivers merging together had no

Copper River Delta and PWS Fish and Game Advisory Council

ACR 1-4

The Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee does not believe these four ACRs meet the criteria to be taken up by the Board of Fish out of cycle. Less than one year ago the BOF passed regulation enacting management restrictions to both the commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries in the Copper River District in the name of conservation of Chinook salmon. The data showing the results of just the first year these regulations have been in place has not yet been fully compiled or published. There is no reason to believe these ACRs address new information that wasn't discussed during the lengthy in-cycle BOF process in December of 2024. The ACRs specifically seek severe reductions to the commercial fishery in the Copper River District and are thereby allocative in nature.

ACR 8

ACR 8 does not meet the criteria to be accepted by BOF out of cycle. There is not a need for an emergency order or any new information being presented in this ACR. It is strictly to allocate more area for one user group by cutting the area of another group. ACR 8 is also written in error suggesting a 'storm surge in 2025 has altered the mouth of the Tsiu River so that it is now a tributary of the Kaliakh.' While it is true that the Tsiu is now a tributary of the Kaliakh, this has been a gradual process happening over time. Fisherman accounts, backed up by satellite imagery clearly show that they joined well before the 2024 season. The author erroneously presents this as new information when it is not. As of now, two full successful salmon seasons (2024,2025) have been prosecuted with no biological or conservation concerns. It is important to note that area management, is and has been abreast of the ever-changing river conditions and has demonstrated an ability to protect the confluence by placing 100-yard closure restrictions, as needed, which were sufficient for the conditions in 2025. There are no historical or current biological or conservation concerns with either the Tsiu (since 1973

when records began) or Kaliakh Rivers. There are no errors in Regulations. There are no unforeseen negative effects on the fishery when any regulations went into effect.

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			significant impact on fishery management. Escapement goals were being met for these rivers and there was no conversation concern currently.
ACR 9	Prohibit carrying other groundfish gear types on vessel registered for the Pacific cod jig fishery in the Kodiak Management Area		
			Took no action

- XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting: Dennis and Trae plan on attending work session in order to speak to board members.
- XII. Set next meeting date: Thursday, November 6th at 6pm at CDFU & over zoom
- XIII. Other
- XIV. Adjourned by Trae Lohse at 8:23pm
- XV. Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Kyle King Kyle King
 Minutes Approved By: Trae Lohse Trae Lohse
 Date: 10-08-2025

Eagle AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region Fish & Game Advisory Committees

Andrew Bassich
Chairperson
Po Box 11, Eagle, Alaska. 99738
abassich@gmail.com

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

Eagle AC Resolution to the Alaska Board of Fish regarding Yukon River Chinook Conservation

Whereas. Yukon River Chinook salmon are in a 7-year agreement for No Harvest due to chronic poor returns.

Whereas; Yukon River Chinook salmon board escapements in 2024 were the second lowest on record, 2023 being the lowest on record.

Whereas; Yukon River Chinook salmon are a critical resource for all Yukon river communities, and provide essential food security.

Whereas; Subsistence use has a priority use of limited resources over all commercial use under the State of Alaska Constitution, and law.

Whereas; Yukon River Chinook salmon ASL have been declining for 2 decades.

Whereas; Yukon River Chinook salmon Fecundity and potential reproductive capacity is declining due to smaller returning adults at age salmon.

Whereas; Whereas; Negative impacts from climate change, intercept fisheries and hatchery production (Domestic and International) throughout the Gulf of Alaska and Bearing Sea Marine Eco System is present, but not clearly, or fully understood.

Whereas. Salmon life stages bisect multiple Jurisdictional regulatory bodies, the formation of a Statewide Working Group to address long term sustainable Salmon policy recommendations to BOG, NPMC, NOAA is warranted at this time.

“Now, therefore be it Resolved the Eagle AC have convened at its AC Meeting on February 25, 2025 in Eagle, Alaska. Hereby request that the Alaska Board of Fish classify Yukon River Chinook Salmon to be classified as a “Stock of Conservation Concern”

Approved: Andrew Bassich, Chair Eagle AC

February 25,2025

Eagle AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region Fish & Game Advisory Committees

Andrew Bassich
Chairperson
Po Box 11, Eagle, Alaska. 99738
abassich@gmail.com

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

Eagle AC Resolution to the Alaska Board of Fish regarding Yukon River Fall Chum Conservation

Whereas; Yukon River Mainstem Fall Chum have not met the escapement goals (75,000-105,000) for 5 consecutive years i.e. One life cycle.

Whereas; Yukon River Mainstem Chum Salmon border passage at Eagle sonar in 2024 was the lowest recorded in history Approx. 16,500 fish.

Whereas; Yukon River Fall Chum provide crucial marine derived nutrients to spawning sites for the benefits of both Fall Chum and Chinook salmon health and productivity.

Whereas; Yukon River Fall Chum are a critical subsistence resource for all upper districts, and Canadian communities.

Whereas; Subsistence use has a priority use of limited resources over all commercial use under the State of Alaska Constitution and law.

Whereas; Yukon River Fall Chum have not been at harvestable levels for subsistence users for 5 consecutive years

Whereas; Yukon River Fall Chum are at such low numbers as to be in danger of Extirpation

Whereas; Negative impacts from climate change, intercept fisheries, and hatchery production (Domestic and International) throughout the Gulf of Alaska and Bearing Sea Marine Eco System is present, with the entire scope still not being fully understood.

Whereas; Salmon life stages bisect multiple jurisdictional regulatory bodies, therefore the formation of a Statewide Working Group to address long term sustainable salmon policy recommendations to BOF, NPMC, NOAA is warranted at this time.

“Now, therefore be it Resolved the Eagle AC has convened at its AC Meeting on February 25, 2025 in Eagle, Alaska. Hereby request that the Alaska Board of Fish classify Yukon River Mainstem Fall Chum Salmon to be classified as a “ Stock of Conservation Concern”

Approved: Andrew Bassich, Chair Eagle AC

February 25 2025

**Fairbanks
Fish & Game Advisory Committee**

**Interior Region
Fish & Game Advisory Committees**

Jeff Lucas
1030 Daisy Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Gale K. Vick
Chair, Fisheries Sub-Committee

Mark Richards
Chair, Game Sub-Committee

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta Junction	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

To: Members, Alaska Board of Fisheries
Marit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair
Curt Chamberlain
Olivia Irwin
Greg Svendsen
Gerard Godfrey
Tom Carpenter
Mike Wood

FROM: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC)

DATE: October 13, 2025

RE: FAC On-Time Public Comments BOF Work Session Regarding
ACRs (Agenda Change Requests)
Stocks Of Concern (SOC)
Location of 2027 Prince William Sound / Copper River BOF Meeting

FAC MOTION ON ACRS

On October 8th, 2025, the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) unanimously supported the following four ACRs currently before the Board of Fisheries Work Session regarding the Copper River.

ACR 1 – DELAY OPENING OF THE COPPER RIVER DISTRICT (5 AAC 24.310).	1
ACR 2 – CLOSE WATERS OF THE COPPER RIVER DISTRICT INSIDE THE BARRIER ISLANDS TO COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR SALMON (5 AAC 24.350).	2
ACR 3 – CLOSE WATERS OF THE COPPER RIVER DISTRICT TO COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR SALMON INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BARRIER ISLANDS FROM MAY 21 – JUNE 30 (5 AAC 24.350).	4
ACR 4 – ADOPT AN OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT GOAL FOR COPPER RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON (5 AAC 24.360).	5

The FAC asks the Board of Fisheries to accept these ACRS in recognition that Copper River Chinook need to be managed more conservatively before they become a stock of management concern. Further, the FAC asks the Board to consider this request in light of the 2025 in-season Prince William Sound management of Chinook and the failure to follow the intent of the Board at the December 2024 Prince William Sound/Copper River Board meeting. If this practice is replicated in the 2026 and 2027 seasons, there could be further rapid depletion of Copper River Chinook stocks. Waiting two more years may be too late to avoid a chinook conservation crisis similar to the Yukon River and Cook Inlet.

The FAC respectfully disagrees with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's staff comments that these proposals do not meet the criteria for an ACR. ***These ACRs directly address the need to strengthen conservation measures for declining Chinook stocks in the Copper River.***

The Department, the Cordova AC, and CDFU will argue these ACR's are allocative and therefore inappropriate to consider out of cycle, but all conservation measures are allocative in some way. ACR's should be considered if they address a conservation concern and are not ***primarily*** allocative. ***These ACRs are not primarily allocative and directly address the need to strengthen conservation measures for declining Chinook stocks in the Copper River.***

ADF&G claims that none of the four ACR's reflect a "conservation purpose or reason" but, ACR's 1,2 and 3 specifically address the fact there is a serious conservation concern for Copper River Chinook, a stock which has failed to meet their sustainable escapement goal for 3 out of the last 6 years (despite a twice reduced SEG) and are unlikely to have met the SEG for 2025. This would make the 4th time in the past 7 years that the escapement goal was not met. ***This chronic failure to meet escapement goals and the Department's unwillingness to manage the June fishery to conserve Chinook established a conservation concern requiring the Board to consider conservation measures out of cycle.***

It is the unfortunate experience of people in the Yukon River drainage that there has been NO Chinook fishing opportunity since 2019. (Commercial fishing for Chinook ended in 2011 but was really gone in 2009.) In addition, the January 2024 Yukon River Panel Agreement for a moratorium on Canadian bound Chinook is likely to be extended far beyond its mandated seven years, based on continually decreasing escapement numbers and productivity estimates. Yukon River Alaska stocks are faring no better; currently the Department is recommending an upgraded Stock of Concern listing for Yukon River Chinook that is that highest level they can recommend without an existing SET (sustainable escapement threshold.) The loss of Chinook salmon for food security and iconic cultural value to the subsistence communities of the Yukon River is almost impossible to calculate as other salmon species and land animals are also in various stages of abundance decline. There is a negative domino effect on the entire ecosystem / food web.

Yukon River managers did not implement Chinook conservative management for decades despite numerous warning signs. No one believed that the abundance and size of Yukon River Chinook had a dramatic pending shelf life. No one wanted to be responsible for limiting harvest

on what was then an unknown outcome. The voices of caution were largely ignored or silenced.

As example: When the FAC submitted proposals to reduce mesh size beginning in the late 90's, the Department staunchly resisted and falsely asserted that 8 inch gillnet mesh was not selectively harvesting larger and older fish. By the time the Department recognized the problem, 7 year old Yukon chinook had been extirpated and 6 year old fish became exceedingly rare. Chinook returns are now dominated by 5 year olds. The Board failed to enact mesh restrictions for decades because it erroneously deferred to the department. By the time the Department admitted that large mesh was selectively removing the largest and most fecund female Chinook from the gene pool, it was too late; the remaining Chinook in the Yukon are now younger, smaller, and predominantly male. This was an impact of a directed commercial fishery of Chinook in-river and the failure to mitigate gear in subsistence fishing, not monitor escapement goals and ASL data.

Basically, it was a failure to take sufficient conservation measures when we had the chance. And it happened very quickly. Now many Yukon River Chinook stocks could be looking at extirpation.

This is a predictive scenario for the Copper River. By listening to the lessons of the Yukon River (and other systems) the Copper River might be able to avoid a rapid decline of Chinook.

The ACRs under consideration are an attempt to do just that. There is no luxury of time to wait for the next PWS/CR cycle *because the Department did not follow the conservation intent of the Board at the December 2024 Cordova meeting*. Repeating this same practice until the next Board cycle would very likely further deplete Copper River Chinook escapement.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries Findings On Upper Cook Inlet # 99 - 191 -states: "...managing a strong/dominant salmon stock on the basis of maximum sustained yield in a mixed stock, mixed species salmon fishery, can result in the overharvest of the weak/non-dominant salmon stocks and salmon species ."

The Prince William Sound / Copper River downriver and upriver managers need to work together to avoid Chinook over exploitation in all fisheries but they have not. The downriver commercial managers allow liberal harvest while upriver managers have to implement severe restrictions to conserve the limited number of Chinook that are allowed to pass the commercial nets. ***The commercial fishery management measures that were applied in 2025 establishes an inability to apply precautionary measures to provide sustainable Chinook escapement into the Copper River.***

The Department basically ignored its own caution. In June, after all sport and Personal Use (PU) Chinook fisheries had been restricted or eliminated, and the Department had been consistently announcing grave concern about not meeting the minimum escape goal of 21,000 Chinook, the commercial fish managers in Cordova announced two 24 hour openers inside the Barrier

Islands on June 23 and June 27.. Prior to that, on June 14, the department announced that the expanded inside area would be closed to conserve Chinook. They expressed serious concern about not meeting the escapement goal. Only a week later however, On June 21, the Department announced a 24 hour inside opener to occur on June 23. This extremely liberal opening was justified by the Department's claim that historically 95% of the Chinook harvest had already occurred by that date. That justification was misleading at best because the actual harvest to that date in 2025 was 4,530 Chinook with all of that harvest occurring outside the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area. Therefore any fishing inside the Barrier Islands was going to dramatically increase the harvest of Chinook. If 95% of Chinook harvest had already occurred, then only 226 more Chinook would be harvested the remainder of the season. Instead, by opening the inside waters under the false pretext that 95% of the harvest had already occurred, the fleet harvested 264 Chinook in a day and would go on to harvest 604 Chinook over the following week of inside openers. Despite the large June 23 harvest, which proved that 95% of the harvest had not in fact already occurred, the Department again announced a 24 hour insider opener to occur on June 26, this time trying to justify a liberal opener on the false premise that 96% of the harvest had already occurred. 219 Chinook were harvested on that date. The Department continued to open the inside waters for the remainder of June and thereby allowed the commercial harvest of 604 Chinook from a run which they repeatedly stated might not achieve the minimum escapement.

Meanwhile the PU fishery was completely closed and the sport fishery was restricted in June and then was completely closed via emergency order on July 2. On July 2, the commercial fishery managers , despite having already allowed the harvest of 604 Chinook in 3 inside openers over a 7 day period, announced yet another insider opener and justified it as follows:

“Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 1) and fish wheel indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest improved run strength of Copper River Chinook salmon through this stage of the run.”

That same day, July 2, the sport fishery was closed by emergency order based on the following management concern:

“In season abundance estimates from the Native Village of Eyak mark-recapture project currently indicate that the final in river king salmon abundance estimate will be below the lower bound of the SEG without additional restrictions. The apportionment of king salmon at the Miles Lake sonar is similar to that observed in 2021 and 2024, both of which were years when the lower bound of the king salmon SEG was not achieved. Due to the concerns that the king salmon escapement goal will not be met, closing the Upper Copper River sport fisheries to king salmon retention and prohibiting the use of bait and treble hooks is warranted.”

When the ADFG downriver managers liberalize commercial harvest based on allegedly improving fish wheel and sonar numbers while upriver managers enact emergency closures based on those same numbers, it is time for the Board to step in and mandate conservative measures and it should not wait two more years to even consider doing so. Regardless of disagreement on what those measures should be, the ACRs should be

adopted for discussion at upcoming Board meetings prior to the 2026 season. At that time we will at least know whether the 2025 SEG was met or not.

In conclusion, the FAC recommends the Board of Fish accept ACRs 1-4 to address conservation concerns for Chinook salmon in the Copper River Drainage. We commend the Board for their recognition of the issues and the changes made at the December 2024 Prince William Sound / Copper River meeting (RC122 substitute language for Proposal #51.)

However, the 2025 season clearly shows that those changes are not likely to be enough to sustain, much less improve, the Copper River Chinook numbers. The actions by the Department in the 2025 season circumvented the intent of the Board at the December 2024 Cordova Prince William Sound meeting and circumvents the Sustainable Salmon Policy. The Department's decision to open the inside water for Chinook harvest, citing improved counting numbers while at the same time eliminating any sport harvest because of poor run numbers and escapement concerns, illustrates a significant lack of communication and coordination on Chinook conservation. Therefore, new discussions presented by these ACRs to strengthen the conservation of Chinook stocks are both justified and necessary.

See attached documents as supporting information.

- (1) Chitina Dipnetter's Association (CDA) letter to Governor Dunleavy May 26, 2025 and response via Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, ADF&G
- (2) ADF&G July 2, 2025 Emergency Order for sports fish on the Copper River
- (3) Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #19

FAC MOTION ON STOCKS OF CONCERN

The FAC unanimously supported the Department's potential upgrade of current recommendations (as mentioned by ADF&G staff) for Chinook and fall chum Stocks of Concern in the AYK. However, the FAC further recommends that Yukon River summer chum designation should automatically be raised to a Management concern and that coho should become a Stock of Yield concern.

FAC MOTION ON UPCOMING BOARD OF FISH MEETING LOCATIONS

The FAC unanimously supports conducting the 2027 Prince William Sound / Copper River Board of Fish meeting in Fairbanks. The last two PWS meetings have been held in Cordova which creates an immense hardship on the thousands of Interior Personal Use and subsistence fishermen.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Jeff Lucas, Chair
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee



Chitina Dipnetters Association
PO Box 35230
Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703
Chuck Derrick, Pres.
cderrick@chitinadipnetters.com

5-26-2025

Governor Dunleavy:

I read ADF&G's 2025 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Preseason Schedule press release multiple times to be sure I understood it correctly.

Seeing the preseason scheduled PU fishery start date of June 12 (two days later than allowed by Board of Fisheries adopted regulation change made this past winter) was disturbing. Especially considering the final line of the first paragraph, "The schedule is based on projected daily sonar counts at the Miles Lake sonar and is designed to distribute harvest throughout the run."

In the past, I can not recall ADF&G's daily and cumulative upriver sonar objectives being so low as to possibly trigger a later start date for the PU fishery — **at times when ADF&G's early season commercial management met those upriver salmon passage objectives.**

Looking at the department's 2025 listed daily and cumulative upriver salmon passage objectives for May at Miles Lake, it appears ADF&G reduced each management objective by more than 40 — 50% compared to the daily and cumulative sonar objectives for the same dates from 2024.

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

When the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) was adopting regulation changes RC22 last winter to better ensure the Copper River Chinook salmon spawning escapement goal of 21,000 - 31,000 fish would be more consistently met, and thereby also ensuring that more adequate numbers of salmon for subsistence (ANS) would be available for upriver subsistence users—I recall no discussion from ADF&G about how reducing upriver salmon passage escapement objectives (and specifically during May) would help the board's intent of the new regulations. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but ADF&G's reduced May sonar objectives, appear to legitimize expanded commercial exploitation of early arriving Copper River Chinook and sockeye salmon stocks during May, contradictory to BOF intent.

RC122 - https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2024-2025/pws/rcs/RC122_Substitute_Language_Proposal_51_Member_Carlson-VanDort.pdf

Would you please explain how the department intends to ensure attainment of the 21,000 - 31,000 Chinook salmon spawning sustainable escapement goal," (as quoted from Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #2), if ADF&G continues to manage the commercial fishery based on only meeting the department's greatly reduced upriver salmon passage objective minimum levels during May of 2025? Also, would you please explain how the department intends to meet ANS requirements, and avoid future Chinook salmon in-season harvest closures, as occurred in 2024, for the furthest upriver Copper River subsistence users when using reduced May sonar passage objectives?

Would you please explain, for the Chitina Dipnetters Association and all other Upper Copper River user groups, why ADF&G's newly reduced Miles Lake sonar objectives are not highly allocative in nature?

Finally, would ADF&G agree:

1. To manage Copper River Chinook salmon for sustainability and to more consistently attain the neutral midpoint of the department's 21,000 - 31, 000 spawning escapement goal range;
2. To to provide ANS for Upper Copper River subsistence needs;
3. To manage salmon harvests for all Copper River user groups on an allocatively neutral basis; and from a public policy policy standpoint;

ADF&G should immediately re-establish Miles Lake daily and cumulative sonar objectives during May 2025 to a level similar to 2024 or the previous 5 year average, and in addition commercial management should consistently meet those May upriver salmon passage objectives.

In hopes of sustainable salmon management for all Copper River salmon stocks, and reasonable salmon harvest opportunities for all Copper River user groups,

Charles Derrick, President

The Chitina Dipnetters Association



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Headquarters Office

1255 West 8th Street
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Main: 907.465.6136
Fax: 907.465.2332

May 29, 2025

Mr. Charles Derrick, President
Chitina Dipnetters Association
cderrickak@gmail.com

Mr. Derrick:

You are correct that the 2025 Copper River daily sonar passage objectives differ from 2024. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) has recognized for some time that Copper River sockeye salmon run timing has shifted later in the season. The run timing curve previously used, developed in the 1990s, no longer reflects current biological patterns.

Starting in 2023, the department began reassessing run timing using current escapement data and additional data sources not available during the original model's development. This updated analysis was finalized in early 2025 and extensively reviewed before being applied this season. The new run timing curve shifts the average peak sonar passage from late May to early June, resulting in lower daily sonar passage objectives early in the run and higher objectives later (Figure 1), while keeping the overall inriver goal unchanged (Figure 2).

It is important to note that these changes were made to reflect updated biological information, not to benefit any one user group. While we understand that changes in management can appear to affect access differently across fisheries, the department remains committed to managing salmon based on abundance, escapement needs, and conservation, not allocation.

We also fully recognize the concerns raised about the intent of RC22, adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries to improve Chinook salmon conservation and support inriver subsistence access. The department supports this intent. While the new timing model changes how early-season passage is interpreted, it does not reduce the total inriver goal or weaken our commitment to protecting Chinook salmon. Recent decisions, such as canceling the May 29 commercial opening, reflect our intent to take in-season action based on Chinook salmon abundance indicators to ensure escapement and the subsistence priority is met.

In practice, the updated run timing curve has not changed the way early-season commercial openings are scheduled. Also relevant is the regulatory delay of the first commercial opening from May 15 to May 22. It is common for the first Copper River commercial openings to occur before significant sonar passage is recorded, especially in years with cold spring conditions that slow salmon migration. Early openings are based on preseason forecasts and commercial harvest performance. Sonar counts become more informative later in the run, once fish movement

increases. Thus, the first two 2025 commercial openings would have occurred regardless of the timing curve used.

Still, we understand that changes to management models can raise concerns about equity. While the new timing model may appear to shift harvest opportunity, especially early in the season, the department does not view this as an allocation issue. That said, we take these concerns seriously and are committed to maintaining transparency around how decisions are made and how we incorporate updated science into management.

To ensure Chinook salmon escapement goals are met, the department will continue to use inseason indicators including sonar counts, age and sex composition from fisheries, and harvest data. If indicators show Chinook salmon returns are weaker than expected, or that harvest is too high, we will respond quickly, as seen with the May 26 time and area management to avoid fishing at a minus low tide when Chinook salmon are more vulnerable, and May 29 fishery closure. We will not hesitate to restrict personal use and sport fisheries to ensure escapement and subsistence needs.

On the subsistence side, the department limited the Copper River Delta fishery to a single opening before the first commercial period, even though more time could have been allowed under regulation. This was done specifically to protect early returning Chinook salmon. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has established an Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for the subsistence fishery that is comprised of all salmon. There is not a specific ANS for Chinook salmon. The department has consistently provided reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon for subsistence purposes inriver and will continue to do so.

We recognize that conservation measures, especially during years of low abundance, can cause hardship for Alaskans who depend on these fisheries. These are difficult decisions, and we do not take them lightly. Our goal remains to manage Copper River salmon stocks so they are sustainable for future generations, while supporting subsistence and other harvest opportunities with as little restriction as possible.

We appreciate your engagement and continued advocacy for equitable and sustainable salmon management. The department is committed to fairness, transparency, and science-based decisions that support all Alaskans who depend on this important resource.

Respectfully,



Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

CC: Tyson Gallagher- Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, State of Alaska
Lee Cruise- Special Assistant, Office of the Governor, State of Alaska
Isreal Payton- Director Sport Fish Division, Department of Fish and Game, State of Alaska
Forrest Bowers- Director Commercial Fisheries Division, Department of Fish and Game, State of Alaska
George Pappas- Director Subsistence Division, Department of Fish and Game, State of Alaska

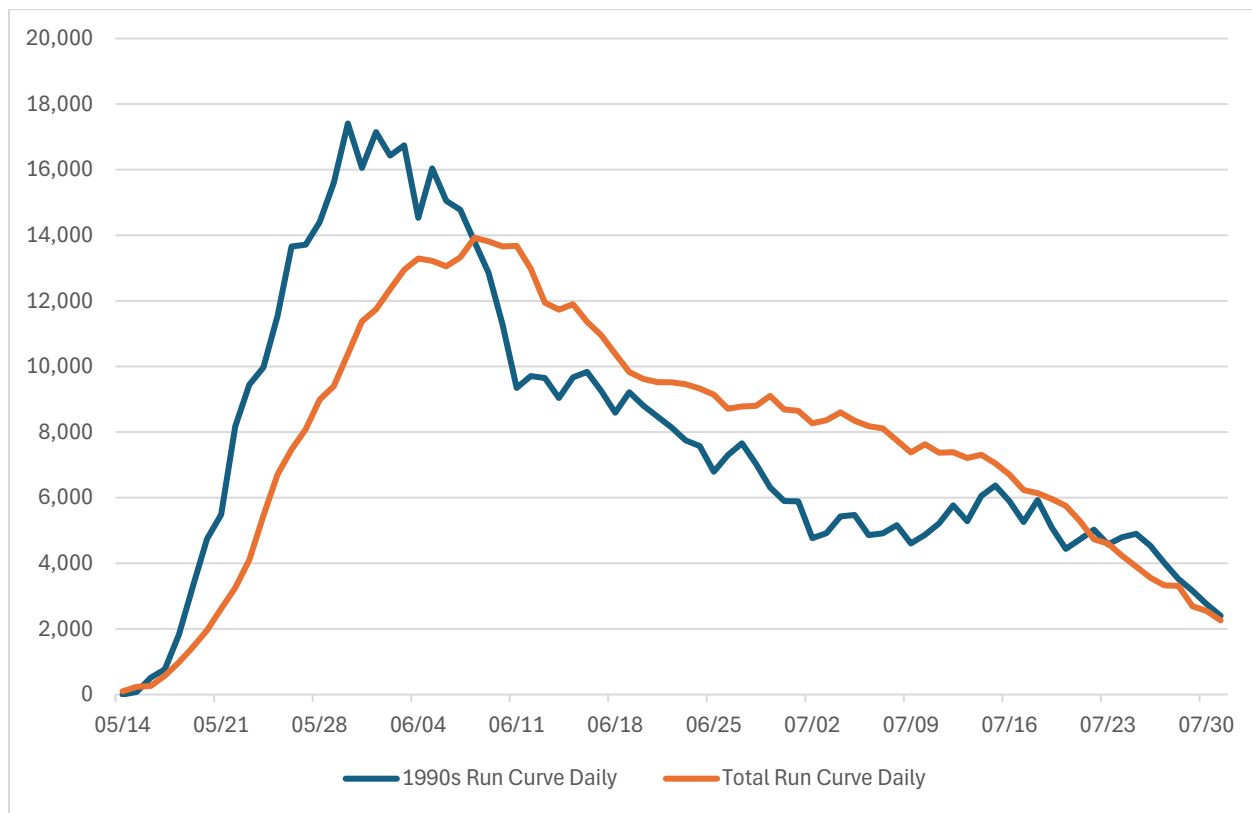


Figure 1. Copper River daily salmon passage objectives.

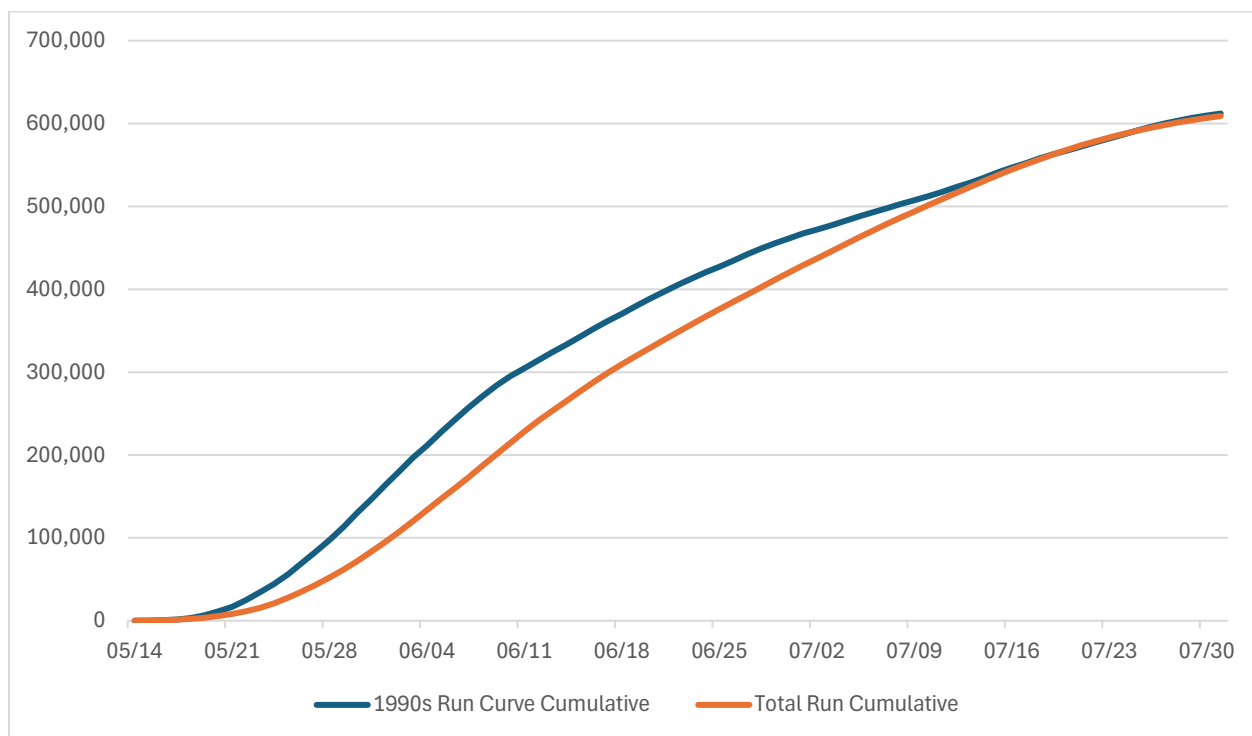


Figure 2. Copper River cumulative salmon passage objectives.

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-12-25

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday,
July 2, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 7, 2025

Expiration Date: Friday, August 11, 2025,
unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon of any size and prohibits the use of bait and multiple hooks in the sport fisheries occurring in all flowing waters of the Upper Copper River drainage upstream of the south bank of Haley Creek. King salmon may not be retained or possessed, must be released immediately, and may not be removed from the water before releasing the fish.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022 (a)(3) and 5 AAC 52.023 (3)(A), (9)(B), (12), (12)(C)(i) and (E) and (G), (25)(A)(i) and (ii) and (E), and (32) are superseded and 5 AAC 52.023 (22)(C) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 7:

5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

(a)(3) the sport fishing season for king salmon is from January 1 – July 19; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

(3) in the Copper River drainage, in that portion of the mainstem of the Copper River downstream from the confluence of the Copper River and Slana River,

(A) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage,

(B) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(12) in the Klutina River drainage, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(C) in all flowing waters upstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 19.2 on the Klutina Lake Road,

(i) the sport fishing season for king salmon is from July 1 – July 19, excluding Manker Creek; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 19.2 on the Klutina Lake Road, the sport fishing season for king salmon is from July 1 – July 31; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(G) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 13 on the Klutina Lake Road, the sport fishing season for king salmon from July 1 – August 10; king salmon

may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(22) in the Tazlina River drainage,

(C) in the quarter-mile radius around the mouth of Kaina Creek, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(25) in the Tonsina River drainage,

(A) in all flowing waters downstream from the outlet of Tonsina Lake,

(i) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(ii) the sport fishing season for king salmon is July 1 – July 19; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the downstream edge of the Alyeska Pipeline crossing bridge, the sport fishing season for king salmon is July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(32) in the Copper River drainage, downstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River, the sport fishing season for king salmon is July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____
Tracy R. Hansen
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 24.361) directs the department to manage the Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 21,000–31,000 king salmon. Inseason abundance estimates from the Native Village of Eyak mark-recapture project currently indicate that the final inriver king salmon abundance estimate will be below the lower bound of the SEG. The apportionment of king salmon at the Miles Lake sonar is similar to that observed in 2021 and 2024, both of which were years when the lower bound of the king salmon SEG was not achieved. Due to the concerns that the king salmon escapement goal will not be met, closing the Upper Copper River sport fisheries to king salmon retention and prohibiting the use of bait and treble hooks is warranted.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 3-KS-I-9-24, issued Wednesday, June 18, 2025, that reduced the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Upper Copper River drainage to 1 fish, and prohibited the use of bait and multiple hooks in the sport fisheries occurring in the Gulkana River drainage, effective Friday, June 20, 2025, is superseded by this emergency order.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7357,

and the Glennallen Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, PO Box 47, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-3309.

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Forrest Bowers, Acting Director

Cordova Area Office
401 Railroad Ave.
Cordova, AK 99574



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 2, 2025

CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Heather Scannell

**Finfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 424-3212**

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #19

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 3, for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this period.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(A) with the exception of this year's extension of the closure line across Little Softuk (**see bold font below**). This closure line is defined with the following points:

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Point Whitshed South	60° 26.49' N.	145° 52.86' W.
Alaganik Slough North	60° 24.65' N.	145° 36.70' W.
Pete Dahl East	60° 20.44' N.	145° 29.14' W.
West Kokenhenik	60° 14.88' N.	145° 10.01' W.
East "East Side"	60° 14.83' N.	145° 03.36' W.
Coffee Creek East	60° 14.19' N.	144° 58.01' W.
Charlie Mohr North	60° 15.15' N.	144° 56.43' W.
Martin River North	60° 15.29' N.	144° 52.52' W.
Strawberry Reef	60° 13.93' N.	144° 50.66' W.
Little Softuk	60° 13.16' N.	144° 41.38' W.

Waters north of this line, within sloughs, and in Boswell Bay within the bay (5 AAC 24.350 (1)(A)) are closed to commercial and subsistence salmon fishing during all periods.

Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 1) and fish wheel indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest improved run strength of Copper River Chinook salmon through this stage of the run. Chinook salmon abundance in the commercial fishery peaks during the end of May through early June, and the commercial fishery is continuing to be managed to ensure the achievement of the 21,000–31,000 Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal while providing fishing opportunity on more abundant sockeye salmon. The escapement goal was met in 3 out of the last 6 years. The current trend in large Chinook salmon passage does not give a clear indication of count levels at the end of sonar operation. While this apportionment data provides additional insight on Chinook salmon, the apportionment method to count Chinook salmon has not undergone an in-depth analysis or review on how those data compare with the NVE mark-recapture project, which is what the final escapement estimate is based on. The 2015-2024 average cumulative Chinook salmon harvest to date in the Copper River District is 98% complete.

During the commercial fishing season, subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent in time and area with commercial fishing periods, unless otherwise stated, until the Copper River District is closed at the end of the season. **Additionally, waters of the Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from June 28 through October 25.** Prince William Sound

Management Area salmon subsistence permits may be obtained through any ADF&G office or online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>). In Cordova, permits will be available during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. To assist with inseason harvest tracking, permit holders are encouraged to call the Cordova office at 907-424-3212 or report online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/>) to provide preliminary harvest reports.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/1 is 583,735 fish, whereas 428,851 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/2 is 3,416 fish. For the week ending June 28, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 12,760 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 17,627 – 41,665. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, June 30, were 121 Chinook and 51,100 sockeye salmon, with 308 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 5,256 Chinook and 515,000 sockeye salmon. The 5-year (2020–2024), 10-year (2015–2024), and 20-year (2005–2024) average cumulative harvests through 6/27 are 445,000, 601,000, and 868,000 sockeye salmon, respectively.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District, west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20' W., will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 3, for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND GILLET FISHERIES: Gillnet depth restrictions, as specified in 5 AAC 24.331(b)(6), **WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT** in the Coghill District, Eshamy District, Montague, and Unakwik District fisheries starting **8:00 am, Monday, July 7.**

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the Granite Bay and Esther Subdistricts and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3. **The Granite Bay Subdistrict, excluding waters on the west side of Esther Island south of a latitude line at 60° 49.53' N., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3.** Waters of Port Wells and College Fiord, north of 60° 55.81' N., and east of a line from Pakenham Point (61° 00.45' N., 148° 04.85' W.) to 60° 55.81' N., 148° 10.92' W., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3. Until further notice, regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B), will not be in effect during open commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide. The Coghill River weir cumulative sockeye salmon count through 7/1 is 5,392 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, June 26 were 92,900 chum and 15,740 sockeye salmon with 323 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict and the southwest section of the Granite Bay Subdistrict remain closed. Cost recovery effort will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. PWSAC is 80% complete on the 2025 gillnet revenue goal and has collected 1000,000 chum salmon for broodstock at WNH.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will remain closed to commercial fishing. The next commercial fishing period in the Eshamy District may occur as early as Monday, July 7, with time and area announced on Saturday, July 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 12-hour period that started on Monday, June 30 were 15,400 sockeye and 11,000 chum salmon with 117 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends keeping the Eshamy District closed for maximum run-entry into the MBH SHA to achieve cost recovery goals. Run entry into MBH has been slow. PWSAC needs to see a substantial increase in fish available for cost recovery to accomplish the revenue goal before other PWS fisheries complicate tender and catcher boat availability. PWSAC is 80% complete on the 2025 gillnet revenue goal. Of the 12,000 broodstock goal, approximately 7,400 sockeye salmon have been collected to date.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict will open to drift gillnet fishing for an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3 with an additional 60-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, July 7. A regular schedule of two fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. The western boundary of the Port Chalmers Subdistrict is defined by lines from 60°20.00'N., 147°26.59'W. to 60°14.75'N., 147°35.35'W. to 60°02.50'N., 147°44.41'W. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, June 26 were 185,000 chum, 2,340 pink, and 200 sockeye salmon with 464 deliveries reported.

Copies of the regulation booklet, *2022-2025 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office. Regulation booklets that include changes made at the December 2024 Board of Fisheries meeting are not yet available.

ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any registration questions.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Thursday, July 3.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 5.

Announcement recordings are available for gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 907-267-2843.

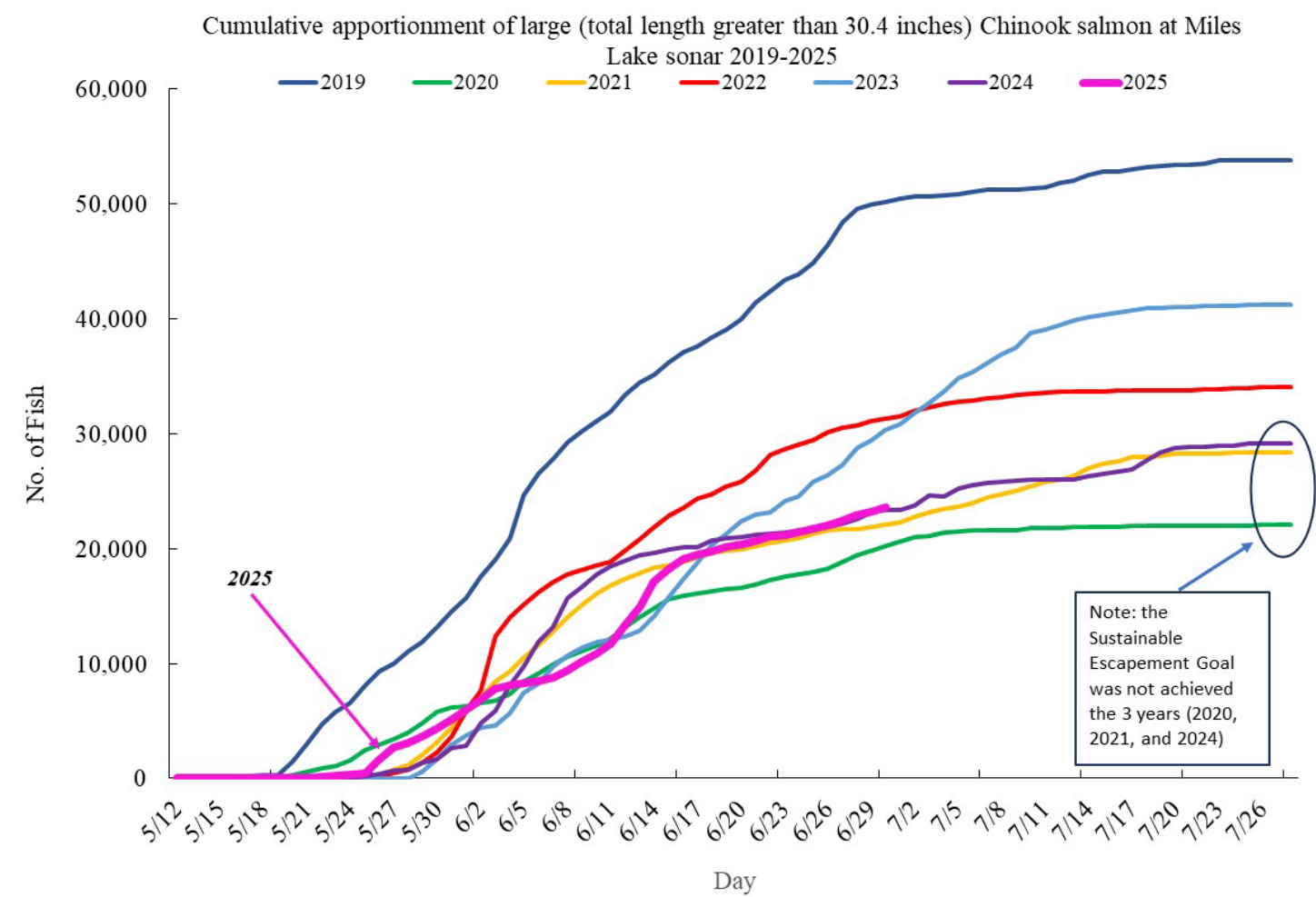
Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound and Copper River homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.

Figure 1.- Miles Lake Sonar large salmon apportionment, 2019-2025.



Mat Valley Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 8th, 2025
Mat-Su College and Zoom

I. Call to Order: 7:06pm by Herb Mansavage

II. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Present/Excused/Unexcused
Herb	Mansavage	Present
Dan	Montgomery	Excused
		Excused
Michelle	Heun	
Andy	Couch	Present
Vacant		
Dom	Nickles	Excused
Hunter	Hongslo	Excused
Birch	Yuknis	Present
Danny	Lewis	Excused
Robert (Bob)	Cassell	Present
Ed	Soto	Present
Bruce	Privett	Present
Steve	Bartelli	Excused
Andrew James (AJ)	Hoffman	Present
Pete	Imhof	Present
Austin	Manelick	Excused
Dewey	Bilster	Present

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present:

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Leila Williams, Samantha Oslund, Jeremy Botz, Heather Scannell

IV. Guests Present: Corey Berg, Neil DeWitt, Eric Boltin

V. Approval of Agenda: Ed Soto seconded by Bruce Privett. Meeting information to discuss later in the meeting was added. Approved with No Objections.

VI. Reports

- a. Chair's report
- b. ADF&G
- c. Others

VII. Public Comment: Public attending the meeting chose not to testify at the start.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

Agenda Change Requests

Other Fish & Game Business as Needed

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
ACR 1	Delay opening of the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery to June 1		
	6	3	Andy Couch made a motion to move to approve ACR#1. 2nd by Pete Imhof. Andy Couch: ACRs 1-4 all deal with Copper River king salmon management. When the AC develops positions on these ACRs at this meeting, what we really need to be considering is – do the ACRs meet any of the 3 criteria for the Board to take them up and consider them out of normal BOF cycle. I do not know any error in regulation, and I have not heard of anyone else mentioning in an error in regulation for any of the ACRs. There has been a 40% reduction in all May sonar objectives and smaller reductions in the early June sonar objectives as well. In the Staff comments for ACR#5 the department acknowledges that the Board of Fisheries (BOF) passed changes using Proposal 51 in December to put more early salmon up the river and to provide for upriver subsistence

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			use. The reduction in early season sonar objectives after the Board meeting appears to me to be in direct conflict with BOF intent of putting more early salmon up the river. Since the highest proportion of king salmon to sockeye salmon occurs early in the season, reducing the sonar objectives the most during May and early June, would appear to have the most detrimental effect on king salmon passage. Commercial openings in May and early June produce the largest harvest of king salmon, so lower objectives allowing the same or more harvest opportunity at that time should have the greatest impact on king salmon. That is the conservation reason behind the two ACRs I submitted concerning Copper River king salmon- #3 and #4- but I believe that conservation reason also applies to ACRs #1 and #2 as well. They all have a similar conservation reason or purpose, but provide different suggestion on how to deal with the issue. Motion passed.
ACR 2	Close waters of the Copper River District inside the barrier islands to commercial fishing for salmon		
	6	3	Andy Couch made a motion to move to approve ACR#2. 2 nd by Pete Imhof. Please see comments on ACR#1. Motion passed.
ACR 3	Close waters of the Copper River District to commercial fishing for salmon inside and outside the barrier islands from May 21 – June 30		
	5	4	Andy Couch made a motion to move to approve ACR#3. 2 nd by Pete Imhof. Please see comments on ACR#1. Motion passed.
ACR 4	Adopt an Optimal Escapement Goal for Copper River sockeye salmon		
	7	2	Andy Couch made a motion to move to approve ACR#4. 2nd by Pete Imhof. Please see comments on ACR#1. Jeremy Botz concerning ACR 4 – salmon run timing has not been updated since the late 2000's. It appears run timing has changed since the late 70s, 80s, and 90s. Sometimes it might take up to 3 weeks for some fish to move up the river after they enter the District. The sonar objectives now in place are based on more recent sockeye timing past the sonar site. The BOF delayed the start of the season by a week, so more early fish should have made it upriver.

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			Herb mentioned that he understands why there may not be a conservation reason/purpose, but he mentioned seeing great decline in the Klutina River king salmon fishery. Dewey Bitner mentioned that any change attempting to preserve salmon has a conservation reason/purpose. Bruce Privett mentioned that a week was just taken away from the gill netters in December, so why don't we just play this out. He sees it as completely shutting the gill netters down. People may not be able to visualize what has changed. The closer you get to the beach the more concentrated the salmon are. If you really want to get more fish you get inside the barrier islands. High surf can make this a dangerous fishery – especially when fishing further out in deeper water. Ed Soto: You said this is the first season that the department managed under those new regulations which took away a week from the gill netters, and moved the gill netters past the barrier islands? A.J.: I heard the word adapting being used in regards to management. Are we adapting for a certain user group or so that fish can get into the river, with benefit for all user groups? Jeremy Botz: In my mind, we are attempting to protect the fish and managing according to the management plan. From the mid to late 80s we typically fished the fleet two days a week. A.J.: It appears to me that instead of managing to high end goals we appear to just be managing to skim over the bottom of the king goal. Jeremy Botz: We have had a regime shift in productivity from large runs, and regularly making the escapement goal, with chinook returns probably averaging about 50,000. Now we've had missed king goals in 2020, 2021, and 2024 based on the NVE Mark/Recapture estimates. Jeremy mentioned quite a discrepancy between a higher sonar count and a lower number estimated by the mark/recapture. We are king of working toward a goal that would be apportioned by the sonar to have better in-

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			season management. The sonar is located at Miles Lake about 8 days travel time, wheels are one mile further and the recapture fish wheels are an additional 10 days to two weeks upriver, just below Chitina. Jeremy Botz: Total chinook salmon harvest for the commercial fishery was the lowest harvest in the last 50 years. This year was about half of the commercial harvest from last year under small chinook returns the past two years. We are getting near the upper end of the sockeye salmon goals in recent years. There is likely to be a similar condition to last year with discrepancy between the king salmon Sonar Counts and the NVE fishwheel mark/recapture estimate. We will not likely get the ark/recapture estimate until significantly later this fall, and they will likely be a high degree of uncertainty to them. Motion passed.
ACR 5	Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area		
	8	0	Andy Couch made a motion to move to approve ACR#5. 2nd by Pete Imhof. Andy Couch: When the Department started closing the East side set net fishery along the Kenai Peninsula shoreline for king salmon conservation reasons there was a significant reduction in the amount of coho salmon making it through the Central District and into the Northern District. After the last Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting with late-run Kenai River king salmon declared a stock of management concern, the set netters have mostly been restricted to using dip netes, and the drifters have not been allowed to fish within two miles of the beaches as well. With large returns of Kenai River and Kasilof River sockeye salmon the Department has been attempting to catch large numbers of those harvestable surplus sockeye salmon offshore with the Drift Gillnet fleet. The Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan simply allows too much drift gillnetting (and especially in the mid-inlet area beyond the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point Sections). When sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River exceed 2.3 million fish and the Department attempts to harvest the vast majority of the commercial salmon harvest offshore with the drift gillnet fleet too many northern bound coho salmon are harvested at the same time, and consequently

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			we have been failing to achieve the Little Susitna River and Deshka River coho salmon spawning escapement goals for the past three years. In addition, because of the low coho harvest numbers both the Deshka River and the Little Susitna River have first seen bait and coho harvest restrictions followed by coho harvest closures each of those three years 2023, 2024, and 2025. Andy Couch: The BOF0-adopted purpose for the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, “is to ensure adequate escapement and a harvestable surplus of salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District salmon and Kenai River coho salmon in order to provide all users with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of in-river restrictions.” However, in ADF&G Staff comments for ACR#5 the department states the plan, “...directs the department to manage the mixed stock drift gillnet fishery to primarily harvest Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye while also minimizing the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks.” Andy Couch: From my point of view there is a huge difference in the BOF adopted purpose of the plan and ADF&G’s use of the plan to, “primarily harvest Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon.” The conservation problem this has caused is obvious and clear to see – missing Upper Cook Inlet’s two most important coho salmon goals 3 consecutive years/with low coho abundance documented by sport restrictions then closures all three years at both rivers. Dismal sport coho salmon harvest estimates from Deshka and Little Susitna River for 2022, 2023, and 2024 (the most recent three years with data from the sportfish statewide harvest survey) further document low coho salmon abundances. Little Susitna River coho harvest estimates in 2022 – 2,114 coho, in 2023 – 1,093 coho, in 2024 – 439 coho. Deshka River coho harvest estimates in 2022 – 1,936 coho, 2023 – 534 coho, 2024 – 741 coho.

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			Ed Soto: With all the Kenai sockeye available to catch, how is the drift fishery impacting the coho salmon? Coho salmon are bycatch to drifters harvesting sockeye. The drift fishery was fishing nearly every day during mid to late July, and the drift gillnet fishery is at times allowed to fish in the mid-inlet rips where bycatch of northern bound coho can be highest. Has drift coho salmon harvests increased significantly compared to the percentage of coho harvest in the Northern District set net fishery. Pete Imhof: This is just wrong. Fishing has been so poor with restrictions and closures during the past three years, that I have not even taken my boat to the river (Little Su or Deshka). When my grandkids visited, I could not even take them silver salmon fishing. Someone asked Samantha Oslund why sockeye returns had been better than coho returns lately. Samantha Oslund: Environmental conditions seem to be favoring sockeye at several locations at this time. In the Mat-Su we have been getting some flooding events in recent years – which may also negatively affect coho salmon which are often in stream, while sockeye salmon spend much of their juvenile freshwater time in large stable lake environments. Bruce Privett: I would support this if we revisited the set netters catching Kenai sockeye with a beach seine. Pete Imhof: The AC voted in favor of allowing the beach seining last year. Motion passed unanimously with Bob Cassell leaving the meeting before this vote.
ACR 6	Establish paired restrictions for Little Susitna River coho salmon sport fishery and Northern District commercial set gillnet fishery to conserve Little Susitna River coho salmon		
	7	1	Andy Couch made a motion to move to approve ACR#6. 2 nd by Pete Imhof.

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			Andy: ACR#6 is the ACR with paired restrictions between the Little Susitna River sport and Northern District commercial fisheries. The conservation reason/purpose for considering ACR#4 out of normal cycle is the same missed coho salmon escapements for 3 years in a row along, with sport and commercial closures that shortened Northern Cook Inlet sport and commercial harvest opportunities the past three seasons. In the past when the coho salmon escapement goal has most often been achieved at Little Susitna River, commercial set netting as usually been restricted to one set net in the General Subdistrict north of the Susitna River during the July 20 – August 6 portion of the season, when the number of nets can be reduced. Two board cycles ago, when Susitna sockeye salmon were delisted as a stock of concern, the BOF established clear intent that the Northern District setnet fishery should continue to be managed on a conservative basis. At the last Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting that BOF intent was not re-emphasized, and consequently commercial management has allowed additional net(s) during the July 20 – August 6 portion of the season – and in particular in the General Subdistrict north of the Susitna River terminus (including the area between 500 yards and one-mile from the Little Susitna River terminus with Knik Arm). The Little Susitna and Deshka River coho salmon escapement goals appear to not have been attained for three years in a row. If a change in management is not made this year, Little Susitna River and Deshka River coho salmon may be listed as stock of management concern by fall 2026. Motion passed.
ACR 7	Prohibit the sport fishing technique of “flossing” in Ship Creek		
			Herb mentioned that he saw no need to consider ACRs 7, 8, or 9, unless an AC member wanted to have consideration on one or more of them. For lack of any member wishing to put forward a motion toward any of them, the meeting moved on. Took no action.
ACR 8	Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon		
			See comments for ACT #7. Took no action.
ACR 9	Prohibit carrying other groundfish gear types on vessel registered for the Pacific cod jig fishery in the Kodiak Management Area		
			See comments for ACT #7. Took no action.

- X. Set next meeting date: Currently Wednesday, October 22nd at 7pm over zoom and at Mat-Su College
- XI. Other
- XII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm
- XIII. Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Andy Couch
Minutes Approved By: Herb Mansavage
Date:10/13/2025