

To: Board of Fisheries / Board Support Section

RC 212

RE: Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement goals

Proposal 148 Support / New Information

The Kasilof River sockeye salmon goal range needs to be maintained and managed to the BEG range. The OEG was never intended by the board to be used in management if Kenai sockeye runs are projected to be over 2.3 million fish. This misrepresented OEG use continues and primarily caused by ADF&G when the regulation was incorrectly transcribed into regulation in 2002. **The BEG and OEG needs to be clarified into regulation before further foregone harvest of sockeye salmon occurs and jeopardizes yield.** 50,000 sockeye harvest lost - represents 750,000 dollars in ex-vessel value alone and doubled with the processor seafood industry sector over lost revenues; i.e. (1.5 million loss).

New Information:

Note: in 2011 Board meeting, Chairman Morris stated on the record that the Kasilof OEG was not to be on the table for any changes by the BOF. However, ADFG again transcribed the OEG into regulation erroneously after the 2011 meeting. The 2002 Board transcript was given to ADFG, reviewed, and confirmed again by ADFG in 2013 that an error was made over the use of the OEG. The Area office was contacted by Region to confirm the BEG and OEG within management in order to inform Commissioner Campbell on Kasilof River sockeye regulatory matters. **In 2013 the Kasilof River sockeye management plan was not followed on the early opening provision over projecting 50,000 sockeye before June 25th.** In fact, on June 25th over 100,954 sockeye were past sonar and the Kasilof Section was not opened contrary to regulation. On June 21st 54,000 were counted past sonar. 123,354 on June 26th - on June 27th we opened. Historic sockeye entries were occurring but we were still not allowed to open under a premise over Kenai River early run kings of which the prior genetic data and recent genetic harvest data in RC 4 clearly stipulates that we do not harvest any early run Kenai kings (.001). This highly irregular justification caused the foregone harvest of sockeye and attributed to gross levels of over escapement into the Kasilof River. It is known that escapements over 340,000 reduce yields significantly (RC 4) and less than replacement has occurred on escapements near the final spawning escapement of 2013. Yield loss and recruitment of minus -200% - on little justifications in a mixed stock fishery. Final sonar passage neared 500,000 sockeye salmon.

The Markov model used in the established Kasilof sockeye escapement goal clearly represents why we should maintain the sustained optimum yields and not risk this important sockeye system which has the one of the highest detailed stock recruitment data within Upper Cook Inlet sockeye systems (RC 4).

Furthermore, the current goal incorporates past Cook Inlet Aquaculture stocking that no longer are present or exist as that stocking program ceased in 2004 (RC 4).

Kasilof Section sockeye harvest per opening relationship to very low Kenai River late-run king harvest before July 1.

- 42 kings. 48% age 1.1 (20 jack kings), 30% age 1.2 (13), 12% age 1.3 (5), and age 1.4 (4). Only 9 larger kings per a 12 hour opening along thirty miles of beach area in Kasilof Section. The CPUE extremely low at this time period and continued up to July 7th. Ref: RC 4, ADFG source.

Submitted by: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

Appendix A3 ESSN Kenai River late-run king salmon harvest by age class 2013

	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4
Kasilof Section: 27 July-6 July	139	87	35	29
Kasilof Section: 8-15 July	99	194	42	46
Kasilof Section: 18-23 July	72	134	21	31
Kenai Section, 8-15 July	109	369	96	109
Kenai Section, 18-23 July	59	272	106	154
KRSHA 17 July - 2 August	11	16	29	28

	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4
Kasilof Section: 27 July-6 July	48%	30%	12%	10%
Kasilof Section: 8-15 July	26%	51%	11%	12%
Kasilof Section: 18-23 July	28%	52%	8%	12%
Kenai Section, 8-15 July	16%	54%	14%	16%
Kenai Section, 18-23 July	10%	46%	18%	26%
KRSHA 17 July - 2 August	13%	19%	35%	33%

Kasilof Section	311	415	97	106
Kenai Section	169	641	202	263
KRSHA	11	16	29	28

TOTALS	490	1,073	329	397
				725