

# Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Proposal Index (171 proposals)

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# Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals

(171 proposals)

## Management Plans and Goals (8 proposals)

### PROPOSAL 78

#### **5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* to include weighted criteria for the allocation of fishery resources, as follows:

Amend to add the following guidance for allocation:

**When allocating fishery resources within the Upper Cook Inlet Region the Board shall consider the following factors giving appropriate weight to each in the order provided herein,**

- (1) The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption;**
- (2) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the state;**
- (3) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;**
- (4) The number of residents and nonresidents who have participated in each fishery in the past and the number of residents and nonresidents who can reasonably be expected to participate in the future;**
- (5) The history of each personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishery;**
- (6) The importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.**

**The availability of alternative fisheries resources of similar characteristics.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The State of Alaska through the Alaska Board of Fisheries is not fulfilling its Constitutional obligation to maximize the benefit of the fisheries resource to the people of the State by continuing to restrict sport, guided sport and personal use salmon fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet in favor of the commercial salmon fisheries.

AS 16.05.251(e) Regulations of the Board of Fisheries provide direction for allocation of fisheries resources in the form of a list of factors to be considered. This statute was adopted in 1989. The Board subsequently complied with the statute by adopting it in regulation, essentially by reference, in 1991. No action has been taken to amend or improve the regulation since that time. The broad guidance identified in this list of factors is not adequate to address fishery allocation conflicts in the contentious Upper Cook Inlet, sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence fisheries. Not all factors in the list should be weighted equally. In particular, this list of factors fails to recognize the need and priority for providing residents the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption and weighting the importance of the fishery to the economy of the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F19-120)

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### PROPOSAL 79

#### **5 AAC 77.007. Criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries.**

Establish a personal use priority for Cook Inlet salmon fisheries, as follows:

Give Personal Use equal status with Subsistence for the five non-subsistence urban areas. The general public has a constitutional right to the accessible fishery resource in the Cook Inlet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the Board to address Personal Use and to recognize it as a priority for the five non-subsistence urban areas. It should be given the same status as subsistence for rural areas when it comes to the salmon resource. In accordance with the 2014 ADF&G Subsistence Update Report, the Personal Use fishery took 0.1 of the total catch while commercial fishing took 98.5 percent of the catch. This is not in line with the State of Alaska Constitution Article VIII: Natural Resources which outlines the use of the resource, access to it and provides for the maximum bene fit of the people. The Kenai River is road accessible to the urban population.

In 2018 the Personal Use fishermen took 165,028 fish in the Kenai River while the Cook Inlet Commercial fishery took 18,921,027 pounds of fish in the inlet.

Furthermore, the Personal Use fishery was closed 30 July 2018 while Commercial Fishing was allowed to fish thru August. Note: 51% of the sockeye harvest entered the river after the Personal Use fishery was closed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Walt Arthur (HQ-F19-177)

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*\*This proposal will be heard at the LCI and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 38**

**5 AAC 21.XXX. New section.**

Create a king salmon management plan with paired restrictions in Upper and Lower Cook Inlet commercial fisheries, as follows:

During low king salmon abundance commercial fisheries in Lower Cook Inlet and Upper Cook Inlet will be managed under a single comprehensive king salmon conservation plan which functions to conserve kings in both locations.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We need paired king salmon retention restrictions for Lower Cook Inlet, LCI and Upper Cook Inlet, UCI when UCI is experiencing or projected to experience king salmon no retention restrictions. The adfg is currently attempting to manage UCI and LCI king salmon like they are different king runs when they are in fact the same kings. This mismanagement has resulted in some areas being open for king retention while others are closed, when both areas are fishing the same kings. When Cook Inlet kings are less abundant, both UCI and LCI should be managed together to conserve kings and not with area specific retention.

**PROPOSED BY:** Donald Johnson (EF-F19-012)

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*\*This proposal will be heard at the LCI, Kodiak, and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 37**

**5 AAC 18.XXX. New section.**

Create a king salmon management plan with paired restrictions in Kodiak and Cook Inlet commercial fisheries, as follows:

Solution:

During low king salmon abundance Kodiak commercial fisheries in and Cook Inlet will be managed under a single comprehensive king salmon conservation plan which functions to conserve kings in both locations.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We need paired king salmon retention restrictions for Cook Inlet and Kodiak island commercial fisheries. Cook Inlet is experiencing or projected to experience king salmon retention restrictions. The ADF&G is currently attempting to manage Cook Inlet king salmon as if they are not the same kings migrating past Kodiak Island. This mismanagement has resulted in Kodiak area commercial fisheries retaining kings while Cook Inlet fisheries are not able to retain kings. This is illogical fisheries management with Cook Inlet attempting to preserve what Kodiak is slaughtering. When Cook Inlet kings are less abundant Kodiak and Cook Inlet commercial fisheries should be jointly managed to conserve kings. Currently Kodiak commercial gill nets activate within the first week of June while Cook Inlet fisheries are closed to king retention during low king abundance. These fisheries should be jointly managed to conserve kings during low king abundance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Donald Johnson

(EF-F19-013)

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**PROPOSAL 80**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Prohibit retention of king salmon greater than 36” in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial gillnet fisheries, as follows:

**Upper Cook Inlet commercially caught king salmon, 36 inches or longer in length, must be released. King salmon smaller than 36 inches in length may be retained.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Low abundances of “large” Kenai River king salmon trigger inseason restrictions to commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries. By management plan intent language, Kenai River king salmon are to be managed primarily for sport and guided sport use. In an effort to put more large Kenai River king salmon inriver and therefore, provide all user groups more fishing opportunity Alaska Sportfishing Association suggests limiting the Upper Cook Inlet commercial gill net harvest of king salmon to fish under 36 inches in length. All gill net caught king salmon 36 inches or greater in length would be required to be released. This is a package proposal with a similar proposal submitted for the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery.

All Kenai River king salmon 36 inches or greater in length passing through the gill net, personal use, and sport fishery would be counted as escapement and would therefore, help maintain fishing and harvest opportunities for each of these user groups. “Large” Kenai River king salmon tend to be predominately female fish and also provide better quality (eggs in the gravel) escapement for maintaining future Kenai River king salmon returns. Even during times of heavy commercial harvest, a king salmon 36 inches or greater in length, would readily stand out as a “large” fish to be released. All shorter king salmon that do not count toward the Kenai River “large” king salmon escapement goal may be harvested. The mesh size allowed for Upper Cook Inlet gill netting frequently results in larger fish being easier to remove as they may only be tangled by their teeth rather than their gills.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Sportfishing Association/Martin Meigs (HQ-F19-084)  
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**PROPOSAL 81**

**5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.**

Manage fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet by designating types of salmon habitat, as follows:

**Somewhere near 5 AAC 39.222 Policy for Management .**

Proposed that the State of Alaska adopt a policy for Upper Cook Inlet to protect anadromous spawning-beds from abuse and from over-fishing, wherein each system is allocated long-term spawning-bed protection that is reasonably calculated to maintain optimal sustainable yield for each species of salmon, while allowing for reasonable opportunity for public access. Spawning-bed areas will be categorized as following:

1. Sanctuary Areas: Habitat that is so important or fragile where no spawning-bed fishing is allowed. Or,
2. Primary Spawning Bed Areas: Spawning-bed habitat that starts the season as closed to fishing but may be opened to fishing by management upon observation of adequate return so long as the fishery is monitored and orderly. Or,
3. Secondary Spawning Bed Areas: Spawning-bed habitat of lessor density that starts the season as open to fishing and may be closed to fishing only by emergency order. Or,
4. Migratory Areas: where salmon rarely spawn and where access points for public harvest will be encouraged.

The goal is to provide for long term spawning-bed protection that is reasonably calculated to maintain optimal sustainable yield for each anadromous system, while allowing the public adequate access for a reasonable fishing opportunity. This proposal seeks a balanced approach. The State of Alaska’s current policy on State land is unlimited growth of spawning-bed fishing that occurs oftentimes in systems that are not actively monitored. In many systems spawning-beds are not individually identified and categorized.

This proposal only provides for the framework of long-term spawning-bed protection. To become

meaningful the legislature would need to fund ADFG professionals to make the reasonable calculations and surveys for each system, one system at a time. Or the Board of Fish would call for proposals from private groups to make the designations. By approving this concept, the Board of Fish requests cooperation from the legislature, the Governor, and ADFG, and asks that they turn their immediate attention to high traffic and unmonitored spawning-bed fishing areas in the Susitna Drainage and along Cook Inlet’s West Side. It is time to start to implement a long-term spawning-bed protection scheme that is reasonably calculated to maintain optimal sustainable yield. Maintained abundance is the best way to address tension for access to salmon among user groups. 5 AAC 39.222 (c) (1) includes beautiful goals that are not in fact being implemented. The intend here is to begin to implement policy goals system by system.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Proposed that the Board of Fish address unlimited growth of spawning bed fishing, which is oftentimes not monitored by fishery managers, to provide for long-term spawning bed protection. The Cook Inlet area is being subjected to growth of directed spawning bed fishing. Without protection, on down cycle years there is the potential of over-fishing, causing severe damage to spawning bed populations. As spawning beds that are readily accessible become depleted, more trails are made and planes fly farther. In competition for salmon on their spawning beds, brush cover is being cut away to make room to operate gear and to make salmon accessible, causing irreparable damage to spawning bed areas. When fry hatch out, with depleted cover, they are more susceptible to predation. Moreover, heavily fished spawning bed areas usually lack sanitary facilities. In some instances, fishing techniques include trampling established nests to gain access to salmon. What is more, anglers going from one spawning bed to another risk transporting invasive vegetation directly to the spawning bed areas. Increasing spawning bed fishing pressure demands a reasonably calculated response.

From a legal point of view, the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires “long-term protection” for “essential fish habitats.” The phrase “essential fish habitat” is a defined term in the MSA that includes “spawning beds and rearing areas.” The MSA claims to the National Sovereign all anadromous species of the United States within the Exclusive Economic Zone, beyond the EEZ, and throughout their range. The Act permits a State to manage anadromous species so long as they adhere to “minimum conservation standards.” The State of Alaska is failing to provide long-term protection for essential fish habitat that is reasonably calculated to maintain optimal sustainable yield in the face of a largely unmonitored, ever-growing, spawning-bed fishery. The danger is that the 9th circuit court might one day rule that Alaska falls below the MSA’s required minimum conservation standards and order that the National Government take control.

Presently, Alaska’s management policy for Susitna king salmon can be called whipsaw management, where all spawning bed areas are closed for conservation now, in the hopes that king salmon spawning beds can be reopened to spawning bed fishing later, so that we can deplete them again. However, the law calls for practices that are reasonably calculated to achieve stability and sustainability. Because we have a larger population and more visitors, spawning bed protection for Cook Inlet has become practically and legally mandatory.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Chessik (EF-F19-108)

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**PROPOSAL 82**

**5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods; 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow two regular 12-hour commercial fishing periods per week, as follows:

Establish in all management plans that the commercial fisheries will fish on two regular 12 hour fishing periods per week.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The commercial fisheries is the only indicator and calibration of the test boat of the run strength and salmon species on a real time bases. Without regular 12 hour fishing periods the Department is basically managing blind as to the abundance. The fishery has numerous years of management without regular periods and the results have been consistent over-escapement of all species and lost harvest of surplus salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-102)

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**PROPOSAL 83**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Close all commercial fishing in Upper Cook Inlet, as follows:

For the last 8-10 years there has been less and less fish coming up the Susitna River. This has put the Upper Cook Inlet people at a very high disadvantage to put fish in their freezers and on their tables. This proposal will put a large enough number of fish into the Susitna River system so as to take all the streams up the Parks Hwy off the stock of concern list. We have gone long enough without being able to fish or feed our families. We shouldn't have to drive to the Kenai peninsula to fish. We can spread the fishing pressure out again. We shouldn't have to worry about having an accident trying to get to or from the Kenai to fish. This proposal is allocated and will help all Alaskans. It will help in bringing falling numbers of all salmon species up again. More streams produce more fish and everyone is happy.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allocation of all salmon into Susitna River drainage system.

**PROPOSED BY:** Neil DeWitt (EF-F19-043)

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**Cook Inlet Area-wide Sport and Personal Use (6 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 84**

**5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.**

Clarify the requirement of immediately releasing king salmon over 20 inches, as follows:

Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 56.122 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, the following are the general seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means that apply to sport fishing for finfish in the Kenai Peninsula Area: (1) king salmon (A) 20 inches or greater in length may not be retained or possessed; the season is closed for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; a king salmon caught that is 20 inches or greater in length must be released immediately without returning to shore; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; **(i) any king salmon netted from a vessel must be released from the net from the vessel immediately.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Anglers hooking king salmon from a vessel, dragging them to the beach or shallow water, then releasing causes undue harm to the fish. This puts additional stress on large fish in shallow water. These fish are then subject to injury and structural damage. Once at the shore, release time is unnecessarily delayed. This will provide additional language that will clear any gray area in the definition of “released immediately” in the regulation at this time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Hanes (HQ-F19-068)

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*\*This proposal will be heard at the LCI and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 9**

**5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet — Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.**

Establish a seasonal limit of five king salmon in Cook Inlet from October 1—April 30, as follows:

Establish a Cook Inlet winter King Salmon seasonal limit of 5 fish per angler between the dates of October 1 to April 30.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establish a seasonal limit for winter king salmon in Cook Inlet of 5 fish per person per winter season, this winter seasonal limit will not affect the annual seasonal cook inlet of King salmon, a person could catch 5 kings in the summer, & 5 kings in the winter season. King salmon stocks are at all time lows throughout the entire North Pacific Ocean.

**PROPOSED BY:** Andy Housh (EF-F19-035)

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*\*This proposal will be heard at the LCI and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 15**

**5 AAC 75.075. Sport fishing services and sport fishing guide services; salt water license and fresh water registration requirements; regulation of activities; 75.076. Sport fishing guide and operator reporting requirements; and 75.077. Sport fishing guide vessel registration requirements.**

Prohibit reselling of guide services by anyone other than licensed guides, as follows:

Only Licensed, & registered fishing guides & Guide businesses are allowed to sub-contract fishing trips to other licensed, & registered fishing guides & businesses.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unlicensed, & unregistered Fishing guide services & businesses, selling, & sub contracting fishing trips without a guide license or being a registered guide business. This is unfair competition to licensed guide businesses, & also a consumer protection issue to anglers, This is also a deterrent to the orderly development, & operational conduct of a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F19-053)  
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**PROPOSAL 85**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Limit the prosecution of fishing derbies, as follows:

Derbies should be prosecuted on quantified stocks where fish do not spawn, in times of abundance.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Seven derbies on the Kenai River. Derbies impact fish runs. Spawning kings are caught during the coho derbies. Same as king salmon crash. Derbies are not part of a sustainable fishery, consider enhancements.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs (HQ-F19-038)  
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**PROPOSAL 86**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Establish resident and non-resident annual limits for sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet Area, as follows:

Establish a combined Personal Use/Sport annual limit on the number of sockeye that can be retained.

Non-residents should be limited to 12 sockeye annually. Residents should be allowed a combined annual limit equal to personal use limits (which may need to increase a bit).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Some fishers take enough sockeye for their own use as well as enough to provide cooler-full amounts of salmon filets to relatives and friends Outside, including overseas. Daily limits are exceeded quite often, and the current rules contribute to crowded fishing conditions. The resource should be allocated in a somewhat rational fashion that reflects personal needs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Pratt (EF-F19-049)  
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**PROPOSAL 87**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan; and 5 AAC 77.545. Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dip Net Fishery Management Plan; 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.**

Eliminate the personal use salmon dip net fishery and prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon in the Kenai Peninsula area, as follows:

- No more catch and release of salmon.
- No more dipnet fishery.
- In Alaska, or Kenai peninsula Borough

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Red salmon/plankton eaters. They help set the pH of our oceans.

We are taking too many salmon, 6 million fish are harvested by sport fishing on the lakes and streams of the Kenai peninsula Borough, catch and release is 24/7 in this river system. We are dipnetting 7 million fish on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 13 million fish, the plankton eaters are what establish the pH levels of our oceans that's the entire run of red salmon.

If we continue to dipnet and fish the spawning grounds, and rest area in the river system we will lose our fish that keep the oceans pH levels safe.

- Proposed changes: no more catch and release.
- On the Kenai Peninsula Borough
- No more dipnet fishing (unregulated enforcement)
- No more dipnet fishing, there are no laws to enforce the welfare of our fish. No more dipnet net fishery on the Kenai Peninsula Borough ever.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ron Carmon (EF-F19-001)

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***Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (16 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 88**

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

Amend the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* to increase inriver goal ranges, as follows:

Inriver goal ranges are designed to distribute escapement throughout the SEG according to run size with allowances for sport harvest upstream from the sonar. Sport harvest above the sonar currently ranges from about 200,000 to 400,000 per year depending on the number of sockeye available in river. Higher harvest levels from 250,000 to 500,000 can be expected in the upstream sport fishery with the higher fishing effort expected to accompany consistently higher sonar counts. Proposed revisions of inriver goals are as follows:

Run strength	Old	New
< 2.3 mil	900,000 – 1,100,000	1,000,000 – 1,400,000
2.3-4.6 mil	1,000,000 – 1,300,000	1,200,000 – 1,600,000
> 4.6 mil	1,100,000 – 1,500,000	1,400,000 – 1,800,000
		1,400,000 – 2,000,000*

\* *Proposed Optimum Escapement Goal in years of Kenai late-run sockeye run sizes greater than 5 million.*

Proposed goals are derived as follows:

- Low end is based on SEG (750,000) plus 250,000 sport catch at low run size.
- High end is based on SEG (1,300,000) plus 500,000 sport catch at high run size.
- Tier widths are 400,000.

Proposed goals address two issues with the previous tiers which have developed over time.

1. The top end goals translate into escapements below the SEG due to growth in the sport fishery upstream from the sonar.
2. Narrow goal ranges are not practical to achieve given variable and uncertain run assessments.
3. The higher top end inriver goal during very large Kenai run sizes recognizes new information on high yields from large escapements and is designed to avoid overharvest of other Chinook and coho stocks in mixed stock commercial fisheries during years of high sockeye abundance.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Recent data on production from large escapements of Kenai River late run sockeye indicates that maximum sustained yield is produced at levels greater than previously thought. Accordingly, ADF&G has recently increased the SEG from 700,000 – 1,200,000 to 750,000 – 1,300,000. The ADF&G analysis actually indicated that maximum yield is produced by escapements around 1.2 million but the escapement goal review committee elected to make only a modest increase in the SEG from previous levels. Inriver goal ranges, as measured in the Kenai River Late-run Sockeye Management plan are based on the SEG and need to be revised accordingly.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F19-121)  
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**PROPOSAL 89**

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

Amend the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* to manage primarily for sport, personal use and guided sport anglers and increase the sustainable escapement goal range to 1,300,000-1,750,000 salmon, as follows:

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

(a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for **sport, personal use and guided sport fishermen** [COMMERCIAL USES] based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

(b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to (1) meet the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) **range of 1,300,000-1,750,000** [700,000- 1,200,000] late-run sockeye salmon; (2) achieve inriver goals as established by the board and measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19; and (3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the (SEG) range, in proportion to the size of the run.

(c) Based on preseason forecasts and inseason evaluations of the total Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return during the fishing season, the run will be managed as follows:

(1) at run strengths of less than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of **1,300,000 – 1,750,000** [900,000 – 1,100,000] sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19; and

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, unless the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, at which time the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; [THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, ALLOW EXTRA FISHING PERIODS OF NO MORE THAN 24 HOURS PER WEEK, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN 5 AAC 21.365;]

(2) at run strengths of 2,300,000 - 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of **1,300,000-1,750,000** [1,000,000 - 1,300,000] sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19 **between July 1 and August 14;**

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than **24** [51] hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; [AND

(C) THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY WILL BE CLOSED FOR ONE CONTINUOUS 36-HOUR PERIOD PER WEEK BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY AND 7:00 A.M. FRIDAY AND FOR ONE CONTINUOUS 24-HOUR PERIOD PER WEEK BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. MONDAY AND 7:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY;]

(3) at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of **1,300,000 - 1,750,000** [1,100,000 - 1,500,000] sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than **51** [84] hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; and

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

**and for one continuous 24-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 a.m. Tuesday and ending 7:00 a.m. Wednesday.**

(d) The sonar count levels established in this section may be lowered by the board if noncommercial fishing, after consideration of mitigation efforts, results in a net loss of riparian habitat on the Kenai River. The department will, to the extent practicable, conduct habitat assessments on a schedule that conforms to the Board of Fisheries (board) triennial meeting cycle. If the assessments demonstrate a net loss of riparian habitat caused by noncommercial fishermen, the department is requested to report those findings to the board and submit proposals to the board for appropriate modification of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver goal.

(e) Repealed 6/11/2005.

(f) Repealed 6/11/2005.

(g) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal, the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River as specified in 5 AAC 77.540.

(h) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal, the department shall manage the sport fishery on the Kenai River, except that portion of the Kenai River from its confluence with the Russian River to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1,800 yards downstream, as follows:

(1) fishing will occur seven days per week, 24 hours per day;

(2) the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is three per day, with six in possession, in the sport fishery, **the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 exceeds 1,750,000 fish** [UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THE ABUNDANCE OF LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON EXCEEDS 2,300,000 FISH], at which time the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit as the commissioner determines to be appropriate; and

(3) if the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is less than **1,300,000** [900,000] fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit, as the commissioner determines to be appropriate, for sockeye salmon in the sport fishery above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19.

(i) For the purposes of this section, "week" means a calendar week, a period of time beginning at 12:00:01 a.m. Sunday and ending at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday.

(j) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current late run sockeye salmon management plan is failing to provide adequate opportunity for inriver users. The Kenai River is the primary source for salmon for south central Alaska, the state's most populated area by far. The economy of the Kenai River valley is also directly linked to salmon fishing opportunity and is being hard hit by the lack of opportunity. Inriver salmon contribute vastly more revenue to the state than commercially caught fish and the Kenai River can no longer support the demands of so many user groups. Priority exists for commercial fishermen to target sockeye salmon destined for a vast number of Cook Inlet rivers, many of which are not accessible by sport, guided sport,

subsistence and personal use fishermen and none of which are so critically vital as a food source, a cultural identity and a way of life for so many Alaskans.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Adams

(HQ-F19-056)

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**PROPOSAL 90**

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

Amend the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* to manage primarily for sport, personal use and guided sport anglers; increase the sustainable escapement goal; and limit commercial fishing periods, as follows:

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

- (a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for **sport, personal use and guided sport fishermen** [COMMERCIAL USES] based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.
- (b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to

- (1) meet the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of **1,300,000 - 1,750,000** [700,000 - 1,200,000] late-run sockeye salmon;
- (2) achieve inriver goals as established by the board and measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19; and
- (3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the (SEG) range, in proportion to the size of the run.

(c) Based on preseason forecasts and inseason evaluations of the total Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return during the fishing season, the run will be managed as follows:

- (1) at run strengths of less than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon,
  - (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of **1,300,00 - 1,750,000** [900,000 - 1,100,000] sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19; and
  - (B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, unless the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, at which time the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; [THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, ALLOW EXTRA FISHING PERIODS OF NO MORE THAN 24 HOURS PER WEEK, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN 5 AAC 21.365;]
- (2) at run strengths of 2,300,000 - 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,
  - (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of **1,300,000 – 1,750,000** [1,000,000 - 1,300,000] sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19 between July 1 and August 14;
  - (B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum

inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 24 [51] hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; [AND (C) THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY WILL BE CLOSED FOR ONE CONTINUOUS 36-HOUR PERIOD PER WEEK BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY AND 7:00 A.M. FRIDAY AND FOR ONE CONTINUOUS 24-HOUR PERIOD PER WEEK BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. MONDAY AND 7:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY;]

- (3) at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,
- (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 1,300,000 – 1,750,000 [1,100,000 - 1,500,000] sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;
  - (B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 51 [84] hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; and
  - (C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for one continuous 24-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 a.m. Tuesday and ending 7:00 a.m. Wednesday.

...

(h) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal, the department shall manage the sport fishery on the Kenai River, except that portion of the Kenai River from its confluence with the Russian River to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1,800 yards downstream, as follows:

- (1) fishing will occur seven days per week, 24 hours per day;
- (2) the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is three per day, with six in possession, in the sport fishery, the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 exceeds 1,750,000 fish [UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THE ABUNDANCE OF LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON EXCEEDS 2,300,000 FISH], at which time the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit as the commissioner determines to be appropriate; and
- (3) if the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is less than 1,300,000 [900,000] fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit, as the commissioner determines to be appropriate, for sockeye salmon in the sport fishery above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current late run sockeye salmon management plan is failing to provide adequate opportunity for inriver users. The Kenai

River is the primary source for salmon for southcentral Alaska, the states most populated area by far. The economy of the Kenai River valley is also directly linked to salmon fishing opportunity and is being hard hit by the lack of opportunity. Inriver salmon contribute vastly more revenue to the state than commercially caught fish and the Kenai River can no longer support the demands of so many user groups. Priority exists for commercial fishermen to target sockeye salmon destined for a vast number of Cook Inlet rivers, many of which are not accessible by sport, guided sport, subsistence and personal use fishermen and none of which are so critically vital as a food source, a cultural identity and a way of life for so many Alaskans.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-108)

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**PROPOSAL 91**

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

Lower the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal, as follows:

First off, I would recommend that the goal for successful management of our fisheries should be based on harvest numbers, not on how high we can make the escapement levels. I believe that escapement should be set on a running average over time. If we know that an average escapement level of 874,276 sockeye produces a harvest 5.2 million, then each year’s escapement goal should be set to achieve a 10-year average of 874,276 fish. If we go over that amount in one year, then we have to go under by an equal amount the next year, so to speak. Exceeding the appropriate escapement level year after year has led to greatly reduced harvests.

Secondly, managers must have the flexibility to allow fishing time and area to make sure the harvest goals are achieved. Time and area cannot be micro-managed ahead of time by the BOF and then expect harvest and escapement goals to be met in season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Kenai River sockeye escapement and escapement goals are by far the biggest driver for managing Cook Inlet commercial fisheries and in recent years escapement levels have become so high that the fishing has suffered tremendously. Harvest capability for all salmon in Cook Inlet are dependent on management for Kenai River sockeye.

Looking back to when Cook Inlet was managed for high production, we see that escapement was much lower. The 10-year period of 1979-1988 saw an average actual escapement of 874,276 sockeye. The resulting harvest for the years 1984-1993 was 5.2 million sockeye. The most recent 10-year harvest averaged 2.6 million sockeye, exactly half what it was with lower escapement levels. By contrast, the parent years of 2004-2013 averaged 1,499,051 sockeye escapement to the Kenai River, nearly double the amount that it used to be.

At the very minimum, it can be said that higher escapement into the Kenai River has not helped the harvest levels and that lower escapement levels did not harm the run sizes. The only result of increasing the escapement has been to stifle the commercial fishing industry.

**PROPOSED BY:** Teague Vanek

(EF-F19-007)

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**PROPOSAL 92**

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

Reduce the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon escapement goal range to 450,000-750,000 salmon, as follows:

Large returns came from 450,000 to 750,000 escapements. Return to these numbers. Since the escapement has doubled, returns are half.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Kenai River sockeye escapement. A 1-1 spawner ratio could lead to a crash. Too many spawners equal smaller returns. In times of abundance, all users benefit.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs

(HQ-F19-036)

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**PROPOSAL 93**

**5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; and 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Manage the personal use dip net fishery on the lower Kenai River subject to achieving the inriver goal, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 21.360 (g) as below

**5 AAC 21.360 (g) The department shall manage the personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River subject to the requirement of achieving the current in river goal as follows: If the commercial fisheries are restricted during the week from Sunday through the mandatory set net closure, the affected personal use fishery shall close as of 7:00 AM Friday, reopening at such time as a regular commercial period is fished.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is no paired restriction for dip net PU and commercial fisheries in the Kenai River. Focusing the management of the PU fishery on the SEG, while the commercial fishery is managed to an In-River goal, as stipulated in the current management plan is inherently unequal, and forces unequal distribution of the conservation burden.

My assumption is that a MAJORITY within all user groups would actually prefer to have harvest opportunity rather than fish swimming by; it may be the better option for the board to make all fisheries equally based upon achieving an SEG. The proposal I'm submitting here is based upon the scenario in which the BOF decides to retain an In-River goal.

A paired restriction is necessary to the management goal of managing primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. Beginning on July 20th, commercial fisheries may be further restricted or closed based upon a forecasted In-River Goal. A management decision to restrict the

commercial fishery shall lead to the closure in the affected dip net fishery until such time as the commercial fishery has been reopened.

This restriction / closure may not seem like an equally paired restriction, however, excellent opportunities still exist in the sport fishery, with bag limits and opportunity more closely aligned to a stated objective of achieving an In-River goal. A complete closure of the commercial fisheries should lead to a closure in the sport fishery.

The intent of this proposal is to begin to share the burden of conservation at the current level of an In-River goal. Ultimately in order to promote regular openers for all commercial gear types as well as the PU fishery, managing to a SEG may be preferable to In-River goals.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nathan Hoff (EF-F19-105)  
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**PROPOSAL 94**

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

Implement an additional 24-hour closure in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 Kenai River sockeye salmon, as follows:

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

...

- (c) (3) at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,
- (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 1,100,000-1,500,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;
- (B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 84 hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; and
- (C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday **and for one continuous 24-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Monday and 7:00 a.m. Wednesday;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the 2017 BOF meeting for Upper Cook Inlet Fin Fish the board approved the elimination of the mandatory 24 hour commercial set net closure on “Tuesday” when the Kenai River Sockeye run strength is expected to be greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon.

A Department assessment of the Kenai River Sockeye run strength greater than 4.6 million initiates much more allowable potential commercial fishing hours for harvesting this bumper crop of additional surplus fish. The “Tuesday” 24 hour mandatory set net closure window in earlier management plans was designed to allow some of that surplus return to reach the Kenai River and provide additional harvest opportunities for the Personal Use fishers and the Sport fishers inriver.

There was no biological or scientific reasoning to support the elimination of the “Tuesday” 24 hour closure window. This action resulted in a major loss of opportunity of surplus sockeye salmon in the Inlet to reach the Kenai River for the other two major user groups to share in the bounty. This resource is “owned” by all participants in each user group and the noncommercial users were unfairly penalized when surplus numbers reach record levels and the closure window was eliminated.

This requested change in the management plan reinstates the “Tuesday” 24 hour set net closure window during periods when greater than 4.6 million Kenai River sockeye are expected.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Journal/Gary Barnes (HQ-F19-111)  
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### **PROPOSAL 95**

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

Amend the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* to remove and replace the provision to manage for commercial uses with a provision to manage for commercial, sport, and personal use groups, as follows:

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

(a) [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE KENAI RIVER LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON STOCKS PRIMARILY FOR COMMERCIAL USES BASED ON ABUNDANCE.]

**The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks based on abundance and acknowledge the value of all three major user groups - commercial, sport, & personal use - as viable management methods utilized to achieve a healthy and sustainable fishery.** The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since statehood the Cook Inlet - Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon stocks have been managed primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. Over the past 50 years the state’s population has grown from 200,000 to 737,000 (2018) and a vast majority of those new residents (the resource owners) reside in the Southcentral region of the state. It is acknowledged that nearly a half century ago the only viable means of managing salmon escapement numbers into our river systems, and specifically the Kenai & Kasilof rivers, was by commercial fishing set nets and drift nets.

The state has added more than a half million additional residents where a major portion of those rely on the resources of Cook Inlet, the Kenai Peninsula, and the Susitna/Knik regions to provide important recreational value as well as a vital food source for Alaskan harvesters. In addition, the visitor and tourism-related businesses and services, e.g. guides, lodges, & retail processors associated with the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon fishery have grown exponentially as well as seen major increases in the sport, personal use and subsistence user numbers. These fishery

resources provide a vital infusion of money into local economies as well as create hundreds of seasonal and permanent jobs for Alaskans.

The management approach of “managing the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance” as currently dictated in 5 AAC 21.360 (a) is outdated and creates a very disproportionate opportunity for the harvesting of these resources in today’s world. Sport anglers and Personal Use harvesters continue to be ignored at present as a very capable and dependable management “tool” for controlling escapement numbers into the Kenai River no different than using commercial nets to harvest surplus fish. Whereas the commercial fishing industry of Cook Inlet has not created a single additional new job from the moment Limited Entry was adopted in 1974 and the number of commercial participants were frozen, the economic value of Cook Inlet fish resources to Alaska and the local communities and businesses relying on sport and personal use has grown and expanded at a very healthy rate year after year for decades.

The Department must adapt to a changing world with changing needs and priorities as it relates to our resources, economic development, and prosperity for Alaska. The proposed changes in this AAC wording (and philosophy) is to recognize the true value of each of the three major user groups and allow the Department to work between Commercial and Sport divisions to provide a more equitable distribution of surplus harvest based on the value not only to each individual user in each group but to the overall economic value each group contributes to Alaska’s local economy. The Alaska State Constitution mandates the Department manage our fishery resources for all people of this state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Journal/Gary Barnes (HQ-F19-112)  
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**PROPOSAL 96**

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

Increase the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal, increase the sport limits, and pair closures, as follows:

Raise the Sockeye Escapement goal above the sonar in the Kenai River to 1.1 million to 1.3 million allowing a minimum of 400,000 fish for the sport fishing harvest

Draft reg: Increase daily bag limit to 6 fish per day/12 in possession. If fish are late, sockeye sport fishing will remain open on par with commercial fishing and both will close at the same time.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increase Kenai River Sockeye Allocation for Sport Fishing. Ref: ADFG Subsistence Report dtd 2014. It states the urban population is 612,475 (83%): sport fishermen harvested only 0.1% or the total fish resource. There are approximately +/- 300,000 resident sport fishermen. This is while commercial fishermen harvested 98.5 of the resource statewide. In 2014, there were 513 set gill net permits and 496 drift gill net permits that fished the Cook Inlet. This does not meet the intent of the Alaska Constitution Article VIII NATURAL RESOURCES that the natural resources are to be managed as a public trust providing for maximum use consistent with the public interests to provide people with

common access for resources and based on sustainable yield . The 98.5% versus 0.1% isn't meeting the needs of the public maximum use benefiting all people with common access to the resource. The Kenai River is one of the few places where the public can gain road access to harvest fish.

To drive 300 miles round trip on the hopes of timing it just right to catch 3 sockeye per day is not economical. ADFG tries to manage the fish run to dribble fish into the river allowing maximum commercial harvest while providing minimum fish escapement. Management of the resource needs to satisfy both parties and not leave one user group to pick over the remains of the salt water harvest. There needs to be more fish in the river in greater amounts that will support a consistent sport fish harvest during the fish runs. I enjoy catching and eating salmon, not just fishing for it. My purpose is to harvest enough fish to last my family until next season. Based on the numbers above, sports fishermen are not receiving a fair allocation of the sockeye salmon resource.

I contend that 300,000 sports license holders harvesting 0.1% of the resource versus commercial permit holders harvesting 98.5% does not comply with the intent of our constitution.

Furthermore, when fish were late as in 2018 with 51 % of the run arriving in August after the sockeye sports fishing was closed, the commercial permit holders were allowed to continue fishing. Only later in August was sports fishing reopened for a short period. Both parties should have been given equal opportunity to harvest the resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Walt Arthur (HQ-F19-133)

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**PROPOSAL 97**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create sport and personal use allocations of sockeye on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, as follows:

Under season limits in the regulation book.

**Kenai River Sockeye dip net season limit is xxxxxx fish.**

**Kasilof River Sockeye dip net season limit is xxxxxx fish.**

**Kenai River Sockeye sports fishery season limit is xxxxxx fish.**

**Kasilof River Sockeye sports fishery season limit is xxxxxx fish.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to set a total allocation on the number of sockeye salmon for the Kenai and Kasilof dip net fishery and the Kenai and Kasilof inriver sport fisheries. By allocating a number to each fishery, and placing these numbers into management plans, these users would know how many fish they could harvest. This would hopefully eliminate the ongoing practice of always taking fish from another user group. I believe that the BOF and ADF&G have neglected their duty to the State of Alaska and our local community and users of this resource by not setting annual limits. The lack of a defined annual limit just adds fuel to the “fish wars” fire by not addressing this subject. For example, if the Kenai River dip net fishery had a harvest limit, they would know these fish were theirs and they could form rules to harvest accordingly. The current dip net fishery on the Kenai River is very successful. The same goes for the Kenai River sport fishery. If growth

controls are not implemented on these user groups, the Kenai and Kasilof salmon fisheries will eventually fail or they will mandate the entire commercial fishery be closed to meet their unlimited demands. Without limits, as these fisheries are allowed to grow, we will witness the depletion of the salmon, and increased habitat destruction (note the Kenai River is already classified as an impaired water body during July).

In order for this regulation to work, an accurate daily count of the harvested salmon must be accounted for. Each user group can derive a harvest accountability system that works for them.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every (HQ-F19-016)

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**PROPOSAL 98**

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

Establish an annual limit for the Kenai River sockeye salmon sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 21.360(h) would be amended to add a new subsection (4) as follows:

**(4) from July 1 – December 31, an annual limit of no more than 21 sockeye salmon may be retained in the entire Kenai River drainage sport fishery.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** According to 5 AAC 21.360(a), the department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance.

In recent years, because of poor king salmon runs to the Kenai River, many king salmon sport fishers and guides have concentrated their efforts on harvesting sockeye salmon. When Kenai River sockeye salmon runs are estimated to exceed 2.3 million fish, the department has the option of increasing the daily bag and possession limit as the commissioner determines to be appropriate. Often times, this means the bag and possession limits are increased to 6 sockeye salmon per day or 12 in possession. If a sport fisherman were to successfully fish the Kenai River for a week straight, this means they could harvest as many as 84 fish. For residents, this is in addition to liberal personal use limits of 25 fish per head of household plus 10 additional fish for each dependent.

This proposal seeks to put an annual limit on the number of sockeye salmon that can be harvested in the Kenai River sport fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every (HQ-F19-021)

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**PROPOSAL 99**

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

Establish mandatory closed inriver fishing windows for sockeye salmon, as follows:

In order to establish a true pass-through fishery, the in-river fishery requires windows also.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Windows do not achieve desired effect. This re-allocation hamstrings managers in sockeye management. Mandatory closures complicate management. More kings could spawn if they pass through.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs (HQ-F19-033)  
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**PROPOSAL 100**

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

Amend the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* to open commercial fishing periods to stay within ten percent of daily inseason run projections, as follows:

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

...

(b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to

(1) meet the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 700,000-1,200,000 late-run sockeye salmon;

(2) achieve inriver goals as established by the board and measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19; and

(3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the (SEG) range, in proportion to the size of the run; **and**

**(4) manage and initiate allowable fishing times based on not exceeding a 10% margin of deviation above or below the calculated run size projection as it applies from day to day.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** For a great number of years the commercial division of fisheries for the Cook Inlet region has initiated early season management harvest strategies and fishing hours based on the pre-season forecasts. And as has been the case repeatedly in recent times, this initial aggressive harvest strategy based on theoretical expectations has resulted in major deficits in Kenai River late run Sockeye salmon early escapement numbers and major shortfalls based on realtime run projections.

5 AAC 21.360 (b) (3) mandates that the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon shall be managed to distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the (SEG) range, in proportion to the size of the run.

The 21st century is creating management challenges unlike any the Department has had to face in the past. Climate change has created El Nino cycles with increasing frequency (every 3-4 years) and lasting 16 months or longer. Alaska has not escaped the detrimental impacts on our resources from ever-increasing ocean temperatures having significant effects on the food chain which equates to fewer returning salmon stocks in many years. Biologists have no control over the severity of these negative impacts on our fisheries nor do they have the means to assess potentially lower returning numbers in advance of the salmon returning to the region that may be a result of at-sea impacts from known and unknown variables.

So managing the commercial harvest of Cook Inlet - Kenai River sockeye salmon stocks at the front end of the run based on pre-season expectations is not a viable scientific method in today's world and results in excessive compensations in management harvest strategy as shortfalls in projection and escapement rise because the numbers supporting that method were not valid or dependable in the early season.

Note the word evenly in the AAC. We have not followed that requirement of the plan and have routinely over-harvested a disproportionate percentage of the front end of the run with this approach. With the flexibility of the management team to choose when and how often commercial fishing will occur, there is no reason not to adopt a scientific management plan based on realtime numbers for inriver counts and the day to day run projection. Minimizing excessive harvest actions and then compensations for shortfalls is a benefit to all three user groups - commercial, sport, & personal use. It is called more stability and reliability for users.

It is time to execute the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan on the realtime numbers as they are available each day. The purpose of this proposed change is to manage commercial harvest fishing hours based on the Department's new goal to stay within a fixed amount of deviation from the daily realtime run projection without any speculation or unsubstantiated assumptions applied.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Journal/Gary Barnes (HQ-F19-110)  
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**PROPOSAL 101**

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

Amend the preamble to the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* by removing minimize language and adding a provision for common property fishery harvest, as follows:

5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. (a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES TO MINIMIZE THE HARVEST OF NORTHERN DISTRICT COHO, LATE-RUN KENAI RIVER KING, AND KENAI RIVER COHO SALMON STOCKS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PERSONAL USE, SPORT, AND GUIDED SPORT FISHERMEN WITH A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST SALMON RESOURCES] **The department shall also manage the common property fisheries with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Delete unnecessary language in the Cook Inlet salmon management plans that restricts the flexibility for the managers to manage on a real time basis based on in season abundance to harvest the surplus salmon. This language has resulted in tens of millions of harvestable salmon going unharvested and negatively affects the commercial fishing industry, communities, national food source, economies and also decreases future salmon production resulting from the effects of over escapement. The sports fishery has a reasonable opportunity for the fact that salmon run in the thousands of streams in the Cook Inlet drainage from May to October and most all are open to sports fishing. If one system is not open

for escapement reasons a sports fisherman has many other system they can fish. In comparison the commercial fisherman, when restricted or closed down, has no other area to fish because they are restricted to the areas and their gear type by their limited entry permit they own. There is unfair and has no parity in reasonable opportunity between commercial and recreational fisheries under the current management plans.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-099)  
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**PROPOSAL 102**

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

Amend the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* to manage for the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal and replace inriver goals with allocation ranges, as follows:

- Add new sentence to 5 AAC 21.360 Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan
- (b)(3) In any year when the number of spawners exceeds 1,030,000, the following year the department shall manage to the lower boundary (700,000) of the escapement goal.**
  - (c)(1)(A) remove and replace with a direct allocation of up to 100,000 or xxx,xxx**
  - (c)(2)(A) remove and replace with a direct allocation of up to 200,000 or xxx,xxx**
  - (c)(3)(A) remove and replace with a direct allocation of up to 300,000 or xxx,xxx**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye salmon escapement goals. Consecutive 1,030,000 or larger back-to-back spawners lowers the yield available in successive years for all users. Many departmental, North Pacific Management Council and independent salmon research papers indicate that when years of high (1,030,000) plus spawners should be followed by low spawning abundance. “1) high spawning abundances in current and prior brood years is associated with low productivity (log recruits-per-spawner), 2) maximum productivity appears to be associated with low spawning abundance in the brood year and spawning abundance (near 1 million in the) prior brood year, and 3) spawning abundances either above or below this level in the prior brood year are associated with reduced population productivity.” Cunningham, 2019. This finding is in agreement with the Brood Interaction model by Carlson & Tarbox in 1998. Willette’s escapement goal analysis, back-to-back 1,030,000 or larger spawner into the Kenai River do not achieve maximum or even near maximum yield for any user group. In any year(s) with over 1,030,000 spawners, the next year should be near the bottom of the recommended escapement range of spawners. Anytime the number of spawners exceeds 1,030,000, the next year should be at or near the bottom of the escapement (spawners) range. The current escapement (spawners) range is a 700,000 lower boundary to a 1,200,000 upper boundary with an SMSY value of 950,000 spawners. The new recommended escapement goal is a 750,000 lower boundary to a 1,300,000 upper boundary with an SMSY value of 1,025,000. To avoid these 1,030,000 plus spawners back-to-back in the late-run Kenai River Sockeye salmon, there are several regulatory changes recommended.

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F19-093)  
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**PROPOSAL 103**

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

Make numerous amendments to the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Change SEG in (b) (2) to 600,000 - 1,000,000 sockeye salmon

Add to (b) (2) ADFG needs to obtain funding when possible to put additional sonars between RM 48-50 and RM 78-80 so an accurate count of sockeye can be established on the Skilak and Kenai Lakes. A counter below RM 5 would help with catch data and real time management as well.

Amend (c) (1) At run strengths of 3.5 million sockeye salmon or less;

Amend (c) (1) (A) The Department shall manage for an in river goal of 800,000-1,000,000 sockeye salmon. When King Salmon need to be preserved, the drift fishery will be used first to manage run goals. Remaining should stay traditional. Department may use EO's to update real time run information.

Eliminate (c) (2) in its entirety.

Replace (c) (2) At a run strength above 3.5 million sockeye;

Replace (A) The department shall manage for an in-river sockeye salmon run between 900,000-1,200,000. When King Salmon need to be preserved the drift fishery will be used first if possible to manage the run.

Eliminate (c) (2) (B & C) in entirety.

Eliminate all of (c) (3) in its entirety.

Amend (h) (1) to read; Fishing will occur 7 days a week, from 7:00am until 7:00pm.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The tri-level of trigger points in this regulation for this or that, makes it almost impossible to manage a multi-use fishery. Time to make the process much simpler so the department can manage runs in real time, instead of projections which are now managing them. Good management requires flexibility. There is almost none in this regulation. A two-tier system would be much more efficient at making easier management practices. Management/Department has no idea how many spawners go into Skilak or Kenai lake. Only best guess estimates. By placing sonars between mile 48-50 and 78-80 would give us loads more info of how the run is really dispersed through the system. Over-escapement on the now more turbid Kenai is resulting in much smaller fry coming out of the Kenai Lake and River and much lower survival rates. The dip net fishery needs to have separate/opposite times on the rivers from the commercial fisheries, for safety, less conflict and easier management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark & Elbridge Walker

(EF-F19-119)

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**Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan (11 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 104**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Adopt an optimal escapement goal and amend the paired restrictions in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Adopt Kenai Late Run King Salmon Conservation and Management Plan revisions as follows:

<b>Sustainable Escapement Goal</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>13,500 – 27,000 big fish</b>
<b>Optimum Escapement Goal</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>16,500 – 30,000 big fish</b>

**Preseason Assessment**

The Department shall, using all available information, provide the public with a projection of total run size of Late-Run Kenai River King Salmon at the earliest possible time. Prior to June 20 make a determination of whether projected run of Late-Run Kenai River King Salmon is large enough to support the full amount of fishing mortality provided for in the Combined Kasilof Salmon Management Plan, the Late-Run Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan and a full season of fishing with bait and retention of Kenai River king salmon of all sizes in the Kenai River sport fishery.

**Early Season Conservation Regime**

- A. If the projected run is large enough to support full fisheries while also meeting the King OEG, then the Department may implement normal fisheries by existing regulation:

<u>Escapement within or above OEG range (with normal fishing)</u>	
<u>Kenai River King Sport Fishery</u>	<u>Set Net Commercial Fishery</u>
Bait allowed / Retention of all sizes allowed	Inriver goals, EO limits & windows as per Kenai late Run Sockeye Management Plan based on sockeye run size tiers

- B. If the projected run is not large enough to support full fisheries, then the Department shall implement a front-end Conservation Period management strategy:

<u>Kenai River King Sport Fishery (see note 1)</u>	<u>Set Net Commercial Fishery (see note 2)</u>
<u>Within OEG Range</u>	
Bait prohibited, no size restriction; or, Bait prohibited, size restriction (36" TL); or,  Bait prohibited, no retention.	No more than 24 hours per week No more than 18 hours per week, restrictions on number and depth of nets 600 ft fishery No more than 12 hours per week, one deep or two shallow nets, 600 ft fishery exempt but limited to one net per permit
<u>Between lower bound of SEG range &amp; lower bound of OEG range</u>	
Bait prohibited, no retention; or,  Closed	No more than 12 hours per week, one deep or two shallow nets, 600 ft fishery exempt but limited to one net per permit Closed
<u>Below SEG range</u>	
Closed	Closed

*1 Kasilof regulations identical to those implemented for the Kenai River.*

*2 The prohibition of bait and the prohibition of retention are the triggers for paired restrictions in the Kenai and Kasilof area set net fishery effective June 25: Paired restrictions are applied to the entire Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery (including the East Foreland Section).*

Personal use fishery regulation paired as per the existing plan at any point in the fishing season: No bait in sport fishery triggers no retention of kings in the PU fishery.

**In Season Regime**

In-season assessments of Kenai king run strength are made in July by ADF&G based on a combination of sonar count, harvest and other fishery data. Confidence in estimates increases as the run progresses from the 25% point (July 17 on average) through the 50% point (July 26 on average). Based on in-season assessment of run strength using all available data, the following management actions may be taken:

- A. If the projected run is large enough to support full fisheries, then the Department may implement normal fisheries according to existing regulation:

Run size forecast within or above OEG range

<u>Kenai River King Sport Fishery</u>	<u>Set Net Commercial Fishery</u>
Bait allowed / Retention of all sizes allowed	Inriver goals, EO limits & windows as per Kenai late Run Sockeye Management Plan based on sockeye run size tiers

- B. If the projected run is not large enough to support full fisheries, then the Department shall implement an in-season conservation management strategy:

<u>Kenai River King Sport Fishery*</u>	<u>Set Net Commercial Fishery</u>
<u>Within OEG range:</u>	
Bait prohibited, no size restriction; or,	No more than 24 hours plus net restrictions on number and depth of nets. 600 ft. exempt but only one net per permit.
Bait prohibited, size restriction (36" TL); or,	No more than 18 hours plus net restrictions on number and depth of nets. 600 ft. exempt but only one net per permit.
Bait prohibited, no retention.	No more than 12 hours plus net restrictions on number and depth of nets. 600 ft. exempt but only one net per permit.
<u>Below OEG range</u>	
Closed	Closed

\* *Kasilof regulations identical to those implemented for the Kenai River.*

**August Regime**

- Sport fishery closes after July 31.
- Continue to operate East Side Set Net Fishery under paired restrictions in place when the sport fishery ends with a bait restriction.
- Under existing SEG, continue to operate under paired restrictions unless escapement is projected to exceed 20,000 big Kenai kings (approximate midpoint of SEG range).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Board previously adopted paired restrictions in the Kenai River sport fishery and East Side Set Net commercial fishery to share the conservation burden during periods of low king abundance. However, the current regulations do not provide adequate protection of escapement or equitably share the king conservation burden – the commercial set net fishery continues to catch a large percentage of the

combined sport and commercial harvest share as king runs continue to languish at low levels. During low king runs, inadequate early season limitations risk inseason closures which are disastrous to both the sport and commercial fishery. The current plan does not adequately protect late run kings during the last week of June while they are moving and staging outside of river mouths or in August when a significant proportion of the large females are returning. Finally, the current SEG is not based on maximum sustained production which is the appropriate standard for the sport priority king run – rather it is based on a lesser maximum sustained yield standard which favors an increased allocation to the commercial fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F19-122)

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### **PROPOSAL 105**

#### **5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Increase the Kenai River late-run king salmon sustainable escapement goal range to 15,000-35,000 salmon, as follows:

- (a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency or inriver restrictions.
- (b) The department shall manage the late run of Kenai River king salmon to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of **15,000-35,000** [13,500 - 27,000] king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer as described in this section.
- (c) In the sport fishery,
  - (1) if the sustainable escapement goal is projected to be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, extend the sport fishing season up to seven days during the first week of August;
  - (2) from July 1 through July 31, a person may not use more than one single hook in the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake;
  - (3) that portion of the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a nonmotorized vessel on Mondays in July; for purposes of this paragraph, a nonmotorized vessel is one that does not have a motor on board.
- (d) If the projected late-run king salmon escapement is less than **15,000** [13,500] king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer, the department shall
  - (1) close the sport fisheries in the Kenai River and in the salt waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point to the taking of king salmon;
  - (2) close the commercial drift gillnet fishery in the Central District within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River; and
  - (3) close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Continued weak returns of Kenai River king salmon. The trend towards lower numbers of returning king salmon on the Kenai River has resulted in lower escapement goals. Sustainability of these iconic fish stocks is in jeopardy.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Adams (HQ-F19-057)  
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**PROPOSAL 106**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Increase the Kenai River late-run king salmon sustainable escapement goal range to 15,000–35,000 salmon, as follows:

Amend - 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan (a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency or inriver restrictions. (b) The department shall manage the late run of Kenai River king salmon to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of **15,000 – 35,000** [13,500 - 27,000] king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer as described in this section. (c) In the sport fishery, (1) if the sustainable escapement goal is projected to be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, extend the sport fishing season up to seven days during the first week of August; (2) from July 1 through July 31, a person may not use more than one single hook in the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake; (3) that portion of the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a nonmotorized vessel on Mondays in July; for purposes of this paragraph, a nonmotorized vessel is one that does not have a motor on board. (d) If the projected late-run king salmon escapement is less than **15,000** [13,500] king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer, the department shall (1) close the sport fisheries in the Kenai River and in the salt waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point to the taking of king salmon; (2) close the commercial drift gillnet fishery in the Central District within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River; and (3) close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Continued weak returns of Kenai River king salmon. The trend towards lower numbers of returning king salmon on the Kenai River has resulted in lower escapement goals. Sustainability of these iconic fish stocks is in jeopardy.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-107)  
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**PROPOSAL 107**

**5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow the use of bait and modify maximum size above Slikok Creek when the escapement goal range is projected to be exceeded, as follows:

~NEW LANGUAGE: 21.359 (c)(1)

(c)In the sport fishery,

(1) if the sustainable escapement goal is projected to be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, liberalize the sport fishery using one or more of the following methods after July 1, except for that portion from an ADF&G marker located approximately 300 yards downstream of Slikok Creek upstream to an ADF&G marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake which can be liberalized after July 15: [extend the sport fishing season up to seven days during the first week of August]

- (i) extend the sport fishing season up to seven days during the first week of August;
- (ii) allow the use of bait;
- (iii) modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issues are overcrowding of anglers in the lower Kenai River and that there is not enough opportunity available for the harvest of King salmon above Slikok Creek in years of high abundance. Currently, the lower Kenai river is overcrowded during the king fishery and allowing the department to liberalize fishing opportunity upstream of Slikok Creek would ease this congestion and thus would also provide the department additional tools for management of the fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ted Wellman & Bill Tappan (EF-F19-039)

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**PROPOSAL 108**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Reduce the number of hours the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery may be fished in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* paired restrictions, as follows:

(3) in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery, excluding the East Foreland Section, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 21.360(c)(1)(B), (2)(B), and (3)(B), based on the abundance of sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers,

(A) if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(A) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than **24** hours per week **equal to two 12-hour contiguous periods**, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, during which the number of set gillnets operated may also be restricted to either

- (i) four set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length, 105 fathoms in aggregate length, and 29 meshes in depth, or two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or
- (ii) two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth or one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes

in depth; set gillnets used that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or

(B) if the use of bait and the retention of king salmon are prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(B) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more **than one 12-hour contiguous period** per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Because the *Kenai Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* is managed primarily for sport and guided sport uses, we feel that the current restrictions put on both sport and commercial fishing on the Kenai during times of inadequate king salmon escapement are not in parity with one another. Sportfish restrictions are defined by bait and retention, the gillnet commercial fishery restrictions are defined by the opportunity time to fish.

Restricting the use of bait is a greater restriction on the sport fishery than a restricting the gillnet fishery to 48 hours per week. Likewise, restricting the use of bait and the retention of king salmon is a greater restriction on the sport fishery than restricting the gillnet fishery to 24 hours per week.

Additionally, there is no guidance for frequency or duration for fishing periods for the gillnet fishery, only a restriction in the total number of hours fished per week. This allows the gillnet fishery to fish often and for varying durations while the sport fishery is restricted around the clock to bait or retention. We would like to see the number and duration of fishing periods defined.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Professional Guide Association (HQ-F19-072)

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### **PROPOSAL 109**

#### **5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow set gillnet fishing periods in the Kenai and Kasilof sections to be managed independently when under “paired” restrictions, as follows:

5 AAC 21.359 (e) (3) (A) if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1) (A) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods **in the Kenai and Kasilof sections may be managed independently based on abundance and** are open for no more than 48 hours per week **within each section**, with a 36 - hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, during which the number of set gillnets operated may also be restricted to either

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 21.363 Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan (a) (3) in adopting the specific management plans described in (2) of the subsection the board will consider: (a) (3) (C) the various needs and demands of the user groups of the salmon resources in upper Cook Inlet: We have previously submitted this proposal in the last two UCI board cycles for consideration. This proposal would modify the way restrictive hours are utilized with the current 49.85 statute miles that comprise the eastside set - net fishery. The current plan is inefficient in that it does not allow managers to allow harvesting of abundant

sockeye stocks in their respective sections; In the Kasilof section when Kasilof River sockeye stocks are present early in the season; In the Kenai section when Kenai sockeye stocks are present latter. When restrictive conservation directives are in place opening all sections at once fails to consider the objective of targeting abundant sockeye while passing Kenai bound King salmon. Therefore managers are reluctant to open either section which results in lost sockeye harvest opportunities for either section. We are asking for more flexibility in that managers would be able to manage the hours in a more targeted manner. Affording a limited opportunity to sustain an economically viable setnet fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent Fishermen’s Association/Paul A. Shadura II  
(EF-F19-130)

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**PROPOSAL 110**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Modify "paired" restrictions to limit gear in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery only when retention of king salmon is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery, as follows:

(3) in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 21.360(c)(1)(B), (2)(B), and (3)(B), based on the abundance of sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers,

(A) if the use of bait **and the retention of king salmon are** prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(A) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 48 hours per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, during which the number of set gillnets operated may also be restricted to either

- (i) four set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length, 105 fathoms in aggregate length, and 29 meshes in depth, or two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or
- (ii) two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth or one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At the 2014 Upper Cook Inlet BOF paired restrictions were established for the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan. The paired restrictions were introduced when there was a SEG for ALL sizes of King Salmon. In 2017 ADF&G changed the SEG for Late-Run King Salmon to only include chinook 75cm METF and longer.

From 2005 to 2018 the In-River Sport fishery has been the primary harvester of 75cm and longer chinook salmon. During that time, the In-River sport fishery took 71% of the harvest of large kings and the ESSN took 29%.

The Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries states when it is necessary to restrict fisheries on salmon stocks where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in **close proportion** to each fisheries' respective use.

With the In-River Sport fishery being the primary harvester of large chinook they should be the first to be restricted in times of conservation. There should be NO ACTION in the set gill net commercial fishery UNTIL the In-River sport fishery is restricted to no retention.

**PROPOSED BY:** Amber and Travis Every (EF-F19-080)

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**PROPOSAL 111**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Remove “paired” restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, as follows:

**Eliminate "paired restrictions" 5 AAC 21.359 (d)(2) drift (3) set gillnet fishing (e)(3) (A) and (B) subsections**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I want the board to address the "Paired Restrictions". Basing the management of commercial sockeye fishing on the sport fishing king run unfairly and unscientifically ties the biologists hands to correctly manage either, according to the "best scientific information available". The "best scientific information available" is a federal mandate. "The best interests of the economy and well being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle" is a charge to the commissioner by Alaska State Statute. The "Paired Restrictions" on the drift fleet and the set gillnet sockeye fishery are both unscientific, unfair and most likely illegal. The biologists agree, and I can produce published articles from the local biologists if needed, that these restrictions have resulted in the over escapement of sockeye salmon in both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Over escapement means poor future runs and smaller fish, according to these same local biologists.

**PROPOSED BY:** Karen McGahan (HQ-F19-013)

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**PROPOSAL 112**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Remove gear restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet fishery when the use of bait is prohibited in the sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 21.359 (e) (3) (A)

- (i) DELETE
- (ii) DELETE
- (iii) DELETE

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current restriction to set net gear have not been used and are unproven. When openings are warranted all setnet gear is needed to harvest a limited opening. A reduction of 3.5 feet of linear gear does little to conserve king salmon when they are present.

**PROPOSED BY:** South K-Beach Independent Fishermen’s Association/Paul A. Shadura II  
(EF-F19-131)

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**PROPOSAL 113**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan; and 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Establish paired restrictions to close personal use fisheries when commercial fisheries are closed, as follows:

The illegal personal use fishery is not part of the MSA. The personal use fishery should be closed if the commercial fishery is closed.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Paired restrictions. This proposal would allow for uniform harvest throughout the run. Sharing the burden of conservation should include all users. The personal use fishery is unlimited and unsustainable.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs (HQ-F19-034)

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**PROPOSAL 114**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Modify the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

**LR King Salmon Management Plan**

**Goals**

SEG 13,500 – 27,000 (midpoint 20,250)  
OEG 15,500 – 27,000 (midpoint 21,250)

**Lower River (Downstream from the Slikok Sanctuary July 1 – July 31)**

- 1) If the preseason forecast projects the inriver run to be less than the lower bound of the SEG:  
    Closed
  
- 2) If the preseason forecast projects the inriver run will exceed the lower bound of the SEG, the department may begin the season:
  - a) Closed, or
  - b) With no bait / no retention of king salmon except for king salmon less than 20in. in length, or

- c) With no bait / retention if projected inriver run is within the OEG range.  
Maximum size 36 inches in length
- 3) If the preseason forecast projects the inriver run will exceed the OEG range:
  - a) All sizes may be retained
  - b) May be opened to the use of bait
- 4) At such time that the run strength can be assessed in-season:
  - If the projected spawning escapement is less than the lower bound of the OEG range:  
Closed
  - If the projected spawning escapement is within the OEG range:
    - a) No retention of king salmon except for king salmon less than 20in. in length, or
    - b) With no bait / retention maximum size limit 36 inches in length, or
    - c) May be opened with the use of bait. All sizes may be retained
  - \* Dependent on where the projected escapement is within the OEG range
  - If the projected spawning escapement exceeds the OEG range:
    - a) May be opened to the use of bait
    - b) All sizes may be retained
- 5) Quit fishing when a fish is retained.
- 6) No change in seasonal limit.
- 7) Middle River restrictions remain in place.
- 8) Any size restrictions will apply to the PU fishery as well.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I am proposing two new elements to the Kenai River Chinook Late Run (LR) Management plan that will help conserve and rebuild abundance and diversity of Kenai LR salmon following a recent period of historical low abundance by implementing a precautionary management strategy that recognizes the large uncertainty in the historical stock assessment information and the recent productivity of low runs and escapements. The purpose of this plan is to provide for adequate escapements that result in more sustainable, reasonable and predictable fishery opportunities based on abundance.

I believe this plan will help increase escapements of kings, particularly large kings, at low to moderate run sizes. This plan gives us a better chance at distributing escapements throughout the entire range by managing for higher escapements that will reduce the risks of future low returns and help the LR become more stable and sustainable.

**Proposed OEG 15,500 – 29,000**

Between 1986 – 2008 the Kenai LR average escapements were around 35,000. Since 2008 the average escapement is around 16,000. Many of these lower escapements were achieved by the virtue of intensive management and harvest limitations. This level of low escapements puts us in the lower quartile of the SEG range and has failed to produce run strengths adequate enough to accomplish returns throughout the mid to upper levels of the range. Something has to change or we will continually struggle with opportunity limitations in all associated fisheries and mixed-stock fisheries because of low production and future king salmon returns. Ideally, we should strive to target escapements closer to the MSY of the SEG range which would be around 19,000 fish.

By establishing this precautionary OEG range, we believe it will raise the escapement levels and production over time. By rebuilding run abundance we not only help this valuable resource recover but we provide a better opportunity to achieve more predictable fishing opportunities with less restrictions for all users.

The lower bound of this OEG (15,500) is in keeping with the Department’s suggested target buffer as presented in their 2017, Kenai River King Salmon Management Targets and OEG memo. In this memo they stated, “A similar margin of error (10%) for LF escapement projections is 1,350 fish. This additional 10% buffer to the lower bound of the recommended LF SEG range results in an escapement buffer target of 14,850 large king salmon.” Then for simplicity, they suggest an increase of 1,500 resulting in a target of 15,000 (13,500 plus 1,500)

### **The 36in. Harvest Option**

This measure provides the department with another harvest option to utilize as the run is developing and run strengths are questionable. This 36in. maximum size option helps counter the effects of selective harvest of our biggest kings while protecting the large majority of female spawners (more than half of the 3 ocean females and nearly all of the 4 and 5 ocean females).

**PROPOSED BY:** Dwight Kramer (HQ-F19-006)

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## **Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan and Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan (2 proposals)**

### **PROPOSAL 115**

#### **5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow the use of bait in the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery when the fishery is restricted to catch and release, as follows:

Allow the ADF&G at their discretion to allow the use of bait during catch & release on the Kenai River early & late runs of King Salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Create an additional step down/step up management tool for both the Kenai River early, & late king salmon run at the department's discretion to issue an EO allowing the use of bait when the king fishery is restricted to catch & release. At times the Kenai king fishery is on the bubble of having enough fish to allow

harvest without bait, & catch & release without bait, when the fishery is in this in between scenario, then the department could issue an EO allowing Bait during catch & release giving additional opportunity to catch fish without harvest. Mortality rates are extremely low with bait, & the only additional mortality comes from increased catch rates.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson

(EF-F19-031)

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**PROPOSAL 116**

**5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Limit sport fisheries for king salmon on the Kenai River based on inseason abundance, as follows:

In the sport regulations under the lower Kenai River Mainstem. Date range January 1 - August 31st;

Add to Kenai River Jan 1st - June 30th: If the minimum escapement goal for King Salmon has not been obtained by "Actual Sonar King Counts" by June 10th, or projected to make minimum escapements by June 15th through actual sonar escapement numbers established thru June 10th, the Early-run King Salmon Run will be shutdown until it reaches the projected minimum goal by "Actual Sonar King Counts" on or before June 30th. Late Kenai River King Salmon Management Plan begins July 1st, which, at that time the Early-run King Salmon management expires.

Add: From RM 0-50 Kenai River King Salmon Late Run Sport Management Plan: If the King salmon escapement has not reached the minimum escapement goal of 13,500 Chinook/King salmon by July 19th, nor can be forecast by actual sonar count averages thru July 19th, be able to make the minimum escapement goal by July 23rd, then the sport fishery shall close completely until July 31st or minimum escapement goals are met by actual sonar numbers. No fishing for King Salmon is allowed after July 31st, unless actual maximum escapement has been achieved by actual sonar numbers before August 1st..

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue important in my mind is that many Kings are getting caught on weak years before they have a chance to escape. With the restrictions on the commercial fisherman there has to be some evenly paired restrictions. Commercial fisherman don't even fish for the Early-run King Salmon, but seem to get the blame. As a drift fisherman I catch very few kings, and the one's I do are probably 66-75% "Jacks." It is important the sport fisherman help preserve our resource, like we the commercial fisherman do. It is important that if Kings are not showing up before June 15th on the Early-run or July 23rd on Late-run Kings, commercial fisherman are not the only ones getting the restrictions to preserve the run. Especially so on the Early-Run, which ends on June 30th and most commercial fisherman in the Central District don't even participate. Drift fishing doesn't open until the 19th of June and Set-netters in July. Most drifters don't even start fishing until the last days of June. When escapements until July 19th aren't up to par for Late-run King salmon, equal and assertive restrictions should be placed on the sport sector. Sport fisherman mostly control their own destiny at this point with the current restrictions in place on set-netters in early and mid-July, and the very low catches of the drift fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Walker

(EF-F19-125)

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**Commercial (26 proposals)**

**Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (6 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 117**

**5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

Increase open waters from within 600 feet of mean high tide to within 1,200 feet of mean high tide as a restrictive option in the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery after July 8, as follows:

(C) (3) amend as follows “within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark” change to “within 1200 feet of the mean high tide mark” within this paragraph provision in the Kasilof River Management Plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 600 feet limitation in provision found in (C) (3) does not provide a fair and equitable or reasonable means of harvest on Kasilof bound stocks; this represents an extreme reduction of fishing area by 94.5% (from 1.5 nautical miles to 600 feet). This “further” restrictive measure was only intended to be used after half-mile openings when the Kenai and East Forelands are closed in order for the department to achieve the Kenai late-run sockeye goal. Note: the Kasilof Section genetic data on salmon harvest composition shows a de minimis incidental harvest on Kenai large kings (similarly situated to the drift fishery) and the composition of Kenai bound sockeye are also low, especially along the lower beach stat areas (244-21, 244-22).

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Beaudoin

(HQ-F19-114)

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**PROPOSAL 118**

**5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* to include the Kasilof River biological escapement goal, as follows:

Apply similar direction by the Board as found within the Kenai Late-run sockeye salmon management Plan (b) 1; i.e. **meet the biological escapement goal (BEG) range of 140,000–320,000 sockeye salmon.** Placed under (c) (1) of the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remarkably, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon BEG goal is not provided within the Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Beaudoin

(HQ-F19-115)

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**PROPOSAL 119**

**5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

Eliminate the Kasilof River sockeye salmon optimal escapement goal, as follows:

I recommend the Kasilof River sockeye salmon OEG be eliminated, so 5 AAC 21.365(b) would be amended as follows:

(B) [ACHIEVING THE LOWER END OF THE KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON ESCAPEMENT GOAL SHALL TAKE PRIORITY OVER NOT EXCEEDING THE UPPER END OF THE KASILOF RIVER OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT GOAL RANGE OF 160,000 — 390,000 SOCKEYE SALMON.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** An OEG of 150,000-300,000 fish for Kasilof River sockeye salmon was first adopted in 2002; the BEG at the time was 150,000-250,000 fish. The reason for the OEG - achieve the lower end of the Kenai River in-river sockeye goal at that timeframe. In both 2000 and 2001, sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai River was near the lower end of the inriver goal of 600,000 fish, while the sockeye salmon BEG in the Kasilof River was exceeded in both years.

In 2011, ADF&G recommended, and the BOF adopted, a new BEG for Kasilof River sockeye salmon of 160,000-340,000 fish and an OEG of 160,000-390,000 fish. The modified BEG represented a 90,000 fish increase on the upper end of the escapement goal, which was 40,000 fish more than the previous OEG. In the 2019 escapement goal memo, ADF&G recommended a BEG for Kasilof River sockeye salmon of 140,000-320,000 fish. If adopted, the upper end of this modified BEG is still 20,000 fish more than the original OEG for this stock.

This proposal seeks to eliminate the OEG for Kasilof River sockeye salmon. Since the OEG was adopted in 2002, the Kasilof River BEG has been exceeded in 14 of 17 years, while the Kenai River inriver goal was exceeded in 13 of 17 years. The need for the additional 50,000 fish buffer the BOF provided for with the original Kasilof River OEG was negated in 2011 with the modified BEG that was 90,000 fish higher than the BEG. The 2019 Kasilof River BEG goal recommendation is still 70,000 more than the original BEG and 20,000 fish more than the original OEG. In keeping with the original intent of the OEG, it is no longer needed because the modified BEG was increased to a level that exceeds the original OEG.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Ducker (HQ-F19-128)

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**PROPOSAL 120**

**5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

Remove the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area from (c)(4) of the *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 21.365 would be amended as follows:

[(4) AFTER JULY 8, IF THE KASILOF SECTION SET GILLNET FISHERY IS RESTRICTED TO FISHING WITHIN THE FIRST ONE-HALF MILE OF SHORE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, OPEN THE KRSHA DESCRIBED IN (F) OF THIS SECTION TO BOTH SET AND DRIFT GILLNET FISHING USING ONLY ONE GILLNET,

FOR FISHING PERIODS NOT TO EXCEED 48 HOURS IN DURATION WITHOUT ONE PERIOD OF 24 CONSECUTIVE HOURS OF CLOSURE; THE PROVISIONS IN (F)(1) — (8) OF THIS SECTION APPLY DURING THESE OPENINGS;]

Option B: move “fishing periods not to exceed 48 hours in duration without one period of 24 consecutive hours of closure” under the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At the 2017 UCI finfish meeting, the BOF modified the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan to state that if fishing with set gillnets is limited to within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in the Kasilof Section the hours fished are not subject to the time limitations in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3) and 5 AAC 21.360. Kasilof River sockeye salmon are to be harvested in the fisheries and area that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries. The intention of this modification was to limit use of the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA).

With this new harvest provision, section (C)(4) of the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan should be eliminated to reinforce the direction of harvesting Kasilof River sockeye salmon found within the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan’s preamble, i.e., not in the KRSHA.

To meet that directive by the board, this proposal seeks to eliminate (C) (4) from the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Beaudoin (HQ-F19-117)  
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**PROPOSAL 121**

**5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* to prioritize achieving the lower end of the Kenai River late-run king salmon escapement goal, as follows:

(b) Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal **and the lower end of the Kenai River late-run king salmon goal** shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River optimal escapement goal range of 160,000-390,000 sockeye salmon.

KRSA recommends no change in the Kasilof River optimum escapement goal – this goal continues to be appropriate for management of mixed stock commercial salmon fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet and recent escapement goal analyses have demonstrated that corresponding escapements within the OEG will continue to provide high levels of production and yield of Kasilof River sockeye.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current plans do not provide adequate protection for Kenai or Kasilof late-run kings particularly during years of moderate to large Kasilof and/or Kenai sockeye returns. The current Kasilof salmon management plan provides guidance for prioritizing the minimum escapement goal of Kenai sockeye over the high end of the Kasilof sockeye escapement goal during periods of low Kenai sockeye abundance. However, it

does not provide similar guidance with respect to the low end of the Kenai late-run king escapement goals. Meeting the low ends of escapement goals should always take precedence over not exceeding the high ends of other escapement goals due to the large impact on low escapements on future returns, particularly during extended periods of reduced ocean survival like we are currently seeing for kings throughout Cook Inlet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F19-123)  
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**PROPOSAL 122**

**5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 21.330. Gear.**

Create a commercial dip net fishery in the Kasilof River, as follows:

5 AAC 21.365 Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan

I don't know where exactly to place the new language...especially as this is a new fishery I can't even begin to give precise regulatory language.

When the commercial fishery is open to setnetting, a permitted commercial fisherman may fish the Kasilof River using up to (3) nets aboard his boat. Salmon shall not be marked as personal use fish, but rather recorded on regular fish tickets. Dip nets shall be subject to the descriptions found in general provisions 5 AAC 39.105 (24). Crewmembers shall be subject to license requirements of 5 AAC 39.109 and 5 AAC 39.110

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 21.363 Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan

(B) The need to allocate the harvestable surplus within user groups;

(5) in the absence of a specific management plan, it is the intent of the board that salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, according to the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries;

AND

5 AAC 21.365 Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan

(3) and (4)

I would consider this a 'right to work' proposal. Fish and Game management, by BOF directive and at the request of groups such as KPFA are willing to fish a select group of fishermen, prioritizing the leases they fish, while systematically excluding others.

While there is plenty of precedent both in the Northern District and now written into the king salmon management plan in which a fishing period could be fished with a restricted number of nets, I know that this has been and will continue to be strongly opposed. I myself am certainly not sold on the idea. Why should a particular individual be penalized when his/her business is actually productive? I do not think they should. Also, most of the fishermen with holdings in the 600 foot fishery have a level of seniority and command a level of respect.

But this is not all roses. In addition to maintaining a full gear complement, a good portion of their success is due to the fact that depending upon the regulation in play, a large number of fishermen further out on the ocean or up the beach are shut down.

Whatever rationalizations might be given to the relative catch strengths of Kasilof fish in different locations, it is absolutely true that they can be caught in abundance up and down the Inlet, and that this stock is the main or major component of the harvest of fishermen excluded from the harvest. I don't disagree that North K-Beach fishermen should be included amongst those who have historically harvested Kasilof River stock; however, by expanding upon the 600 foot fishery, fishermen and fishing sites from the quarter mile out continue to be systematically excluded from the set net fishery.

In years when we have faced overescapements, a fairly egalitarian fishery, at least in concept, has come into play in the form of the Kasilof Special Harvest Area. I can understand very well many of the fishermen's general dislike of the fishery... having to leave home. And the egalitarian notion is bashed up quite badly when the few fishermen who camp out at the boundary catch the lion share of the incoming fish. However, it is also likely that a lot of the bad opinion towards the KRSHA comes from those who really do not wish to compete or be exposed to an egalitarian fishery. They would prefer that regulation preserve the status quo. Whatever all the different opinion, regulations do state that it is the intent of the BOF that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever be opened under the management subsection in which it is written and this only for conservation reasons.

So where does that leave the situation? I do have a solution. It's not perfect. But I think that it improves upon the current situation.

I would propose for the implementation of a commercial dip net fishery in the Kasilof River whenever the Kasilof Section is open to commercial fishing. An individual holding a commercial set net permit could fish a complement of three nets in the areas open to dipnetting in the Kasilof River.

I am not sure how many permit holders/boats would choose to participate, but given the flow of the river, it really is a nice egalitarian sort of fishery. There are currently very few boats that fish the Kasilof dip net fishery. Nearly all of the PU effort is shore-bound, and so additional effort in the river channel will be for nearly uncontested fish. How often can you say that in the Cook Inlet! It is also timely that the ADFG has recommended lowering the BEG on the Kasilof. As it has been difficult in recent years to achieve that BEG, and as the KRSHA has not been a raving success, additional fishing effort in the form of this new fishery may well be warranted even from a conservation perspective, let alone the allocation issue which I maintain should be the primary focus of the Board.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nathan Hoff (EF-F19-116)  
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*Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan (13 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 123**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Rename Drift Gillnet Area 2 to the "Conservation and Northern District Allocation Sanctuary Area", as follows:

Under the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan part (g) item (2) rename the "Drift Gillnet Area 2" to the "Conservation and Northern District Allocation Sanctuary Area"

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The northern district sockeye and coho commercial set net and sport fisheries have been highly restricted since 2012. Northern district user groups in recent years have had restricted fishing for all Northern Cook Inlet species that have escapement goals.

The Department is not taking the direction of the preamble of the Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan. "The department shall manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai Coho in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions."

Cook Inlet is being exclusively managed for the Kenai River sockeye, as evidenced in area wide emergency orders for the drift fishery, which have frequently been implemented, at times when northern district streams are being restricted, due to low Coho and Sockeye abundance.

Attaining the optimum escapement goal for Kenai River sockeye, should not take priority over attaining minimum escapement goals of Northern District stocks. If no board action is taken, northern stocks will continue to suffer. The Coho sport fishery on the Little Susitna and Jim Creek (2 of the most participated in fisheries in the Matsu Valley) have largely been restricted since 2012. The Cook Inlet commercial fishery is a mix stock fishery; northern bound fish need more protection. Reasonable opportunity to harvest Coho Salmon on Jim Creek and the Little Susitna River for the duration of the run has not existed consistently in the last 11 years.

Establishing Area 2 as a sanctuary / corridor for northern bound fish, allows for the protection of northern stocks and does not restrict commercial fishing time for the drifters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ben Allen

(EF-F19-056)

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**PROPOSAL 124**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Amend the purpose of the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* to include inriver users, as follows:

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate escapement and 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

- (1) Northern District bound salmon in order to provide all inriver users

(2) and Kenai River coho salmon in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen (3) 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.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Inadequate allocation of harvestable salmon for sport, personal use, and guided sport in the Susitna River drainage. The population of inriver anglers in the Mat-Su Borough has grown along with the census figure of over 100,000 local residents. The increased demand for harvestable salmon is not currently being met.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Council

(EF-F19-073)

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**PROPOSAL 125**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Amend the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* and include inseason assessments, as follows:

Re-write: c) From June 19th until July 19th there will be two regular Monday and Thursday fishing periods from 7:00 until 7:00pm. There will be two (2) restricted openers for drift fishing to Area 1. Between July 6th and July 15th, the Department shall use the restrictions to the best of their ability during this time frame to pass Sockeye Salmon into the Northern District. If actual Kenai run data warrants closing the sockeye salmon drift fishery due to extra low escapements in the Kenai River, the fishery may be closed after the 15th of July by EO. No additional fishing during this time frame, except for possible over escapement concerns which would allow Expanded or Corridor Openings only

d) Starting on July 20th, and ending on August 3rd, the drift fleet will be limited to one Area 1 opening per week and one Expanded Kenai or Kasilof section per week, every Monday and Thursday from 7:00am until 7:00pm, and until the season is closed by EO. This does not apply to Chinitna Bay. If minimum sockeye escapement, is not physically counted at RM 19, within 200,000 fish of the minimum escapement by the end of the day on July 22nd, Management will close the drift fleet and other commercial and sport fisheries as well, until the minimum escapement for sockeye salmon in the Kenai River is met. Once the minimum escapement has been met, the drift and all other fisheries will re-open on a normal basis. If sockeye escapements on the Kenai have exceeded the maximum escapement before the 1st of August. The fishery will be opened to Area 1 once per week, and at least 3 Expanded Kenai and/or Kasilof section openers, including the Anchor Point expanded section fishery. Management can issue any additional closures or opening by EO during this specified period, if needed at any time to prevent under or over escapements, just never more than two (2) Area 1 openings in any week.

f) From August 3rd until closed by EO, the drift fishery will be open every Thursday from 7:00am until 7:00pm in Areas 1, 3 or 4. Mondays the drift fishery will only be open in Areas 3 and 4. Chinitna Bay will remain closed unless opened by EO.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** After many years of drift fishing in Upper Cook Inlet the runs have become smaller in actual size, as well as run strength over the last 30 years. Many factors are involved, but the biggest is problem is completely managing a run based on forecasts, and not knowing how many spawners there actually are. The regulations are beyond cumbersome and ineffective at lending good management in Upper Cook Inlet. Some of the politics must come out of Cook Inlet for it to survive. The Kenai and its ecosystem are being destroyed. Best decisions are made in real time with real data in front of you. Forecasts are great, but as we have seen repeatedly they are rarely as accurate as we would hope. We need fair date parameters to start with, and then let management do their job as the run materializes. Forecasting and then managing on projected run strengths is not a good management practice and in my opinion has led to the weaknesses we are currently experiencing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark & Elbridge Walker (EF-F19-110)  
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**PROPOSAL 126**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Close the Central District drift gillnet fishery corridor, as follows:

Close the corridor to commercial fishing for Northbound fish to Upper Cook Inlet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** With the corridor being closed to commercial fishing the take of the fish headed to the Susitna River system will be minimized. This will allow more fish into the Susitna River and streams up the river system so more people that lived in the Mat-Su Valley are able to fish in their backyards again. This will also rear more fish and in the long run put more fish in the whole of Cook Inlet for all user groups. This is an allocative proposal but it will help all users in the long run.

**PROPOSED BY:** Neil DeWitt (EF-F19-044)  
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**PROPOSAL 127**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Amend the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* to allocate 60-80% of northern-bound sockeye and coho salmon harvests to Northern Cook Inlet fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. (a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate escapement 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 and Kenai River coho salmon in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions, **and to provide Northern Cook Inlet user groups an allocation of 60-80% of Northern bound Upper Cook Inlet sockeye and coho salmon harvests. Consistent with providing this harvest allocation,** the department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, after providing for escapement needs, has provided inadequate passage of Northern sockeye and coho salmon to provide reasonable harvest opportunity for Northern Cook Inlet User Groups. Northern sport, commercial, and personal use fisheries have been restricted and/ or closed and subsistence fisheries have experienced low harvests when the largest share of Northern bound sockeye and coho salmon has been harvested by the Central District drift gill net fishery. Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee, therefore respectfully requests a harvest allocation of Northern bound sockeye and coho salmon to provide shared reasonable harvest opportunity for Northern Cook Inlet user groups.

When considering the proposed allocation, or a board revised allocation level, the committee encourages the board to compare salmon harvests levels of all Upper Cook Inlet user groups.

When determining reasonable harvest opportunity for Northern Cook Inlet users, the advisory committee requests utilization of the Board adopted approach listed in Management Guidelines for Allocating Southeast Alaska Pink, Chum, and Sockeye Salmon Between Commercial Net Fisheries. - From 5 AAC 33.363:

(c) As a general matter, the harvest of fish stocks will be managed primarily for the benefit of the user groups within the district to which those stocks are bound. The board recognizes that biological, social, and economic factors and the current regulatory structure may result in the need to harvest such stocks outside the district for which they are bound.

The committee encourages managers and user groups to provide suggestions how to structure the drift gill net fishery to allow reasonable harvests of Northern sockeye and coho stocks in Northern District waters while maintaining drift harvest levels of Central District sockeye.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-039)  
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**PROPOSAL 128**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Amend the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* to remove the provision to minimize the commercial harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon and add a provision for reasonable opportunity for common property fishery harvest, as follows:

5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. (a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate escapement 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 AND KENAI RIVER COHO SALMON IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SPORT AND GUIDED SPORT FISHERMEN A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST THESE SALMON STOCKS OVER THE ENTIRE RUN, AS MEASURED BY THE FREQUENCY OF INRIVER RESTRICTIONS. **The department shall also manage the common property fisheries with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.** The

department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as described in this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Delete unnecessary language in the Cook Inlet salmon management plans that restricts the flexibility for the managers to manage on a real time basis based on in season abundance to harvest the surplus salmon. This language has resulted in tens of millions of harvestable salmon going unharvested and negatively affects the commercial fishing industry, communities, national food source, economies and also decreases future salmon production resulting from the effects of over escapement. The sports fishery has a reasonable opportunity for the fact that salmon run in the thousands of streams in the Cook Inlet drainage from May to October and most all are open to sports fishing. If one system is not open for escapement reasons a sports fisherman has many other system they can fish. In comparison the commercial fisherman, when restricted or closed down, has no other area to fish because they are restricted to the areas and their gear type by their limited entry permit they own. There is unfair and has no parity in reasonable opportunity between commercial and recreational fisheries under the current management plans. There are no conservation concerns on coho and most coho runs are harvested well below acceptable harvest rates, with many harvest being less than 10%.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-098)  
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**PROPOSAL 129**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Allow the commissioner to limit Central District drift gillnets to less than 150 and 200 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth, as follows:

Amend the regulation to provide management authority to ADF&G to limit net length to less than 150 and 200 fathoms and net depth to 29 rather than 45 inches.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** By regulation, a commercial drift gillnet in the Central District commercial fishery may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. The sole exception as specified in 5 AAC 21.333 which allows two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders to fish concurrently from the same vessel and jointly operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, and a person holding two permits may operate 200 fathoms of gear. Current regulations do not allow for ADF&G to limit drift gillnets to shorter lengths or depths. This limits the management flexibility to provide for additional fishing opportunities under conditions when a full drift net fishery risks overharvest of specific salmon stocks, particularly during periods of low abundance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F19-126)  
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**PROPOSAL 130**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Allow commercial fishing with drift gillnets in the Chinitna Bay subdistrict starting August 15, as follows:

Set an opening date of August 15th for drift fishing in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict. There is very little directed effort on the chum run before that and by August 15th a majority of the chum run has gone by.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In recent years, the Chinitna Bay subdistrict has been opened to drift gillnetting only after the department gets an aerial survey of the streams to verify chum escapement. The problem with this approach is that weather has hindered these surveys and the surveys have to be coordinated with lower Inlet surveys. Also, experienced biologists have stated that aerial surveys are the least accurate tool possible for management purposes. This has led to Chinitna Bay remaining closed only because of lack of information. Last year, the department waited so long that there was only a single day of decent fishing as the run had already passed. A large number of very high value coho went unharvested because the fishery wasn't open yet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Teague Vanek (EF-F19-009)  
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**PROPOSAL 131**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Remove restrictions to the drift gillnet fishery so that the fishery would occur during two inlet-wide fishing periods per week, as follows:

Remove all restrictions that prohibit Inlet-wide regular openings two days per week throughout the season for drift gillnetting in Cook Inlet. Emergency Order Authority would still be available for the department, should there be conservation concerns in years of low abundance.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The restrictions imposed on the drift fleet, especially for the second half of July, have ruined the orderly harvest of fish and have taken away the opportunity to harvest and profit from abundant salmon stocks. Our primary money fish, Kenai and Kasilof sockeye, have been grossly over-escaped, and many other healthy stocks of all species go practically unharvested or grossly underutilized. That our state, which really needs raw fish taxes and has high unemployment, would allow this resource to go so desperately underutilized is unconscionable.

**PROPOSED BY:** Teague Vanek (EF-F19-010)  
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**PROPOSAL 132**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Remove restrictions to the drift gillnet fishery so that the fishery would occur during two inlet-wide fishing periods per week, as follows:

Two twelve-hour openings inlet-wide.

Restricted areas, short notification have added expense and cut production. Drifters ice their fish now. Processors, drifters, and consumers will benefit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Drift fleet time and area.

If this problem is not solved, there will be cost to fleet, processors, unharvested surplus of multiple species.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs (HQ-F19-031)

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**PROPOSAL 133**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Amend the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* with additional mandatory area restrictions to regular fishing periods, as follows:

The Changes to the existing plan are as follows:

(A)(iv) Drift Gillnet Area 1; [NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (d)(2)(A) OF THIS SECTION, ONE REGULAR 12-HOUR FISHING PERIOD FROM JULY 16 THROUGH JULY 31 MAY OCCUR IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT INSTEAD OF IN DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1;]

(e) From August 1 through August 15, [THERE ARE NO MANDATORY AREA RESTRICTIONS TO REGULAR FISHING PERIODS]

**(1) fishing during both regular 12 hour fishing periods per week will be restricted to one or more of the following sections and areas: (A) Expanded Kenai Section: (B) Expanded Kasilof Section (C) Anchor Point Section (D) Drift Gillnet Area 1,** except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed under 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)9iii), or the department determines that less than one percent of the seasons total drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the drift gillnet fishery, regular fishing periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Area 3 and 4. [IN THIS SUBSECTION "FISHING PERIOD" MEANS A TIME PERIOD OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING AS MEASURED BY A 24-HOUR CALENDAR DAY FROM 12:01 AM UNTIL 11:59 P.M.]

**(2) additional fishing time under this subsection is allowed only in one or more of the following sections: (A) Expanded Kenai Section: (B) Expanded Kasilof Section: (C) Anchor Point Section.**

(f) From August 16 until closed by emergency order, Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Amend the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* in order to increase passage of salmon into the Northern District. This proposal would eliminate the option for a District wide opening during the July 16 through July 31 period and would further replace District wide openings from August 1 through August 15 with more restricted fishing opportunities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-046)  
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**PROPOSAL 134**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Add Drift Gillnet Area 1 to the list of sections that are allowed to be fished during additional fishing time July 16–31 in the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 21.353.(d)(4) additional fishing time under this subsection is allowed only in one or more of the following sections:

- (A) Expanded Kenai Section **and Area 1**;
- (B) Expanded Kasilof Section **and Area 1**;
- (C) Anchor Point Section **or Area 1**.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposed change would add Area 1 to the Expanded Kenai, Kasilof and Anchor Point sections. This provides some additional areas to harvest salmon. At this time of the year, there are harvestable surpluses of sockeye, chum and pink salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F19-076)  
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**PROPOSAL 135**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Allow one additional regular fishing period in the Central District drift gillnet fishery July 24–31, as follows:

5 AAC 21.353 (d)(2)(A)(iv) Drift Gillnet Area 1; notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (d)(2)(A) of this section, **two** [ONE] regular 12-hour fishing periods from July **24** [16] through July 31 may occur in the Central District instead of Drift Gillnet Area 1.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In recent years, the drift gillnet fleet has been restricted to two regular opening in Drift Gillnet Area 1 during the July 16-31 time frame. This proposal would provide for one additional, inlet-wide opening per week.

By late July, the northern-bound sockeye and coho are north of the Central District. There are harvestable sockeye, chum and pink salmon stocks available.

In even years, by July 20-22 the pink salmon stocks are entering the Kenai River. There are harvestable surpluses of chum and pink salmon available in the Central District.

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F19-077)  
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Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan (2 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 136**

**5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.**

Open two additional inlet-wide fishing periods per week between July 24 and August 15 in even-numbered years, as follows:

5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. (a) The purpose of this management plan is to allow for harvest of surplus pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.310(B)(2)(C)(iii), from **July 24** [AUGUST 11] through August 15, the commissioner **shall** [MAY], by emergency order, open a commercial pink salmon fishery in an even-numbered year for [UP TO] two **additional** [REGULAR] 12-hour fishing periods **inlet-wide per week** if the commissioner determines that sockeye salmon escapement goals in the Kenai **or** [AND] Kasilof Rivers **will be** [ARE BEING] achieved and coho salmon run strength is sufficient to withstand additional harvest.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** By July 20-22 in even numbered years, there are multiple surpluses of pink salmon stocks available.

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F19-080)

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**PROPOSAL 137**

**5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.**

Repeal and readopt the *Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan* to manage for commercial priority and 40–70% exploitation rate, as follows:

Delete 5 AAC 21.354 [(a) (b) (c) (1) (2)] Replace with: **(a) The department shall manage the Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department should strive for a harvest rate in the accepted 40% to 70% range for exploitation.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current pink salmon management plan does not allow the managers the flexibility to manage for harvesting the pink salmon harvestable surplus. Literally tens of millions of pinks are not allowed to be harvested under the current management plans. Under the current management plans less than 2% of the pink salmon runs are harvested. ADF&G data shows the Cook Inlet has had even year returns of up to 40 million pinks. That is a lot of food and economic resource not being utilized.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-097)

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*Drift Gillnet Fishing Periods, Closed Waters, and Gear (4 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 138**

**5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.**

Establish drift gillnet weekly fishing periods in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict, as follows:

(A) in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict [ONLY DURING PERIODS ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER] **starting August 15 salmon may be taken from 7:00 a.m. Tuesday until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday and from 7:00 a.m. Friday until 7:00 p.m. Friday.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Chinitna Bay is unique in the fact that it is managed by Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries management biologist yet the aerial surveys are conducted by Lower Cook Inlet commercial fisheries management biologist and funded in the lower Cook Inlet commercial fisheries budget. Aerial surveys for Chinitna Bay are conducted in conjunction with surveys in the Kamishak Bay district and are therefore dependent upon weather and budget. Weather in the Kamishak Bay district and Chinitna Bay are well known to be unfavorable starting in August and continuing unfavorable until May. Heavy rains this time of year muddy the water making salmon counts from aerial survey impossible. The Department's budget continually receives less money for aerial surveys. In some years Chinitna Bay never gets an aerial survey and the fishery occurring after August 15 is delayed until after the majority of the run is over, even though escapements have been met and there were abundant harvestable surpluses available. There is a precedent established from past years management practices that opened the fishery August 15 when weather or budget prevented aerial surveys of Clear Creek. August 15 is a date the chum salmon run into Clear Creek is considered over. In order to have a reliable fishery and allow the harvest of the surplus salmon, Chinitna Bay needs to be open starting August 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-104)  
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**PROPOSAL 139**

**5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.**

Close the drift gillnet salmon fishery in Chinitna Bay, as follows:

Close the commercial drift fishery in Chinitna Bay for up to 3 years.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Chum, Pink, & coho salmon runs in Chinitna bay have been very poor the last several years, the fish need time to rebound.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F19-025)  
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**PROPOSAL 140**

**5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area.**

Allow a dual-permit vessel to have 200 fathoms of gear on board while in Chinitna Bay subdistrict, but fish with no more than 150 fathoms of gear in the subdistrict at any time, as follows:

5 AAC 21.333(e)(l) is amended to read:

(e) The operation of additional drift gillnet gear is not allowed when drift gillnet gear is restricted to any of the following areas:

- (1) Chinitna Bay Subdistrict;

**(i) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.240(a), in Chinitna Bay, up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear may be aboard a vessel, but not more than 150 fathoms of drift gillnet gear may be operated at any time.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Dual-permit (D-boat) fishing for drift gillnet vessels in Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) was first authorized by the board in 2008. Currently, two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders fishing from the same vessel, or one person holding two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permits, may operate 50 fathoms of additional drift gillnet gear, but no more than 200 fathoms total. Currently, the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict and the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) are two regions where D-boat fishing is not allowed. At the 2017 board meeting, the provision limiting the amount of gear on board while in the KRSHA was repealed, however, the limit on the amount of gear that may be fished in the KRSHA was not changed. Because D-boat fishing is not allowed in Chinitna Bay, any dual-permit drift fisherman who wishes to fish there must remove one shackle of gear (50 fathoms) off the boat completely before fishing to comply with 5 AAC 39.240 (a), which states that a vessel shall have aboard only one legal limit of salmon fishing gear. The Chinitna Bay subdistrict is often opened by emergency order on Tuesdays and Fridays after the chum salmon SEG in Clearwater Creek has been met. The Chinitna Bay drift gillnet opener often occurs after August 16th when Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open on Mondays and Thursdays by regulation. D-boat fishing is allowed in Drift Gillnet Areas 3 & 4. Thus if a D-boat fishes in Drift Gillnet Area 3 or 4 on Monday, the vessel permit holder(s) must completely remove 50 fathoms of gear off their boat in order to fish in Chinitna Bay on Tuesday. The Chinitna Bay gear restriction unnecessarily limits the amount of gear dual-permit fishermen may have aboard in Chinitna Bay when traveling to the west side of UCI to take advantage of back to back fishing periods.

This proposal seeks to allow a dual-permit vessel to have 200 fathoms of gear on board while in Chinitna Bay subdistrict, but fish with no more than 150 fathoms of gear in the subdistrict at anytime.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Anderson (HQ-F19-004)

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**PROPOSAL 141**

**5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area.**

Allow a vessel to carry more than a legal complement of gillnet gear in the Cook Inlet Area, as follows:

Add (j) to 5 AAC 21.331. Therefore 5 AAC 21.331 (j) would read:

**(j) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.240, a vessel can have more than a legal complement of gear on board, but at no time can fish more than a legal complement of gear.**

Add (h) to 5 AAC 21.333. Therefore 5 AAC 21.333 (h) would read:

**(h) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.240, a vessel can have more than a legal complement of gear on board, but at no time can fish more than a legal complement of gear.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 39.240 is not pertinent of real situations that have and will happen in the Cook Inlet salmon fishery. The drift fishery encompasses a large water body that is comprised of numerous stick rips, large tides, rocks, sand bars and bad foul weather. There are times when a vessel is compromised and not able to retrieve their gear. In these situations, good Samaritan vessels will assist and retrieve the vessels gear and tow the vessel in or pick up survivors from sunken vessels. If this retrieval of gear did not occur it would become a preventable floating hazard in the ocean, which is not good for the environment or navigation. Under the current 5 AAC 39.240 provision a good Samaritan vessel retrieving a compromised vessels gear is being illegal and could be heavily fined subject to the court.

Some actual examples of past compromised vessels whose gear was retrieved by good Samaritan vessels are: 1. Vessels have sunk. 2. Vessels have been beached on shore or sand bars because of foul weather or mechanical failures. 3. Vessels have gotten sucked into stick rips and fouled their props preventing maneuverability to retrieve their gear. 4. Vessels hydraulics or other mechanical equipment has failed, rendering their net retrieval to be impossible, especially in foul weather.

These incidents are not numerous but they have and will happen again. Another example of the need to amend 5 AAC 39.240 is the fact that the current Upper Cook Inlet management plans allow different components of gear for different areas. Some of these areas are 70 mile round trip travel from the east shore. The east shore is the nearest area with harbors and docks to unload gear. A D-boat that has two permits on board, and is allowed to fish four shackles of gear, would be prevented from fishing Chinitna Bay if they fished area 3 or 4 with four shackles unless they traveled the 70 miles round trip to unload one shackle because Chinitna Bay only allows three shackle to be fished.

The Kasilof River terminal fishery vessels normally have a specially designed net which is shallower, smaller mesh size and stronger web for this shallow water fishery that tears up net. Many times this area will be open in conjunction with the expanded corridor. A vessel fishing the terminal area, who discovered the fishing wasn't any good, would have to go to the dock, unload the special terminal net, put on his regular net in order to efficiently fish the corridor. This is wasting valuable fishing time especially when most openers are only 12 hours. These amendments will not be an enforcement issue because only the legal component of gear would be in the water. There are hundreds of boats on the water that will turn in any violators. Violators will fish illegally no matter what the law is, but that is no reason to not pass these amendments that protect the practice of the good Samaritan in helping fellow fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-100)

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Cook Inlet Coho Salmon Management Plan (1 proposal)

**PROPOSAL 142**

**5 AAC 21.xxx. New section.**

Create a commercial set gillnet fishery for coho salmon in the Upper Subdistrict, as follows:

Implement a new management plan, as follows:

**5 AAC 21.xxx**

**The purpose of this management plan is to provide a small commercial coho salmon fishery for set gillnets in the Upper Subdistrict of Upper Cook Inlet. If Kenai and Kasilof river king and sockeye salmon escapement goals have been achieved, or are projected to be achieved, and notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.360(a), the fishery will be managed as follows:**

- (1) The fishery will occur from August 16 through September 30;**
- (2) Fishing periods will occur on Mondays and Thursdays;**
- (3) Fishing periods will be from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.;**
- (4) The fishery will close when the harvest reaches 10,000 coho salmon or September 30, whichever occurs first.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the board to consider a commercial coho fishery, for the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery. This fishery would take place from August 16 to September 30. With a limit of 10,000 coho salmon, the season closure would happen if and when the limit is reached or September 30, whichever comes first.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every (HQ-F19-018)

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**Sport (28 proposals)**

**Kenai and Kasilof Rivers Sport (12 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 143**

**5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.**

Clarify the fishing season for king salmon less than 20 inches in length on the Kasilof River, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122 is amended to read:

- (8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:
  - (A) king salmon [20 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH] may be taken from January 1 – June 30, upstream of Sterling Highway Bridge, and from January 1 – July 31 downstream of Sterling Highway Bridge; bag and possession limit **for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is** [OF] one fish; annual limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except as provided in (b) of this section; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; from January 1 – June 30,

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2001 the board created the statewide freshwater definition of jack salmon to establish a consistent length with a bag and possession limit of 10 fish. That statewide regulation is the default unless an area- or drainage-specific regulation changes it. The regulatory chapter for Kenai Peninsula 5 AAC 56.120 for Kasilof River establishes a season specific to king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. This has created confusion about whether or not there is a fishing season for jack king salmon. The department would like to clarify the language in 5 AAC 56.122 to reflect that fishing for jack king salmon is allowed during the same season dates as king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, therefore the statewide jack king salmon bag limit applies in the Kasilof River.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-148)

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**PROPOSAL 144**

**5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.**

Align spring sport fishing dates for Bishop and Bench Creeks, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122 is amended to read:

(a)(3) Bishop Creek Drainage, including Daniels Creek:

(A) from **June 11 – April 30**, [JUNE 15-APRIL 14] flowing waters are open to sport fishing;

(a)(14) Bench Creek drainage, including Bench Lake, **from June 11 – April 30, waters are open to sport fishing**; [IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FROM MAY 2-JUNE 10]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This change will bring Bishop and Bench creeks into regulatory alignment with other streams within the Northern Kenai Peninsula Management Area that have spring spawning closures and improve regulatory simplicity while providing reasonable protection for spawning resident species of fish.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-149)

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**PROPOSAL 145**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Allow sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon on the Kenai River until August 15, as follows:

During Board of Fish meetings I’ve heard commercial fishermen say that they are over escaping Red salmon into the rivers and streams. To prevent this from being a problem I propose that instead of closing Red fishing for sport, personal use, and subsistence fisherman, on July 31st that we leave the season open for another one to two weeks or the 15th of August. With this change sport, personal use and subsistence fishermen can help commercial fishing with their over escapement problem. It will also put more fish in the freezers and on the tables of the sport, personal use and subsistence fisherman.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Over escapement of Red Salmon

PROPOSED BY: Neil DeWitt

(EF-F19-042)

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**PROPOSAL 146**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Increase the sockeye salmon limit to six fish per day in the Kenai River when the commercial fishery is open, as follows:

I suggest upping the limit to 6 per day as soon as the commercials start netting the inlet. There are very few quality days with enough fish passing once the nets are in. If there are enough fish to net, then there are enough for sports fishermen to keep 6 on the day on days that are good.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Bag Limit for Sockeye is started at 3 fish per day and is not upped to 6 per person until approximately 800,000 fish have entered the river.

Unfortunately there are few quality days while the nets are in (sufficient numbers to catch fish).

**PROPOSED BY:** Frank Casey (EF-F19-015)  
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**PROPOSAL 147**

**5 AAC 57.123. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Prohibit fishing for salmon on the upper Kenai River after taking the bag limit for that day, as follows:

No catch and release salmon fishing on the upper Kenai River from its mouth at Skilak Lake, upstream to the bait line above the Sterling Hwy bridge at Kenai Lake, including the entire Russian river drainage, after the daily combined bag limit of salmon has been reached.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Upper Kenai River drainage has become an overcrowded salmon fishery. In addition, the salmon stocks in the Upper Kenai drainage have experienced a steady decline. Catch and release salmon fishing after a bag limit has been reached can deny other anglers' opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-109)  
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**PROPOSAL 148**

**5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 57.123. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Allow two unbaited, single-hook, artificial flies and limit hook size throughout the Kenai River drainage, as follows:

We would like the regulation to read something like the following: In the entire Kenai River watershed, the use of two unbaited, single hook artificial flies is allowed, provided that flies must have a gap between point and shank of 1/4 inch or less.

Notes: 1) A hook with ¼ inch gap is approximately a size 10 hook. 2) If the BOF and ADF&G are concerned about snagging of sockeye salmon, this allowance of two small flies could be prohibited during the sockeye fishing season or in the Russian River fly fishing only area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Anglers would like to be able to use two small wet flies in the entire Kenai River drainage year around. This is especially popular during in the winter and early spring when fish are feeding on small aquatic insects. Many people are currently fishing with this method despite the regulations making it legal to only fish with a single hook. This proposal would allow anglers to use two wet flies or nymphs to fish provided the hook size is limited to prevent snagging of salmon. Because of the complexity of the Kenai River regulations we do not know how to word a proposal. Therefore, we would leave the specific wording up to the BOF and ADF&G.

Please note that we are both long time Alaska residents who have extensive fishing experience on the Kenai River. One of us is retired from ADF&G and the USFWS and the other owns a fly shop in Anchorage. The Kenai River regulations are too confusing and should be simplified. We can't imagine how a first time angler on the Kenai must feel when they look at these regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Phil Brna & Mike Brown (HQ-F19-065)  
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**PROPOSAL 149**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Prohibit catch and release fishing for king salmon on the Kenai River, as follows:

Other than king salmon within specified size, hook and release of king salmon on the Kenai River will no longer be deployed as a recovery plan.

More kings will spawn, return could rebound. All users will benefit if more kings spawn.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fewer king salmon, smaller king salmon, Kenai River hook and release is a failed recovery strategy. Too difficult to reduce mortality when kings are hooked more than once.

If this problem is not solved there will be a continued downward trend.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs (HQ-F19-030)  
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**PROPOSAL 150**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Require retention of sockeye salmon caught in the Kenai River, as follows:

The Kenai River sockeye salmon fishery is catch and keep. Every sockeye salmon caught, up to the daily bag limit, must be kept. Once the bag limit is caught, the angler cannot fish on the Kenai River for the remainder of that day. There is no release of sockeye salmon regardless of where the sockeye salmon is hooked. No snagging is allowed.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Reduce the waste of sockeye salmon, from catch and release mortality, in the Kenai River. Because the Kenai River is on the road system it gets heavily fished by tens of thousands of anglers. Hundreds of thousands of sockeye salmon are caught and released. It is well known that sockeye salmon do not readily bite a fly and have to be legally snagged by a method called lining, which results in snagging in the mouth or other parts of the body. If snagged other than in the mouth, the salmon has to be released. The sockeye salmon also have to be in the river in large numbers for this lining method to be effective. It is common for anglers to spend the day catching and releasing sockeye salmon for the fun of it. When the sockeye are thick in the river it is not unheard of for an angler to catch and release forty, fifty, sixty or more sockeye in a day. These sockeye are going through an enormous amount of stress at this time because their body is chemically acclimating from leaving salt water and entering fresh water. The added stress from catch and release, especially when snagged and released with gashes, results in a high mortality or nonviable eggs because of the build up of lactic acid.

Most anglers do not know or use best practices on catch and release which compounds the mortality. This large mortality number, from allowing catch and release sockeye fishing in the Kenai River, is nothing more than legally allowing a wanton waste fishery. The released salmon often swims off only to die unseen, in the murky water. This fishing practice is not sustainable and is not being good stewards of the resource nor is it portraying to tourist the value Alaskans put on salmon for food, recreation, jobs and economic importance. The vast number of anglers spending the whole day on the river, also greatly contributes to bank erosion and habitat degradation, which jeopardizes future salmon production. There are many other systems in the Cook Inlet drainage for angler opportunity to fish, which will help relieve this unsustainable fishing pressure on the Kenai River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-101)

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**PROPOSAL 151**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Allow retention of sockeye salmon snagged on the Kenai River, as follows:

The board should remove language forbidding the retention of foul hooked sockeye and leave language forbidding intentional snagging. This would be good for the fish, the fisherpersons, the enjoyment of the sport by more people (i.e. people would get off the river faster), and add more personal safety for adults and children in the associated fisheries.

This would NOT increase unsportsmanlike methods.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations forbid the retention of unintentionally snagged sockeye salmon. This results in crowded fishing conditions, fish being tortured (perhaps several times), and I suspect lower spawning and survival rates of snagged fish. The definition of snagging appears to be an issue also which has resulted in unequal enforcement based on the decision of the enforcer. More people on the river means more hooks flying through the air in crowded conditions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Pratt (EF-F19-048)

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**PROPOSAL 152**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bags, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Prohibit barbed hooks when fishing in the Kenai River drainage, as follows:

The solution to the raising issue as the Kenai gets more and more pressure would be not allowing barbed hooks to be fished while targeting Rainbow Trout/Steelhead and Dolly Varden. In addition to that, the solution goes further in that having barbed hooks in the angler's tackle box or in a boat is illegal.

5 AAC. Fishing equipment for the Kenai River and its tributaries.

The ownership of all barbed hook meant for targeting the sport species, Rainbow Trout/Steelhead and Dolly Varden in the Kenai River drainage is illegal. The angler may not have any barbed hooks on his/her person at anytime while fishing the Kenai River and its tributaries. This includes, the current fishing lure/fly, any fishing lure/fly not being used, and all storage inside the vessel. This goes into effect year round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue I would like the board to address is the use of barb hooks on the Kenai River. Due to the exponentially high volume of anglers on the Kenai River year round that use barbed hooks, it has caused the sport fish species (ie: Rainbow Trout and Dolly Varden) to be caught and released a multitude of times. Most of the river's population of fish are being caught multiple times a week and have no mandibles left due to poor education on unhooking fish with barbed hooks. These fish look like elderly humans without their dentures in, and it is truly saddening to know that a good portion of the fisheries species are like this.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jordan Perrego (EF-F19-046)

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**PROPOSAL 153**

**5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan.**

Increase the bag limit for the Kenai River coho salmon sport fishery to three fish July 1 – August 31, as follows:

5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan (a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of coho salmon into the Kenai River drainage and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the Kenai River coho salmon stocks primarily to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run. (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this chapter, for the conservation of coho salmon stocks, the department shall manage sport fishing in the Kenai River drainage as follows: (1) coho salmon fishing is closed in the Middle and Upper Sections from November 1 through June 30, and in the Lower Section from December 1 through June 30; any coho salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately without further harm; (2) repealed 6/4/2008; (3) coho salmon may be taken as follows: (A) from July 1 through October 31, in the Middle and Upper Sections; (B) from July 1 through November 30, in the Lower Section; (C) from July 1 through August 31, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is **three** fish;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the last board cycle, reallocation of early run coho tied into the 1% rule. During the last cycle, commercial fishing declared that there was a surplus of early run cohos. This surplus was available because the sport fishery bag limit had been reduced from 3 fish to 2. KRPGA did not submit a proposal to go to a 3 fish bag limit as we were unsure of current health of early run coho stocks.

Although we are still uncertain of those stocks, we feel certain that sportfish were reallocated to commercial fishers in the last cycle and used to negotiate moving the 1% rule to August 7.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Professional Guide Association (HQ-F19-070)  
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**PROPOSAL 154**

**5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan.**

Increase limits for Kenai River coho salmon from two to three fish, as follows:

Increase coho daily bag and possession limit in the Kenai River from two fish to three fish beginning on the day after the closure of the set net fishery in the Upper Subdistrict.

Corresponding regulatory changes are:

(C) from July 1 through **the day upon which the set net fishery in the Upper Subdistrict is closed for the season** [AUGUST 31], the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is two fish;

(D) from **the day after the set net fishery in the Upper Subdistrict is closed for the season** [SEPTEMBER 1] through November 30, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is three fish;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** For nearly forty years, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Kenai River was 3 fish, 16 inches or greater in length. In response to low coho abundance during the late 1990's, bag and possession limits were reduced to 2 fish as part of a comprehensive plan that included restrictions on commercial fisheries. Since that time, abundance has improved.

Commercial fisheries are no longer restricted specifically to conserve Kenai River coho salmon, yet the sport fishery still operates under the lowered bag and possession limit for the first part of the run in August. Increasing the bag and possession limit from 2 to 3 fish in August would not jeopardize the sustained yield for the resource, would provide increased opportunity for harvest and would produce additional economic value for the fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F19-125)  
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*Guides and Motorized Uses (16 proposals)*

*Definitions (1 proposal)*

*\*This proposal will be heard at the LCI and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 14**

**5 AAC 75.995. Definitions.**

Modify the definition of bag limit to include fish landed but not originally hooked by an angler, as follows:

Allow captains, deckhands & other anglers to assist anglers in hooking their fish and the fish will belong to the bag limit of the angler that was assisted.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current rules do not allow hook & hand fishing where one person hooks or assists in hooking a fish and handing the rod off to an angler to become part of the bag limit of the angler who fights, reels and land the fish. Small children, older people, people with disabilities, or beginners often need help from a guide, deckhand, or parent in hooking fish. The practice of hooking a fish and handing off the rod is common practice in fisheries throughout the world, but in Alaska is illegal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F19-052)  
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*Kasilof River Guiding and Guided Fishing Requirements (3 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 155**

**5 AAC 56.140. Kasilof River guiding and guided fishing requirements.**

Allow sport fishing guides to sport fish while a client is present from the banks of the Kasilof River, as follows:

5 AAC 56.140

Kasilof River Guiding And Guided Fishing Requirements

In addition to the provisions of 5 AAC 57.160 and this chapter applicable to the Kasilof River, from January 1 through July 31, the guided sport fishery for early-run and late-run Kasilof River King Salmon will be managed as follows:

(1) A sport fishing guide may not sport fish **from a guide vessel and may not sport fish from the bank in that area designated from ADF&G markers at the mouth of Crooked Creek downstream to the ADF&G markers near the cutbank** while a client is present or within the sport fishing guides control or responsibility; notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, a sport fishing guide may provide assistance to a client with a disability in order to enable the client to engage in sport fishing; in this paragraph "disability" has the same meaning given in 42 U.S.C. 12102 (2)(A) and (C), as amended as of February 8, 1994; (2) Repealed 6/12/2011.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue of my proposal is as follows:

Currently, on the Kasilof River, a sport fishing guide may not sport fish while a client is present or within the sport fishing guides responsibility. This regulation does not clearly differentiate between fishing from a guide vessel or a guide fishing from the bank with clients. Therefore, it unfairly restricts a sport fishing guide on the Kasilof River. This severely limits a guide's ability to demonstrate advanced fishing techniques, various casts and retrieves, hook setting skills, bringing a fish to the net quickly and proper catch and release methods. All of these examples are available to guides on the Kenai River so this rule is not consistent on both rivers and unfairly regulated.

Other than that area designated from ADF&G markers located at the mouth of Crooked Creek downstream to the marker near the cutbank, the Kasilof River needs to be open to guides sport fishing from the bank with clients. This proposal would duplicate rules and align with sport fishing guide regulations on the Kenai River.

Another solution I considered to this unreasonable restriction was to just eliminate retention of sport fish caught by guides while a client is present or within the sport fishing guide's control or responsibility. However, it would not clearly distinguish between sport fishing from a guide vessel and sport fishing from the bank with clients. Also, it would not properly set aside that area of the Crooked Creek State Recreation Site, which was of concern to ADF&G representatives I spoke with prior to my proposal.

Although Kenai River guides are not restricted from fishing in similar State Recreation Sites, or fishing from the bank with clients, I rejected his alternative proposal and opted to insert this provision to set aside this area on the Kasilof River for public use only. This specific area is currently restricted for anchoring guide vessels from January 1st - June 30th and designated markers are already in place.

**PROPOSED BY:** Raymond Davis (EF-F19-045)  
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**PROPOSAL 156**

**5 AAC 56.140. Kasilof River guiding and guided fishing requirements.**

Allow sport fish guides to sport fish on the Kasilof River from shore while a client is present, as follows:

5 AAC 56.140. Kasilof River guiding and guided fishing requirements

In addition to the provisions of 5 AAC 57.160 and this chapter applicable to the Kasilof River, from January 1 through July 31, the guided sport fishery for early-run and late-run Kasilof River king salmon will be managed as follows: (1) a sport fishing guide may not sport fish **from a registered sport guide vessel** while a client is present or is within the sport fishing guide's control or responsibility; notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, a sport fishing guide may provide assistance to a client with a disability in order to enable the client to engage in sport fishing; in this paragraph "disability" has the same meaning given in 42 U.S.C. 12102(2)(A) and (C), as amended as of February 8, 1994

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The board acted upon a proposal last cycle that intended to remove a guide's ability to fish with clients from a registered guide vessel during King Salmon season. The boat portion of the language was omitted from regulation. This proposal seeks to restore a guide's ability to demonstrate proper sockeye salmon fishing techniques with clients from shore. It is not intended to increase King Salmon mortality. This is a housekeeping proposal to fix a technical error that occurred last cycle.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Professional Guide Association (HQ-F19-069)

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**PROPOSAL 157**

**5 AAC 56.140. Kasilof River guiding and guided fishing requirements.**

Limit the number of client groups per guide or guide vessel on the Kasilof River in July, as follows:

**On the Kasilof River no guide or guide vessel may take more than one group of clients fishing from the boat per day July 1 – July 31.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increased pressure on wild Kasilof River King Salmon stocks. State wide low chinook abundance has led to regular emergency restrictions and closures to retention of king salmon on upper Cook Inlet rivers resulting in additional pressure on Kasilof River chinook stocks. It is now common for guides to take 2 groups of clients in a day. This is further compounded by the lack of an adequate method for estimating inriver escapement of wild stocks bound for areas upstream of Crooked Creek.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Adams (HQ-F19-052)

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*Kenai River Guiding and Guided Fishing Requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area (5 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 158**

**5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Prohibit sport fishing guides from sport fishing from shore while a client is present, as follows:

**KENAI RIVER / Guided Fishing on the Kenai River**

Guides may not sports fish while a client is present or within the guides control or responsibility, unless the guide is providing assistance to a client with a disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Guides may give instruction or demonstrate method of angling for the species of fish, any fish hooked during the instruction or demonstration must be immediately released.

The maximum number of fishing rods operated may not exceed the number of clients.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fishing from a guide vessel on the Kenai River. I would like to eliminate "from a guide vessel". Guides currently sport fish from shore while they have clients with them. Guides hook fish and hand the rod off to clients to fight the fish while the guide gets a net to land the fish. The fish is then counted toward the client's daily bag limit. The law currently states that the person who hooks the fish is the one whose limit the fish should be counted against, regardless of who actually lands the fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Boyden (EF-F19-018)

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**PROPOSAL 159**

**5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Allow five anglers per vessel used for guided sport fishing on the Kenai River in July, as follows:

Allow 5 anglers to fish from a guide vessel on the Kenai River in July.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Families, & groups not being allowed to fish together on a guide boat in July. Not allowing groups of 5 to fish together in 1 vessel in July only results in the groups being separated into 2 boats and being mixed in with strangers, instead of being able to fish together as a family or a single group. the current regulation does not accomplish anything, changing this regulation does not increase angler effort, and will also reduce boat congestion since only one boat will be needed compared to 2 boats.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F19-027)

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**PROPOSAL 160**

**5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Allow transport of more than five persons per vessel used for guided sport fishing on the Kenai River in July, as follows:

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations intended for the Guided Kenai River King Fishery restricting a guide vessel to only 4 anglers, affects the guides ability to transport a group of 5 anglers to the shore based sockeye fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F19-028)

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**PROPOSAL 161**

**5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Allow sport fishing from a guide vessel on the Kenai River on Mondays in August, as follows:

Allow guided anglers to fish from a guide vessel on Mondays for coho salmon in August on the Kenai River.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Guided anglers not allowed to fish on Mondays in August on the Kenai River, this regulation was adopted at a previous BOF meeting for conservation concerns during a down cycle. This conservation concern is no longer applicable and should be reversed. ADF&G has plenty of tools in the tool box to deal with a conservation concern thru an EO.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F19-029)

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**PROPOSAL 162**

**5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Remove restrictions to guided sport vessels on the Kenai River when the king salmon sport fishery is closed, as follows:

If the late run Kenai River King salmon fishery is closed, then regulations intended for the guided King salmon fishery such as no fishing from a guide vessel on Sunday, & Mondays, the 6pm to 6am closure, & the prohibition of a 5th angler will not remain in effect.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When the King salmon fishery on the Kenai River is closed by EO due to low escapement, the regulations intended for the King fishery remain in affect, and does not allow for fishing for other species from a guide vessel such as pink salmon, trout, coho salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F19-030)

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*Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan (1 proposal)*

**PROPOSAL 163**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Prohibit guiding in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dip net fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.540(c)

**Providing guide services within the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dipnet fishery is prohibited;**

**Definitions**

**(55) "Personal Use Fishing Guide"- means a person who provides personal use fishing guide services to persons who are engaged in personal use fishing;**

**(56) "Personal Use Fishing Guide Services"**

**(A) means assistance, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, to a personal use fisherman to take or to attempt to take fish by accompanying or physically directing the personal use fisherman in personal use fishing activities during any part of a personal use fishing trip;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal would prohibit providing guided fish services during the personal use dip net fisheries on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Currently, there are no regulations applied to personal use guiding within the personal use dip net fisheries. Allowing for individuals to profit from personal use fisheries by providing guide services is not within the intent of these fisheries which are implemented to allow Alaskan residents the opportunity to harvest larger quantities fish that are in surplus of escapement needs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Catherine Felt

(EF-F19-037)

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*Kenai and Kasilof Rivers Motorized Uses (6 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 164**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Prohibit motorized vessels on the Kenai River from Skilak Lake to the Soldotna Bridge May 1 – August 31, as follows:

Under the Method and Means header in the Lower Kenai sport regulations;

Amend "Drift Only Mondays - from downstream of Skilak Lake" to read:

Power will not be allowed, DOWNSTREAM of the Soldotna Bridge over the Kenai River, from May 1st until August 31st, for all types of fish. Only drift boats are allowed from Skilak Lake to the Soldotna Bridge from May 1st until August 31st.

Power boats will be allowed downstream of the Soldotna River Bridge to the Warren Ames Bridge during open fishing seasons, 7 days a week. Only drift boats will be allowed between Skilak Lake and the Soldotna River Bridge from May 1st until August 31st.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The turbidity levels on the Kenai River are getting worse by the year. In the 50+ years of driving along the Kenai River I have noticed huge changes in the clarity of the river. It has been really bad the last 15 years. This affects the food available to fry, fry mortality, food and camouflage from predators like birds, trout and others. There has been mass erosion and bank destabilization since I started fishing in the mid 70's. The undeniable result is smaller, less healthy juvenile salmon of all types leaving the river. With studies showing the increase in turbidity in the Kenai, it is time to get ahead of the problem and make the tough decisions to stop the bank erosion caused by power boating and the continual wake pounding along the shoreline. All salmon species are showing signs of huge declines. This is an in

river problem that must be addressed aggressively, along with possibly too much competition for food in the ocean.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark & Elbridge Walker (EF-F19-121)

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**PROPOSAL 165**

**5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Prohibit sport fishing from a motorized vessel on the lower Kenai River on Thursdays in July, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121 would be amended to read:

(a) a person may not sport fish from a boat

**(New Section) that has a motor on board on any Thursday in July, except Memorial Day, in that portion of the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** For the month of July, the Kenai River has been classified as an impaired water body due to increased turbidity levels. The increased turbidity has been significantly associated with increased motorized boat traffic on the river in July.

This proposal seeks to add an additional drift boat only day each week on the Kenai River for both guided and nonguided anglers, occurring each Thursday in July from the mouth of the river upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge. Currently, from the Sterling Highway Bridge downstream to the mouth of the Kenai River, no one may fish on Mondays (except Memorial Day) during May, June, and July from a vessel that has on board no more than one motor that does not exceed 10 horsepower (HP), and it may only be used between the mouth of the Kenai River and ADF&G regulatory markers located at Cunningham Park, and only after fishing from the vessel has ceased for that day; a person may not deploy sport fishing gear from a vessel after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on the same day. In order to provide one more day of “rest” for the Kenai River from the effects of motorized boat wake traffic, this proposal seeks to add one additional day per week that guided or unguided anglers may not fish using a motorized vessel on the Lower Kenai River (downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge) during the month of July. No motor traffic on the river, on Mondays and Thursdays. (This includes boat traffic to the dip net fishery is prohibited.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every (HQ-F19-017)

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**PROPOSAL 166**

**5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Prohibit sport fishing from a motorized vessel on the lower Kenai River on Thursdays in July, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121 would be amended to read:

(a) a person may not sport fish from a boat

**(New Section) that has a motor on board on any Thursday in July, except Memorial Day, in that portion of the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge; No motor traffic (this includes boat traffic to the dip net fishery is prohibited) on the river on Mondays and Thursdays.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** For the month of July, the Kenai River has been classified as an impaired water body due to increased turbidity levels. The increased turbidity has been significantly associated with increased motorized boat traffic on the river in July.

This proposal seeks to add an additional drift boat only day each week on the Kenai River for both guided and nonguided anglers, occurring each Thursday in July from the mouth of the river upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge. Currently, from the Sterling Highway Bridge downstream to the mouth of the Kenai River, no one may fish on Mondays (except Memorial Day) during May, June, and July from a vessel that has on board no more than one motor that does not exceed 10 horsepower (HP), and it may only be used between the mouth of the Kenai River and ADF&G regulatory makers located at Cunningham Park, and only after fishing from the vessel has ceased for that day; a person may not deploy sport fishing gear from a vessel after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on the same day. In order to provide one more day of “rest” for the Kenai River from the effects of motorized boat wake traffic, this proposal seeks to add one additional day per week that guided or unguided anglers may not fish using a motorized vessel on the Lower Kenai River (downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge) during the month of July. No motor traffic on the river, on Mondays and Thursdays. (This includes boat traffic to the dip net fishery is prohibited.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every

(HQ-F19-082)

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### **PROPOSAL 167**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Allow sport fishing from a vessel with a motor on board but not in use on the Kenai River on Mondays in July, as follows:

(a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency or inriver restrictions.

(c) In the sport fishery,

(3) that portion of the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a [NONMOTORIZED VESSEL ON MONDAYS IN JULY; FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A NONMOTORIZED VESSEL IS ONE THAT DOES NOT HAVE A MOTOR ON BOARD.] (REMOVE)

I'm requesting the following changes:

(3) that portion of the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a **vessel with a motor on board on Mondays in July. However, the use of a motor may not be used while sport fishing. A person may no longer fish from that specific vessel for the day once the motor has been started.** (ADD)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kenai River Management Plan limits sportfishing from nonmotorized vessels on Mondays (Drift Only Mondays) during the king salmon run on the Kenai River downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake. A non-motorized vessel is described as a vessel that does not have a motor on board.

It should be noted that the regulation allows the use of motorized vessels on Mondays. According to the ADF&G sportfishing regulation booklet it states, "Motors may be used to transport anglers to shore fishing locations, but anglers may not fish from any vessel that has a motor on board." The dates are set forth every Monday from May 1 to July 31.

There are many vessels that are designed to alternate between motorized and manual power, such as rowing. Vessels that have motors onboard can be removed from the water by tilting them on the transom and not be used while sportfishing allowing the operator to manually control the vessel by rowing.

This regulation has no environmental or biological impact on the Kenai River. It was adapted as a courtesy to sport fisherman allowing them to fish without the crowds of guided vessels on the river.

As a private sport fishing angler this code is restricting my right to fish from my vessel with a motor greater than 10 horsepower on board while manually rowing my boat.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eric Christian (EF-F19-092)  
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**PROPOSAL 168**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Prohibit motorized vessels on the Kenai River, as follows:

Make the Kenai River drift only.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kenai River is a park. Kings are gone. Guides ferry dipnetters up and down the river. Erosion pollution habitat degradation. King salmon spawning areas are severely impacted. Zero net loss of habitat. Dr. White, 1997? Nothing done since then.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs (HQ-F19-035)  
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**PROPOSAL 169**

**5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.**

Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1—September 15, as follows:

**“From Jan 1 to Sep 15 motors will be prohibited from the ADFG regulatory marker located approximately three miles upstream to the start of Silver Salmon Rapids. Only non-motorized boats will be allowed from the Sterling Highway bridge to the head of Silver Salmon Rapids.”**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the last few years, the use of motors on the upper and lower Kasilof River has increased dramatically. Guides on the upper river are racing downstream in order to complete two sockeye charters in the same day. Residents and guides are launching at the bridge and powering down to the river mouth to dip net. Both groups are motoring through the same narrow channels that the second run Kings are attempting to use for their migration to the spawning grounds. As the Kenai fishery continues to implode, the Kasilof is experiencing pressure far beyond its ability to continue to be managed in a manner to provide a sustainable harvest for both Kings and Sockeye. The benefit to the motorized user group is far outweighed by the deleterious results accrued to the migrating Salmon. As pressure on the Kasilof increases, this situation will only become worse, and the time to address it is before the fishery crashes. Drift boats fishing for Kings are negatively impacted by the power boats, and it is only a matter of time until collisions occur if this situation is not remedied. The Kasilof is too small to allow the use of unrestricted power boats.

**PROPOSED BY:** Charles McCrone (HQ-F19-002)  
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**Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 170**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Move the ADF&G regulatory marker for personal use dipnetting on the Kasilof River north shore beach, as follows:

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan**

(c)(2)(C) from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers outside the terminus of the river on the north shore beach at **60\_ 23.20' N. lat., 151\_ 17.53' W. long.**, [60\_ 23.25' N. LAT., 151\_ 17.98' W. LONG.,] and on the south shore beach at 60\_ 23.27' N. lat., 151\_ 18.64' W. long., upstream for a distance of one mile.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current dipnetting regulatory marker on the north shore of the Kasilof River unnecessarily pushes users of the fishery into closer proximity, especially noticeable during high tide. In addition to common net entanglements, the artificial containment makes fishing difficult for kids that have a hard time to find a place with enough space to effectively manage a net, and for families to fish together. The beach on the north shore continues another 1500 feet beyond the marker, and yet users are pushed side by side in a short 750 foot stretch of beach. In comparison to fishing opportunities on the opposite bank, the south shore has about 1,500 feet of normally used shoreline to dipnet from at high tide.

**To alleviate the artificially imposed crowd, I propose relocating the regulatory marker on the north shore of the Kasilof River, approximately 650 feet to 60°23.20' N., 151°17.53' W. This will allow a greater area for the same number of users to dipnet.**

The personal use fishery at the Kasilof River is a smaller family affair than its partner to the north, and instills passion and enjoyment in fishing beginning with children. If our children or families can't find a spot to fish together, we can't ignite the passion and enjoyment that will pass this tradition along.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brent Ramsay (EF-F19-047)  
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**PROPOSAL 171**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Reduce the Kenai River personal use bag limit for king salmon to one salmon less than 36” in length, as follows:

- (1) in the Kenai River as follows,
- (B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that only one king salmon, **less than 36 inches in length**, may be retained per household, **king salmon caught 36 inches and longer in length must be released**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Low abundances of “large” Kenai River king salmon trigger inseason restrictions to commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries. By management plan intent language, Kenai River king salmon are to be managed primarily for sport and guided sport use. In an effort to put more large Kenai River king salmon inriver and provide all user groups more fishing opportunity Alaska Sportfishing Association suggests limiting Kenai River Personal Use Dip Net harvest to king salmon under 36 inches in length. This proposal is a package with a similar proposal for Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries.

Harvest of king salmon under 36 inches in length would still be allowed in the Kenai River personal use fishery. Any king salmon caught 36 inches or more in length, however, would be required to be released. When salmon are being caught rapidly in the personal use fishery—this size limit has the added benefit of making it easier to identify (by size) those king salmon required to be released. With this size limit, the dip net fishery could proceed without emergency inseason

restriction, and unintended violations that currently occur—when dip netters mistakenly harvest small king salmon (at times king salmon harvest would currently be prohibited) would likely decrease. Personal use fishery participants would still have the opportunity to harvest a smaller king salmon. All king salmon 36 inches or larger released, and escaping through the personal use and sport fishery, would count toward achievement of the Kenai River “large” king salmon escapement goal. Therefore, escapement of more “large” king salmon helps maintain fishing and harvest opportunity for all user groups.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Sportfishing Association/Martin Meigs (HQ-F19-083)  
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**PROPOSAL 172**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Limit personal use dipnetting on the Kenai River by day of the week, as follows:

Dipnet fish is open July 10-July 31st. Head of households with last names beginning with "A" through "M" shall participate in the dipnet fishery on the Kenai river on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Participants with the head of household names beginning with "N" through "Z" shall dipnet on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kenai River beaches are over congested, there is a bacteria problem primarily from the gull activity, there is a trash problem, and there are many accidents usually during the weekends on the Seward Highway.

My suggestion is to open dipnetting on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays during the season to the head of households with names beginning with A through M. Then on Sunday, Monday and Tuesdays open it for the head of households with names beginning with N through Z. This will cut the traffic, beach congestion, bacteria and trash in half on any given day.

The season dates remain the same: July 10-July 31.

**PROPOSED BY:** Karen McGahan (HQ-F19-011)  
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**PROPOSAL 173**

**5 AAC 77.525. Personal use salmon fishery; and 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Reduce the annual limit for the Kenai River dip net fishery and create tiered harvest quotas, as follows:

I would like to see the board modify the personal use dip net total annual limit in the Kenai River, as follows:

5 AAC 77.525(c) In the personal use taking of salmon, unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 77.500 – 5 AAC 77.548 the total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is 25 salmon for the head of a household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, except in the

Kenai River dip net fishery, the total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is 15 salmon for the head of a household and 5 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, unless the department makes an inseason assessment estimating the total Kenai River sockeye salmon run will exceed 4.6 million fish, at which time the total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit will be 25 salmon for the head of a household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. With a fishery total catch limit of 90,000 sockeye, (in the two lower tiers). Also a fishery total catch limit of 150,000 sockeye, (in the upper tier).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 21.360 states that the department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. While there are differences of opinion over what the term “primarily” means, I contend that the Kenai River dip net fishery is the fastest growing fishery in the UCI area, perhaps the whole state. It seems to me that the “primary” sockeye salmon harvester is shouldering quite a burden when it comes to dividing up the pie. 5 AAC 77.001(b) states that it is the intent of the board that the taking of fish under 5 AAC 77 will be allowed when that taking does not jeopardize the sustained yield of a resource and either does not negatively impact an existing resource use or is in the broad public interest.

The dip net harvest of sockeye salmon in the Kenai River can exceed 500,000 fish, which definitely has had a negative impact on commercial fishermen in UCI. In the Kasilof River dip net fishery, king salmon may not be retained and in the Kenai River dip net fishery, only 1 king salmon per household may be retained. Why can't a dip net harvester retain more king salmon? The answer is that it would have a negative impact on inriver sport fisheries. That leads me to ask, “Why is it OK to negatively impact the UCI sockeye salmon commercial fishery but it is not OK to negatively impact sport fishermen?”

I would like the board to review the UCI Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan and put some side-boards on this rapidly growing fishery. Provisions to consider would include, limiting the annual harvest to 15 fish per permit holder and 5 per dependent unless the Kenai River inseason run forecast estimated the run would exceed 4.6 million fish (the upper tier). With a fishery total catch limit of 90,000 sockeye, (in the two lower tiers). Also a fishery total catch limit of 150,000 sockeye, (in the upper tier). Additionally, let's put some teeth into the regulation requiring personal use permits to be returned by August 15. From 2013-2017 (last five years), approximately 7,700 personal use permits per year were never returned, even after two mail-out reminders. The department has the names and addresses of these folks, who by law are supposed to receive a \$200 citation for failure to report. Why are they not cited? The department says, “We don't need all of the permits returned in order to manage the fishery or to estimate harvest.” That just isn't right. It is widely known that the dip net fishery on the Kenai River has one of the highest non-compliance rates of any fishery in the state. I am asking the board to do whatever they can to make the department do a better job of enforcing regulations. Who is making the decision that failure to return a PU permit will not be cited? An accurate daily Fish account needs to be provided to ADF&G for a daily assessment. (Or this fishery does not open.) This can be done with four checkpoints.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every

(HQ-F19-020)

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**PROPOSAL 174**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Prohibit set gillnets in the personal use salmon fishery if the king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai or Kasilof Rivers is restricted, as follows:

**f. If the Kenai or Kasilof is restricted to bait or retention of King Salmon, the personal use fishery is limited to dipnet only.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Interception of early run King Salmon north of the Kasilof River in the personal use setnet fishery. Set nets are considered lethal gear and dipnets are not. The setnet fishery is a nondiscriminatory high impact fishery that does not allow for the viable release of early run Kenai King Salmon.

While in river, sportfishers over the last few years have been restricted. The personal use setnet fishery is relatively new, the fishery has not had an equal burden of conservation in ensuring early run King Salmon escapement goals. Make it all dipnet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Hanes (HQ-F19-067)

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**Upper Subdistrict Set and Drift Gillnet (24 proposals)**

*Fishing Seasons (11 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 175**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Allow commercial fishing with set gillnets in the North Kalifornsky Beach area starting July 1, as follows:

ON July 1, until the Kenai Section set net fishery opens by regulation, NKB may open for regular periods and up to 24 emergency hours per week. Gillnets will be allowed within 600 ft of mean high tide.

Gillnets must be no more than 29 meshes in depth and mesh size will not be larger than 4 ¾ in.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue here is lack of traditional and historic harvest of Kasilof River stocks on North Kalifornsky Beach (NKB), statistical area 244-32.

ADF&G staff has stated that Kasilof stocks are predominately "beach orientated". The ESSN fishery catches 58% of the Kasilof harvest, while the Drift fleet harvests 27%.

NKB since before Statehood was a traditional and historic harvester of Kasilof sockeye. With management changes that went into place in 1999, the opportunity to harvest Kasilof stocks was greatly diminished for NKB.

At the 2017 BOF meeting, the BOF by regulation put in a fishery to fish NKB within 600 ft of mean high tide (MHT), fishing up to 29 beach nets. In 2018 this directed Kasilof stock fishery was fished July 19 and 21. Genetics from these two days showed that over 50% of the harvest was of Kasilof origin.

If the NKB fishery was to start on July 1, with gear restrictions, the Kasilof component would be considerably higher. A 2009 report from ADF&G- Genetic Stock Identification of Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon Harvest, showed that the harvest of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye on ALL NKB was close to a 50/50 split between the two stocks (page 52). This study was taken from samples of the entire NKB section, from the MHT out to 9000 ft. If samples were taken only from nets fishing 600 ft of MHT, with restricted gear, Kasilof stocks would be considerably higher.

From 1999 the Kasilof River sockeye salmon has exceeded its BEG, 17 out of 20 years. ADF&G data from 2008-2015, showed in the Kasilof section setnet fishery, two ocean and younger age classes (smaller fish) comprise 33% of the harvest. While at the same time, these two ocean and younger age classes make up 61% of the Kasilof River escapement. In the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) data showed 73% of the harvest is comprised of two ocean and younger age classes, in certain years.

This proposal would help many ways. It would help keep the Kasilof from exceeding its BEG, OEG, and thus staying out of the KRSHA.

Using restricted gear, 4 ¾ in mesh size or smaller will target the smaller age class fish that make up the 61% of the Kasilof River escapement.

Additionally a study done by KINTAMA, Chinook and Sockeye Salmon Migration Patterns in Cook Inlet (author David Welch), a few years backed showed that tagged King Salmon off the Kenai River swam at an average depth of 16 ft. A traditional 45 mesh deep set net fishes about 18 ft deep at slack tide. A 29 mesh deep net at slack tide fishes about 12 ft deep. King salmon off the Kenai River swim in deep water off shore, rarely in shallow water closer to the beach.

Fishing this restricted gear will target abundant Kasilof stocks and will greatly reduce the harvest of any Kenai River King Salmon.

It is the intent of this proposal that this NKB fishery may open on July 1, even if that date does not fall on a regular scheduled period.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Hollier (HQ-F19-010)  
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**PROPOSAL 176**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons.**

Allow commercial fishing with set gillnets in the North Kalifonsky Beach area starting July 8, as follows:

5 AAC 21.310. (ii)

.....south of the Kenai River mouth at 60 degrees 30.49'N .lat; **this 600 ft fishery on 244-32 may open July 8, regardless if it is a regular scheduled period.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At the 2017 BOF, the BOF passed amended proposal 136. This proposal asked to may open North Kalifornsky Beach (NKB), which is statistical area 244-32, on July 8. This fishery could occur if the Kasilof section was fishing on or after the July 8 date. As the original proposer of 136, that was my intent.

The BOF passed amended 136, but there was no discussion, if 244-32 could open prior to a regular period, on or after July 8. Without clear direction from the BOF, ADF&G interpreted that this fishery could not start until the first regular scheduled period on or after July 8. In 2017, the first regular scheduled period was Monday July 9. The Kasilof section fished Sunday July 8. NKB was excluded from fishing on July 8, due to uncertainty of intent form the BOF.

This proposal is asking for the BOF to give ADF&G the authority to open 244-32 on or after July 8, if any portion of the Kasilof section is fishing, regardless if July 8 is a regular scheduled period.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Hollier (EF-F19-038)  
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**PROPOSAL 177**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Open the North Kalifornsky Beach set gillnet fishery with the Kasilof section and limit the fishery to within 600 feet of the mean high tide, as follows:

5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(i) and (ii)

I propose allowing the set gillnet fishery in the North Kalifornsky Beach (NKB) area within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark to be managed like it was part of the Kasilof Section. Previous genetic stock identification data shows that the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon can be quite high in this statistical area (244-32). By limiting the fishery to within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark, there would be very minimal impact on Kenai River king salmon, while allowing additional harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 21.310 (b)(2)(C)(i) and (ii) are amended to read

(i) Kasilof Section **and that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker located south of the Kenai River mouth at 60° 30.49' N. lat. and within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;** from June 25 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; however if the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the commissioner may immediately, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

(ii) Kenai and East Forelands Sections: from July 8 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; from August 11 through August 15,

the fishery is open for regular periods only; [ON OR AFTER JULY 8, WHEN THE KASILOF SECTION IS OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING WITH SET GILLNETS AND THE KENAI AND EAST FORELANDS SECTIONS ARE CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING WITH SET GILLNETS, COMMERCIAL FISHING WITH SET GILLNETS MAY BE ALLOWED WITHIN 600 FEET OF THE MEAN HIGH TIDE MARK IN THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI SECTION NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE BLANCHARD LINE AT 60° 27.10' N. LAT., AND SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED SOUTH OF THE KENAI RIVER MOUTH AT 60° 30.49' N. LAT.;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Sonar counts of sockeye salmon escapement in the Kasilof River have shown that the BEG for this system has been exceeded in 17 of the past 20 years (BEG = 150,000-250,000 from 1999-2010; 160,000-340,000 from 2011-2018). This not only represents significant foregone harvest opportunity, but it leads to an increased likelihood of smaller future yields. ADF&G has set a BEG on this system, which is the most scientifically defensible goal the department sets. Something needs to be done to allow more harvest on this stock so that the BEG can be met more frequently.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every (HQ-F19-023)  
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**PROPOSAL 178**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Permanently close drift gillnetting in the Upper Subdistrict within one mile of mean high tide north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of mean high tide south of the Kenai River, as follows:

A permanent boundary line from one and one-half miles of mean high tide mark of the Kenai Peninsula Shoreline in the area of the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict south of the Kenai River, and a one mile of the mean high tide mark of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline in that area of the Kenai and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict north of the Kenai River will protect any open waters that may be created by a fleet reduction.

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons**

- 3) Central District, for drift gillnet: from the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, until closed by emergency order, except that fishing with drift gillnets may not occur within
  - (A) two miles of the mean high tide mark on the eastern side of the Upper Sub- district until those locations have opened for fishing with set gillnets;
  - (B) one and one-half miles of the mean high tide mark of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline
    - (i) in that area of the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict south of the Kenai River, [IF FISHING WITH SET GILLNETS IN THAT AREA IS CLOSED] **\*Remove\***
    - (ii) the Anchor Point Section, if fishing with drift gillnets is open in the Anchor Point Section under 5 AAC 21.353;

(C) one mile of the mean high tide mark of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline in that area of the Kenai and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict north of the Kenai River, [IF FISHING WITH SET GILL NETS IN THAT AREA IS CLOSED] \*Remove\*

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Eastside setnetters are actively working with the Alaska Legislature for a voluntary fleet reduction through a fairly compensated buyback of permits and locations. We are striving to create a more economically viable and sustainable set net fishery, by reducing the number of Upper Cook Inlet setnet permits on the Eastside by 45% and with a gear reduction of about 600 nets. With permanently closed waters we will allow more fish for in-river users while providing opportunity for harvest by user groups.

Current regulations allow a drift gillnet boat to come within 600 feet of a setnet if the setnets are open to fishing. There is a one and one-half mile boundary line in the Kenai and Kasilof section south of the Kenai River and a one mile boundary line in the Kenai and East Forelands Sections north of the Kenai river that Drift gillnet boats must remain outside of ONLY if fishing with the setnets is closed.

With a 45% permit reduction there will be more open water that a drift gillnetter could potentially have room to come in and fish while set nets are open. A migration of drifters inside the one and one-half mile boundary line would defeat the effort Eastside setnetters have made to allow more sockeye and kings to get to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ken Coleman (EF-F19-081)

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**PROPOSAL 179**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Extend the commercial salmon fishery season closing date in the Kenai and East Forelands Sections August 15 – September 15, as follows:

**Kenai and East Forelands sections season dates from July 8 to September 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order. (August 15)**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Kenai and East Forelands Sections season dates from July 8 to August 15

Change the closing date to September 15th, unless closed earlier by emergency order. This will give the biologists the flexibility to manage a late run salmon without an arbitrary, inflexible deadline.

**PROPOSED BY:** Karen McGahan (HQ-F19-012)

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**PROPOSAL 180**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Allow regular weekly fishing periods after August 15 in the Upper Subdistrict sockeye salmon set gillnet fishery based on abundance, as follows:

5 AAC 21.310(a)(2)(C)(i) and (ii) will be amended to read:

- (i) Kasilof Section: from June 25 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; however if the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the commissioner may immediately, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only; **the fishery may be extended beyond August 15 for regular periods only, if the Kasilof River sockeye salmon BEG has been exceeded and sockeye salmon escapement is still being enumerated by the department; subparagraph (iii) does not apply to fishing time beyond August 15;**
- (ii) Kenai and East Forelands Sections: from July 8 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only; on or after July 8, when the Kasilof Section is open to commercial fishing with set gillnets and the Kenai and East Forelands Sections are closed to commercial fishing with set gillnets, commercial fishing with set gillnets may be allowed within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker located south of the Kenai River mouth at 60° 30.49' N. lat.; **the fishery may be extended beyond August 15 for regular periods only, if the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal has been exceeded and sockeye salmon passage is still being enumerated by the department; subparagraph (iii) does not apply to fishing time beyond August 15;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the preamble to the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.360), it states that the department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. The Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.365) states that it is the intent of the Board of Fisheries that Kasilof River salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries. Both of these plans provide provisions for ADF&G to follow to meet these mandates. However, per 5 AAC 21.310, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet (ESSN) fishery closes on or before August 15, even if sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded. In the past 10 years (2009-2018), both the inriver goal in the Kenai River and the BEG in the Kasilof River were exceeded in 8 out of 10 years. This proposal seeks to allow additional fishing time for the ESSN fishery past the August 15 “hard” closing date in years when sockeye salmon escapement objectives in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers have been exceeded in order to meet board intent for harvesting these stocks.

I propose that in years where the upper end of the sockeye salmon inriver goal has been exceeded (for the appropriate management tier) in the Kenai River or when the BEG has been exceeded in the Kasilof River that the ESSN fishery will remain open for regular Monday and Thursday 12-hour fishing periods after August 15 until the Kenai or Kasilof river sockeye salmon sonar projects

cease enumeration activities. Specifically, this is what I propose. If the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal has been exceeded, the Kenai and East Foreland sections set gillnet fishery will remain open for regular 12-hour Monday/Thursday fishing periods beyond August 15 until the Kenai River sockeye salmon sonar project ceases enumeration. If the Kasilof River sockeye salmon BEG has been exceeded, the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery will remain open for regular 12-hour Monday/Thursday fishing periods beyond August 15 until the Kasilof River sockeye salmon sonar project ceases enumeration. If sonar enumeration ceases in either river prior to August 15, then there will be no extension to the fishing season, even if escapement objectives have been exceeded.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every (HQ-F19-019)

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**PROPOSAL 181**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Delay all Upper Cook Inlet set and Central District drift gillnet commercial fishing opening dates, as follows:

Drift Gillnet Fishery: **June 27** [June 22].

All remaining set gillnet fisheries, except the Upper Subdistrict: **July 1** [June 25].

Upper Subdistrict Set Gillnet Fishery: **July 1** [June 25] for the Kasilof Section (that portion south of the Blanchard Line), unless opened earlier by EO (based on an inriver estimate of 50,000 Kasilof River sockeye salmon before the **July 1** [June 25] opener), but will not open before June 25 [20]. The Kenai and East Forelands Sections (that portion of the Upper Subdistrict north of the Blanchard Line) may open on or after **July 15** [July 8]. All Sections of the Upper Subdistrict will close for the season on or before August 15.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The upper Kenai River has suffered a steady decline in salmon return numbers. This disturbing trend has been observed by all user groups on the upper Kenai River. Upper Kenai River salmon return to Cook Inlet and the Kenai River earlier than lower river spawners. Commercial fishing opener dates contribute to the commercial scale harvest of these earlier arriving fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Adams (HQ-F19-051)

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**PROPOSAL 182**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Open the Kasilof Section commercial set gillnet fishery June 20 instead of June 25, as follows:

5 AAC 21.310 would be amended to read:

(b) Salmon may be taken only as follows:

(2) Central District, for set gillnet:

(C) Upper Subdistrict:

(i) Kasilof Section: from June **20** [25] through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; **from June 20 through June 24, the fishery is open for regular fishing periods only**, however, if the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River [BEFORE JUNE 25, BUT ON OR AFTER] **between June 20 and June 24**, [JUNE 20], the commissioner may immediately, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery opens by regulation on or after June 25, unless 50,000 sockeye salmon are estimated to be in the Kasilof River prior to June 25 which allows the department to open the fishery by emergency order, but no earlier than June 20. Drift gillnetting opens by regulation on the first regular period on or after June 19. This proposal seeks to open the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery for regular Monday/Thursday fishing periods on or after June 20, while retaining the 50,000 fish trigger that would allow extra fishing time by emergency order. For example, if the season opened on Monday, June 20, and the department estimated that 50,000 sockeye salmon were in the Kasilof River on Wednesday, June 22, they could use emergency order time to fish that day. The primary reason for this request is that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon BEG has been exceeded in 16 of the last 20 years (1999-2018). Having an earlier opening with the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery would provide the department with an additional timed opening in order to meet the BEG goal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Beaudoin (HQ-F19-116)  
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**PROPOSAL 183**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Extend the Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet season to August 20, as follows:

Extend the Upper Subdistrict Set Gillnet season to Aug 20.

5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)

...

(i) Kasilof Section: from June 25 through August **20**, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; ...

(ii) Kenai and East Forelands Sections: from July 8 through August **20**, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this paragraph; ...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 2017 and 2018 saw extremely late run timings for both Kasilof and Kenai River sockeye. To the extent where in 2017, an opening was given outside the management plan on Aug 15; and in 2018 an opening was seriously considered as late as Aug 23rd. Particularly in light of concerns over Kenai River Late-Run Chinook and allocations to other user groups during July, it seems likely that set gill-net harvest may continue to be disproportionately weighted to after Aug 1. Extending the season in order to give managers more flexibility at allowing some opportunity after escapement situations have made themselves clear seems appropriate. Particularly since we have 5 AAC 23.310(b)(2)(C)(iii),

the so called '1% rule' already in place to insure an early closure if there are insufficient sockeye in the district.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joseph Person (HQ-F19-118)  
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**PROPOSAL 184**

**5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.**

Open extra commercial fishing periods at a set time of 7 a.m. in the Upper Subdistrict set net fishery, as follows:

ESSN commercial fishing openings shall start at 7 AM during the month of July.

(i) when the decision to fish is made by ADF&G the calendar day before an opening, 7 AM will be the start time.

(ii) When there is a decision to fish by ADF&G the day of the opening, the starting time is at their discretion.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The ESSN fishing opening time should be set at 7 o'clock am. Set nets along the beach have a specific time of the tide that is best fishing for the nets. By switching the start times to 5 AM, 6 AM, 8 AM, 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM the department is allocating Fish by the use of the commercial opening start time. Recently in my stat area start times seem to be two hours before low tide, which is a very nonproductive time of the tide. This is a very productive time for a different stat area. If the start time was 7 o'clock throughout the summer when openings are given, productive and nonproductive times of the tide would be more equally shared, rather than one stat area fishing their sweet spot opening after opening. To my knowledge there is no scientific data to support this allocative process.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every (HQ-F19-022)  
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**PROPOSAL 185**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Open the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery June 20 instead of June 25 provided an estimated 20,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River, as follows:

Open the Kasilof section set gillnet fishery on June 20, however if less than 20,000 fish are estimated to be in the river on any opening before June 25 than that opening shall be closed by emergency order.

5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)

...

(i) Kasilof Section: from June **20** through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; however if the department estimates that **fewer than 20,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River on any day before June 25 on which an opening would occur than that opening shall be closed by emergency order**; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** For many years there have been issues with over escaping the Kasilof River Sockeye goal. The reduction from the current escapement goal proposed by the department will increase the difficulty of successfully meeting the range even further. The primary obstacle to managers meeting this goal has been the inherent 'mixed stock' nature of the targeted Kasilof section fisheries. Currently the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery opens on the 25th of June with possible openings as early as the 20th dependent upon a trigger of 50,000 fish in the river. This fishing time in June is by far the most focused of the entire season, with extremely minimal impacts on any other stocks besides Kasilof Sockeye, consequently it seems evident that the easiest way to increase Kasilof harvest while minimizing impact on other stocks would be to conservatively increase fishing time very early in the season.

The current trigger of 50,000 fish has clearly been insufficient at providing enough of this early season fishing time to allow managers to maintain escapements within the desired range. The lower range of this goal is exceedingly unlikely to ever be missed due to the severe restrictions placed on fishing in July to protect both chinook and sockeye stocks in the Kenai River and the continued escapement in the upper range and in excess of the goal have harmed returns as evidenced by the department's new escapement recommendations. Harvesting surplus Kasilof salmon early in the season is beneficial from many angles. It increases value of the fishery as prices are higher, eliminates impact on other stocks present later in the season, and it reduces pressure on managers to open the Kasilof section in July when all fishing time given is highly contentious.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joseph Person (HQ-F19-119)  
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One-Percent Rule (11 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 186**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons; and 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Eliminate the one percent rule in both Upper Subdistrict set and Central District drift gillnet fisheries, as follows:

Eliminate the 1% rule from the management plans and manage on abundance using the most reliable science available.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 1 % rule doesn't work and only creates harm to the fishing industry, communities and the resource. Since its inception there has been millions of salmon gone unharvested and countless systems being over-escaped. There are not conservation concerns with coho. In fact they are returning in record numbers. Kenai sockeye salmon are consistently returning at a higher rate in August and the 1% has prevented their harvest along with forgoing harvest of vast numbers of chum and pink salmon in August.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-103)  
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**PROPOSAL 187**

### **5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Eliminate the one percent rule in the Central District drift gillnet fishery and create mandatory area restrictions based on escapement goals, as follows:

5 AAC 21.353(e) From **July 24** [AUGUST 1] through August **31** [15], there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular fishing periods, **except that if the department projects that the lower end of either the Kasilof or Kenai sockeye escapement goals will not be achieved, then the drift gillnet fishery will be restricted to Areas 1 and 3.** [EXCEPT THAT IF THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY IS CLOSED UNDER 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii), OR THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE SEASON'S TOTAL DRIFT GILLNET SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST HAS BEEN TAKEN PER FISHING PERIOD FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS IN THE DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY, REGULAR PERIODS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO DRIFT GILLNET AREAS 3 AND 4.] In this subsection, "fishing period" means a time period open to commercial fishing as measured by a 24-hour calendar day from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This would modify both of the 1% rules. Currently, the drift fleet has 2 (two) 1% rules. This proposal eliminates both; the 1% rule associated with the set net fleet and the 1% rule associated with the drift fleet in-season harvest. By early August, the drift fleet is around 200 active fishing vessels. By the second week in August, the drift fleet is around 100 active fishing vessels. It is unfair to expect a small portion of the fleet to have a Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) based upon the entire drift fleet. There are surplus stocks of sockeye, chum and pink salmon available for harvest.

The Kenai River Late-Run sockeye salmon sonar passage rates changed to an August entry pattern from 1979 to 2018. In the 1980-1989 time frame, the August entry pattern past the sonar for Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon was 7%. In the 2010-2018 time frame, 32% of these sockeye entered in August. In 2006 and in 2018, 57% of the sockeye went past the river mile 19.5 sonar counter in August. In the 2014-2018 timeframe, on average 46%, or 637,585 sockeye, went by the sonar site in August. This August component is rarely harvested by any user group.

In 2018, the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye run had a return failure of both the 1.3 and 2.3 age classes. We ask the Board of Fish and ADF&G to examine and discuss with the stakeholders what appropriate management measures are needed regarding this increasing August component. These adjusted management measures might include:

1. An increased harvest on this component in late July.
2. An increased harvest on this component in August.

August Component Comments:

1. Definite trend towards larger percentage and number of the August sockeye component
2. This August component percentage and numbers started with the 1987, 1988 and 1989 runs
3. In 1987, 1988 and 1989, it was the first time more than 2.2+ , 1.3 and 2.3 million sockeye passed the River Mile (RM) 19.5 sonar counter
4. Since 1987, there have been 26 out of 32 years that the number of sockeye has exceeded one million

5. Beginning in 1987, the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye escapement goals have all been above 400,000 – 700,000 Bendix, or 600,000 to 1,000,000 DIDSON units
6. Since the 1987, 1988 and 1989 runs, harvests and yields have continued to decline
7. Older 1.3 (5), 2.2 (5), and 2.3 (6) age classes have declined
8. In 2018, the 1.3 (5) and 2.3 (6) age classes were missing as compared to the forecast
9. In the last 5 years (2014-2018), the adult returns were smaller in length and weight at age
10. The age structure of the returns and runs has changed
11. Spawning success has decreased as successive spawning occurs at the same locations
12. Structure of fry ages 0 and 1 (fall fry), age 1 fall fry numbers have increased

Additionally, the percentage of age 1 fall fry has increased significantly

Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Sonar Passage Data, 1979-2018

Year Total Run August August % Last Day

1979	412,979	17,114	4%	14-Aug
1980	667,470	24,327	4%	4-Sep
1981	575,847	8,645	2%	2-Aug
1982	809,174	19,572	2%	4-Aug
1983	866,453	92,614	11%	12-Aug
1984	481,470	18,600	4%	8-Aug
1985	680,897	33,626	5%	11-Aug
1986	645,906	0	0%	31-Jul
1987	2,245,610	369,780	16%	15-Aug
1988	1,356,958	138,245	10%	9-Aug
1989	2,295,575	317,624	14%	15-Aug
1990	950,357	125,523	13%	7-Aug
1991	954,841	146,377	15%	12-Aug
1992	1,429,867	217,960	15%	13-Aug
1993	1,134,923	205,617	18%	13-Aug
1994	1,412,050	662,379	47%	23-Aug
1995	884,922	167,066	19%	14-Aug
1996	1,129,274	212,699	19%	12-Aug

**PROPOSED BY:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F19-075)

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**PROPOSAL 188**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Eliminate the drift gillnet one-percent rule, as follows:

Repeal the one-percent rule. Allow regular fishing periods. Let people end their fishing seasons when they feel it's not worth fishing any more.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The so-called one-percent rule for sockeye is causing problems very detrimental to the Cook Inlet commercial fisheries. Great opportunities are being lost as surplus fish are going unharvested and not being utilized in our local and state economies. Local canneries must close their buying operations early due to lack of access

to these fish. Local fishermen could be extending their seasons a few more weeks, thereby adding to the area's economy. At times, the pink, chum, and coho runs are very abundant, sometimes being the largest wild runs in the whole state, and they are always valuable. Also, often there are late pulses of sockeye that could be harvested by those fishermen who choose to keep working the season.

Adding jobs and value to our economic base is always a good thing, especially now with our state's recession and high unemployment, and especially when the resource is there and not being utilized.

**PROPOSED BY:** Teague Vanek (EF-F19-008)  
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**PROPOSAL 189**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Eliminate the one-percent rule in the Central District drift gillnet fishery, as follows:

The one percent rule is a failed re-allocation and will no longer be used.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Eliminate the one percent rule. If this problem is not solved, continued foregone harvestable surplus is wasted. The waste is unacceptable. Consumers and fishermen will benefit and no one is likely to suffer. In the last two years, 57 percent of sockeye entered the Kenai River after August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs (HQ-F19-032)  
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**PROPOSAL 190**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Eliminate the one percent rule in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, as follows:

ELIMINATE 5 AAC 21.310 c (iii) (WILL CLOSE AUGUST 15, UNLESS CLOSED EARLIER BY EMERGENCY ORDER AFTER AUGUST 7, IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT LESS THAN 1% OF THE SEASON'S TOTAL SOCKEYE HARVEST HAS BEEN TAKEN PER FISHING PERIOD FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS IN THE COMBINED KENAI AND EAST FORELAND SECTIONS, OR SEPARATELY IN THE KASILOF SECTION.)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 1% Rule

Eliminate the One Percent Rule which has no basis in science. The 2nd standard in the 10 National Standards in the Magnuson/Stevens Act reads: "Measures shall be based upon the best scientific information available". The One Percent Rule does not meet this standard.

Also, by Alaska Statute, the Commissioner of Fish and Game is charged to manage the fisheries for the "well being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle".

The One Percent Rule does not fit with the Commissioner's duty by statute.

**PROPOSED BY:** Karen McGahan (HQ-F19-014)

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**PROPOSAL 191**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Eliminate the one percent rule in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, as follows:

In order to more effectively manage the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to meet sockeye salmon escapement objectives in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, I propose eliminating 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii) from the Fishing Seasons regulation.

[(III) KENAI, KASILOF, AND EAST FORELANDS SECTIONS: IN THE COMBINED KENAI AND EAST FORELANDS SECTIONS, AND SEPARATELY IN THE KASILOF SECTION, THE SEASON WILL CLOSE AUGUST 15, UNLESS CLOSED EARLIER BY EMERGENCY ORDER AFTER AUGUST 7, IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE SEASON’S TOTAL SOCKEYE HARVEST HAS BEEN TAKEN PER FISHING PERIOD FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS IN THE COMBINED KENAI AND EAST FORELANDS SECTIONS, OR SEPARATELY IN THE KASILOF SECTION; FROM AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 15, THE FISHERY IS OPEN FOR REGULAR FISHING PERIODS ONLY; FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH, “FISHING PERIOD” MEANS A TIME PERIOD OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING AS MEASURED BY A 24-HOUR CALENDAR DAY FROM 12:01 A.M. UNTIL 11:59 P.M.;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kenai and Kasilof river sockeye salmon escapement objectives are more often exceeded than they are met. Limiting the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to regular fishing periods only from August 11-15 and having an arbitrary 1% rule that further limits the primary harvester of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye salmon in August is punitive and foolish. I would like to see 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii) removed from the Fishing Seasons regulation. This would mean that the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery would be managed with the same provisions in August that they are in July. The department would use whatever hours they have based on the Kenai run-size tier to meet sockeye salmon escapement objectives in these two rivers. The closing date for the fishery would not change, it still would be August 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every (HQ-F19-015)

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**PROPOSAL 192**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Amend the one percent rule in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to apply starting July 31 instead of August 7, as follows:

We recommend moving the date back to July 31 to read:

5 AAC 21.310 (2) (C.) (iii.) Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections: in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, and separately in the Kasilof Section, the season will close August 15, unless closed by emergency order after **July 31**, if the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, or separately in the Kasilof Section; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular fishing periods only; for purposes of this sub-subparagraph, "fishing period" means a time period open to commercial fishing as measured by a 24-hour calendar day from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the last Board cycle, the implementation date for the Upper Cook Inlet 1% rule applying to the fishing seasons for Upper Cook Inlet Kenai, Kasilof & East Forelands sections was changed from August 1 to August 7.

This has the potential for additional commercial fishing periods after the sockeye numbers have dropped, signifying the end of the run. As a result, the commercial fishery has extended opportunity to harvest Kenai River bound coho salmon that is has been prioritized for sport fish per 5 AAC 57.170.

Kenai coho are highly exploited and we would like to see the board err to the side of sport-fish priority as laid out in the management plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Professional Guide Association (HQ-F19-071)  
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**PROPOSAL 193**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Amend the one percent rule to a three percent rule beginning August 1 in Cook Inlet Area subdistricts, as follows:

Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing - Beginning August 1 if the set gillnet fleet harvests less than 3% of their total sockeye salmon harvest for two consecutive fishing periods in any subdistrict set gillnet fishing will be closed for that subdistrict.

Beginning August 1 if the drift gillnet fleet harvests less than 3% of their total sockeye salmon harvest for two consecutive fishing periods in any subdistrict drift gillnet fishing will be closed for that subdistrict.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Cook Inlet Coho Salmon are designated as a sport fish but continued manipulation of the one percent rule has resulted in a commercial harvest priority of these designated sport fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Adams (HQ-F19-055)  
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**PROPOSAL 194**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons; and 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Amend the one percent rule to a three percent rule for both Upper Subdistrict set and Central District drift gillnet fisheries, as follows:

Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing - Beginning August 1 if the set gillnet fleet harvests less than 3% of their total sockeye salmon harvest for two consecutive fishing periods in any subdistrict set gillnet fishing will be closed for that subdistrict.

Beginning August 1 if the drift gillnet fleet harvests less than 3% of their total sockeye salmon harvest for two consecutive fishing periods in any subdistrict drift gillnet fishing will be closed for that subdistrict.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Cook Inlet Coho Salmon are designated as a sport fish but continued manipulation of the one percent rule has resulted in a commercial harvest priority of these designated sport fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-106)  
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**PROPOSAL 195**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Amend the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet one percent rule to a two percent rule beginning July 31 instead of August 7, as follows:

(2) Central District, for set gillnet:

(C) Upper Subdistrict:

(iii) Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections: in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, and separately in the Kasilof Section, the season will close August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order after **July 31** [AUGUST 7], if the department determines that less than **two** [ONE] percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, or separately in the Kasilof Section; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular fishing periods only; for purposes of this sub-subparagraph, "fishing period" means a time period open to commercial fishing as measured by a 24-hour calendar day from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations do not clearly define the closure of the sockeye salmon fishery when harvest of sockeye shows a trend of sharp decline and incidental catches of coho are increasing. Without clear definition it is difficult, if not impossible, for the department to manage the upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fisheries to minimize the incidental take of Kenai River Coho salmon stocks. Current dates identified in the management plan do not adequately address the period prior to August 7. In addition, the one percent standard does not effectively anticipate the demise of the sockeye run – a higher standard is more appropriate.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F19-124)  
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**PROPOSAL 196**

**5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.**

Remove mandatory closed fishing periods or "windows" in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fisheries, as follows:

Eliminate windows from all management plans.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Mandatory windows don't work. It is unreasonable allocation. They prevent the managers from harvesting the surplus salmon and create over escapement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-105)  
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*Regulatory Alignment (2 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 197**

**5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections; and 5 AAC 21.330. Gear.**

Provide waypoint locations for landmark names and modify waypoint locations in Chinitna Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 21.200 is amended to read:

...

(b) Central District:

...

(6) Chinitna Bay Subdistrict: all waters in Chinitna Bay west of a line from Spring Point **at 59° 52.70' N. lat.; 152° 48.45' W. long.** to Sea Otter Point **at 59° 50.04' N. lat.; 153° 01.25' W. long.**

5 AAC 21.330 is amended to read:

...

(b) Set gillnets may be used only in the following locations:

...

(3) Central District: set gillnets may be used only in the following locations:

...

(vii) along the north side of Chinitna Bay from **59° 53.18' N. lat., 153° W. long.**, [59° 53.17' N. LAT., 153° W. LONG] to **59° 51.64' N. lat.; 153° 08.35' W. long.** [59° 51.52' N. LAT., 153° 08.17' W. LONG.] and only within 2,500 feet of the mean high tide mark;

(c) Drift gillnets may be used only in the Central District, except that in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict drift gillnets may be used only east of a line from the crane on the south shore at **59°**

**49.91' N. lat.; 153° 05.47' W. long.** [59° 50.07' N. LAT., 153° 05.10' W. LONG.], to the ADF&G regulatory marker on Glacier Spit at **59° 51.67' N. lat., 153° 07.92' W. long.** [59° 51.72' N. LAT., 153° 07.84' W. LONG.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal seeks to reduce regulatory confusion by including waypoint locations for landmark names and to correct erroneous waypoint locations in Chinitna Bay.

5 AAC 21.200(b)(6) describes Chinitna Bay as all waters west of a line from Spring Point to Sea Otter Point; however, there are no waypoints listed for either of these landmarks, which can lead to confusion.

Set gillnetting is open only on the north side of Chinitna Bay between two waypoints listed in 5 AAC 21.330(b)(3)(vii). However, one of these waypoints is approximately 900 feet offshore. Furthermore, 5 AAC 21.220(c) states that drift gillnets may be used only east of a line from the crane on the south shore defined by a waypoint that is more than 150 feet offshore and more than 1,600 feet from where remnants of the crane are currently located.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-175)  
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### **PROPOSAL 198**

#### **5 AAC 21.330. Gear; and 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.**

Amend waypoint descriptions and provide coordinates for landmark names, as follows:

5 AAC 21.330 and 5 AAC 21.350 are amended to read:

5 AAC 21.330. Gear.

...

(b) set gillnets may be used only in the following locations:

(2) Northern District: set gillnets may be used only in the following areas:

(A) those waters along the north and west coast from Point MacKenzie **61° 14.29' N. lat., 149° 59.20' W. long.** [61° 14.33' N. LAT., 149° 59.17' W. LONG] to the southern boundary of the district on the west shore at 60° 46.39' N. lat., except for closed waters listed in 5 AAC 21.350;

(B) waters along the west coast of Fire Island from North Point **61° 10.33' N lat., 150° 09.58' W long.** to West Point **61° 07.56' N. lat., 150° 16.93' W. long;**

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

...

(c) Northern District

(2) Turnagain Arm and Knik Arm: east of a line from Pt. Possession **61° 02.28' N. lat, 150° 23.48' W. long** [61° 02.35'N. LAT, 150° 23.64' W. LONG], to the site of [THE OLD] West Point light **61° 07.56' N. lat., 150° 16.93' W. long** on Fire Island, along the eastern shore of Fire Island **to a point offshore located at 61° 14.14' N. lat., 149° 59.07' W. long.** to North Point **61° 10.33' N lat., 150° 09.58' W long.,** to **Point MacKenzie 61° 14.29' N. lat., 149° 59.20' W. long.** [61° 14.64' N. LAT., 149°59.55' W. LONG.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There are at least five issues this proposal seeks to remedy.

The first issue to be resolved is to address the differing waypoint coordinates listed for Point MacKenzie in 5 AAC 21.330 and 5 AAC 21.350. Shore fishery lease locations are often based on current department regulatory language. Depending upon which coordinates are used, either two or seven current shore fishery lease set gillnet sites are out of compliance with current regulations. Even if the coordinates in 5 AAC 21.330 are used as the location for Point MacKenzie, there are two shore fishery lease set gillnet sites out of compliance. The two shore fishery lease sites affected by these differing waypoints were first obtained in 1965 and in 1986. This proposal seeks to establish one waypoint location for Point MacKenzie in both 5 AAC 21.330 and 5 AAC 21.350. The new waypoint for Point MacKenzie was chosen from the United States Geological Survey Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database as follows: 61° 14.29' N. lat., 149° 59.20' W. long.

Second, in order to bring all existing shore fishery lease sites into compliance with the 5 AAC 21.350 description for both Turnagain and Knik arms, a new offshore waypoint has been proposed linking Point MacKenzie to North Point on Fire Island. While this new waypoint slightly expands waters open to commercial fishing, it is very likely no additional set gillnets will be fished here due to the very strong tides in this area and due to existing shore fishery lease sites. The new offshore waypoint will be 61° 14.14' N. lat., 149° 59.07' W. long.

Third, “North Point” on Fire Island is referenced in both 5 AAC 21.330 and 5 AAC 21.350 regulations, but no coordinates are provided in either. It is recommended that all references to “North Point” on Fire Island in 5 AAC 21 be updated to include 61° 10.33' N. lat., 150° 09.58' W. long. as the location of “North Point” on Fire Island.

The fourth issue addressed by this proposal is the differing landmark names listed for the same locations on the south end of Fire Island that are referenced in 5 AAC 21.330 and 5 AAC 21.350. Descriptions in 5 AAC 21.330 use the name “West Point,” while descriptions in 5 AAC 21.350 use the name “Old West Point Light.” In order to bring existing shore fishery lease sites into compliance with these regulations, this proposal suggests using the waypoint location for “West Point Light,” as listed in the GNIS database, for all references to “West Point,” or “West Point Light.” This waypoint would be 61° 07.56' N. lat., 150° 16.93' W. long.

Finally, in 5 AAC 21.350, the waypoint listed for Point Possession is currently offshore by more than 300 feet. This proposal suggests an updated waypoint location that is onshore, eliminating confusion for where this boundary intersects with the beach. The suggested coordinates for “Point Possession” were determined using the GNIS database, and are 61° 02.28' N. lat., 150° 22.48' W. long.

This proposal will allow the board to align current set gillnet shore fishery lease sites with 5 AAC 21.330 and 5 AAC 21.350 as well as provide waypoint descriptions for landmark names that are now confusing for both fishermen and the Department of Public Safety.

Northern District King Salmon Management Plan (5 proposals)

PROPOSAL 199

**5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

**(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the Northern District king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon over the entire run as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. The department shall manage the Northern District for the commercial harvest of king salmon as follows:**

[(10) IF THE DESHKA RIVER IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE COMMERCIAL KING SALMON FISHERY THROUGHOUT THE NORTHERN DISTRICT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISHING PERIODS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS SECTION;]

**(10) If the sport fishery on the Deshka River**

**(A) is closed or if retention of king salmon is prohibited, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section; or**

**(B) is restricted to retention of king salmon under 28 inches or less in length as measured from the tip of snout to tip of tail, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, reduce the time allowed per fishing period provided for in this section to no more than six hours in duration.**

**(12) If the sport fishery on the Little Susitna River**

**(A) is closed or if retention of king salmon is prohibited, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the commercial king salmon fishery in the General Sub-district of the Northern District including areas 247-41, 247-42, and 247-43, for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section; or**

**(B) is restricted to retention of king salmon under 28 inches or less in length as measured from the tip of snout to tip of tail, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, reduce the time allowed per fishing period provided for in this section to no more than six hour provision in the General Sub-district of the Northern District including areas 247-41, 247-42, and 247-43.**

**(13) If the inseason Deshka River run projection is below the sustainable escapement goal; the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section.**

**(14) If the inseason Little Susitna River run projection is below the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce the time allowed**

**per fishing period provided for in this section to no more than six hours in duration throughout the Northern District.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Amend the *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* to align paired restrictions between the sport fishery and set net fishery. Without direction within a plan, different conservation restrictions to different user groups unavoidably cause unequal sharing of the conservation burden. Perceived unequal sharing of conservation burdens has resulted in emergency petitions submitted to the Board of Fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-048)  
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**PROPOSAL 200**

**5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

Close the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery when the sport fishery in the Susitna or Knik Arm drainages are restricted, as follows:

Amend item (10) of the Northern District King Salmon management plan to state the following "if any rivers / streams in the Susitna and Knik Arm drainages, where King Salmon sport fishing is allowed, have harvest restrictions, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial King Salmon fishery throughout the Northern District until the King Salmon sport fishery harvest restrictions are rescinded

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** King Salmon harvest opportunity in the Susitna drainage, has largely been denied by emergency order regulation consistently since 2009. King Salmon harvest in Unit 2, has not even occurred since 2012 (in 2012 the King Salmon fishery closed on June 25, which is prior to peak run strength within Unit 2).

According to the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan, "the department shall manage King Salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon over the entire run as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions."

Road accessible wild King Salmon sportfishing harvest opportunity, with the exception of the Little Susitna River (which is primarily a boat fishery) has not occurred since 2012 in the Knik Arm and Susitna Drainages.

According to a 1985 Board of Fisheries Finding signed by the Board Chair, the Northern District King Salmon set net fishery was opened, on the premises of "available Chinook surpluses for harvest." Additionally this finding stated "If there is no harvestable Chinook population identified beyond the sport fishery requirements, the Northern District commercial set net fishery will be closed."

**PROPOSED BY:** Ben Allen (EF-F19-054)  
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**PROPOSAL 201**

**5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend paired restrictions in the Deshka River king salmon sport and commercial fisheries, as follows:

This proposal requests that the Board change section (10) to the following.

1. If the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery is open to sport fishing, including catch and release sport fishing, the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery shall be open unless otherwise regulated in this management plan.
2. When the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery is regulated by emergency order to reduce sport fishing harvest through gear or time restrictions, the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery fishing periods shall by emergency order be 7:00 am to 1:00 pm on Mondays.
3. If the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery is closed to sport fishing, the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery shall be closed to fishing.
4. If the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery is reopened open to sport fishing, including catch and release sport fishing, the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery shall be reopened unless otherwise regulated in this management plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In section (10), copy below, the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan states that if the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing the commercial king salmon fishery shall be closed for the remainder of the season.

(10) if the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section; and

At times the Deshka River has been closed to sport fishing and later reopened to catch and release, which is sport fishing opportunity that results in king salmon mortality, however the commercial king salmon fishery is not reopened. This results in lost harvest opportunity on other Northern District king salmon stocks for the commercial fishers while the sport fishery is open. The current practice of allowing catch and release in the Deshka River while keeping the Northern District closed shifts the larger conservation burden onto the commercial fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet/Stephen Braund  
(HQ-F19-060)

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**PROPOSAL 202**

**5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* to allow operation of one set gillnet per permit, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 21.366 (5) to read “No CFEC permit holder may operate more than one set gillnet **per permit** at a time.”

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When the Board of Fisheries adopted the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan in November 1985, a person could only own and operate one CFEC S0H4 set net permit for Upper Cook Inlet. The Northern District Management Plan further regulated gear to one net per permit during this fishery.

In 2011, when the Board of Fisheries modified the regulation to allow a Cook Inlet set net fishers to own and operate two set gillnet permits (S0H4), provisions for when the Northern District Management Plan is in effect were not addressed. This results in making the current language in 5 AAC 21.366 (5) confusing and inconsistent with the intent of the Board of Fisheries action in 2011 and subsequent regulation.

This proposal would clarify regulation and allow one net per permit during the period regulated by the Northern District Management Plan. This proposal is consistent with Board of Fisheries action where the Board of Fisheries voted to allow one net per permit in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.

This proposal is a bookkeeping measure to eliminate confusion in the management plan, make the current language consistent with the original intent of the gear restriction, and make the two regulations consistent.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet/Stephen Braund  
(HQ-F19-061)

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**PROPOSAL 203**

**5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

Provide additional fishing periods in the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery when the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery is liberalized, as follows:

5 AAC 21.366(a)(2) would be amended to include a new subsection, as follows:

- (2) fishing periods are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays;

**If the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery bag limit is increased to two or more king salmon per day, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, one additional commercial fishing period per week, as defined in 5 AAC 21.360(i), not to exceed 6 hours in duration;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern District King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.366) was first adopted in 1986. The purpose of the plan was to provide for a small, conservative commercial fishery on Northern Cook Inlet king salmon stocks, while ensuring sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these stocks over the entire run as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. To meet these objectives, the management plan specifies gear, time, and area restrictions to the commercial fishery in order to moderate king salmon harvest. Moreover, the commercial fishery has a king salmon cap of 12,500 fish, which if met, closes the fishery. This cap was met only one time, the

first year of the fishery, primarily as a result of set gillnet fishermen from the Upper Subdistrict fishing in the Northern District. After registration requirements went into effect in the early 1990's, harvest declined considerably and for the past 10 years has averaged around 1,800 king salmon per year. Genetic stock identification data show that less than half of these kings are Susitna River king salmon. Estimates of the total run of king salmon in the Susitna River are more than 100,000 fish annually; thus, the commercial fishery harvests less than 1 % of the annual run of Susitna River king salmon.

Currently, the management plan states that if the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery is closed, the entire Northern District king salmon commercial fishery closes. However, the management plan does not provide any kind of option for increased commercial fishery opportunity if the Deshka River sport fishery is liberalized.

In the essence of "sharing the burden of conservation," this proposal seeks to also "share the wealth," by providing the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery with a little extra fishing time when the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery is liberalized. Specifically, if the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery bag limit is increased from 1 fish per day to 2 or more fish per day, the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery will be provided an additional day of fishing per week not to exceed 6 hours in duration. This would apply only to the time period covered by 5 AAC 21.366, or May 25 through June 24.

**PROPOSED BY:** Betty Gilcrist (HQ-F19-024)  
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**Northern District Salmon Management Plan (4 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 204**

**5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* to specify management priority of sockeye, pink, and chum salmon includes inriver users, as follows:

(a) The purposes of this management plan are to minimize the harvest of coho salmon bound for the Northern District of upper Cook Inlet and to provide the department direction for management of salmon stocks. The department shall manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks [PRIMARYLY] for commercial uses **and in-river uses** to provide [COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN WITH AN ECONOMIC YIELD FROM THE] **an opportunity to** harvest [OF] these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho salmon, to provide sport and guided sport fisherman **and other in-river users** a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of in-river restrictions, or as specified in this section and other regulations.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This new language gives direction to the department to provide all users of the salmon resource more equal sharing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kristine Ogonowski (EF-F19-060)  
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**PROPOSAL 205**

**5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

Clarify the definition of “minimize” in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

I would like to see the BOF specifically define what is meant by the term "minimize." This could take the form of a specified percentage of the harvestable surplus or it could be a specific cap number based on the five-year average of sport harvested silvers in the Northern District or, perhaps, more specific restrictions on time and area for the commercial fishery than currently exist.

I don't have a specific methodology in mind other than having a specific definition as guidance for ADF&G to manage to. When the commercial drift fleet harvests 191,490 silvers, as they did in 2017 and the entire Northern District sport harvest was 47,706, it doesn't appear that any "minimization" of the commercial harvest is occurring.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When the Board of Fisheries developed this plan, they included purpose and direction for ADF&G to follow when managing under this plan. The plan starts, "(a) The purposes of this management plan are to minimize the harvest of Coho salmon bound for the Northern District of upper Cook Inlet and to provide the department direction for management of salmon stocks ... The department shall also manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks to minimize the harvest of Northern District Coho salmon, to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restriction .... "

The term "minimize" has never been defined in regulation. Over the last ten years, using available data from Fish and Game (2008 to 2017), the Central District commercial drift fishery has harvested more Coho bound for the Northern District than the entire Northern District sport catch in eight of the last ten years. At the 2017 UCI meeting, I was personally told by the Soldotna commercial fisheries management biologist that 95% of all coho salmon harvested by the drift fleet had been shown by genetic sampling to be northern-bound silvers. If the Northern District commercial set net fishery is included, then the commercial fishery has harvested significantly higher numbers of coho salmon in all ten years. How is this "minimizing" the commercial harvest of northern-bound coho?

The commercial data comes from Fisheries Management Report No. 18-10, Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2017, by Pat Shields and Alyssa Frothingham. The sportfishing data comes from Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Internet]. 1996--. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited April 7, 2019).

**PROPOSED BY:** Howard Delo (HQ-F19-086)  
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**PROPOSAL 206**

**5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* to allow for regular amounts of set gillnet gear in the Northern District commercial sockeye salmon fishery during times of reduced effort in the Central District, as follows:

**5 AAC 21.258 (h) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.358(a), from July 20 through August 6, if a regular Monday or Thursday regular fishing period in the Central District drift gillnet fishery is restricted or closed to reduce the harvest of Central District sockeye salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, rescind subsection (c) and return a full complement of fishing gear to the Northern District set gillnet fishery. The regular period restriction referred to in this subsection is for Drift Area 1 or full Central district fishing periods.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When the Northern District Salmon Management Plan was adopted the plan was based on the assumption that Kenai River sockeye salmon stocks would likely dominate ADF&G’s management strategy for use of the Central District drift gillnet fleet to harvest these fish. The plan assumed that the bulk of the harvestable surplus of Northern Cook Inlet (NCI) sockeye salmon would be caught by the Central District drift fleet. When Susitna River sockeye salmon were later classified as a Stock of Yield concern, 5 AAC 21.358(c) was adopted to stabilize the Northern District set net fishery with limited opportunity to catch the remaining portion of the harvestable surplus of NCI sockeye salmon. From July 21 through August 6, ADF&G was provided with authority to reduce gear in the Northern District set gillnet fishery to reduce the harvest of Susitna River sockeye salmon. The drift fleet was also restricted to meet the same objective.

During the 2018 UCI commercial fishery, the Kenai River sockeye salmon run did not return as predicted, and the Central District drift fisheries were greatly restricted and closed. These Central District closures meant that some of the harvestable surplus of NCI sockeye salmon was not harvested by the drift fleet. However, the Northern District setnet fishery was not given opportunity to harvest any of these fish.

Under the existing language of 5 AAC 21.358 increasing the fishing opportunity in the Northern District is not explicit and the regulation could be interpreted to not allow it. This proposal seeks to clarify the regulation to explicitly state that during times of low abundance of Central District sockeye salmon stocks, which results in reduced fishing effort there, the Northern District sockeye salmon fishery should be managed to catch the harvestable surplus normally caught in the Central District.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet/Stephen Braund  
(HQ-F19-062)

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**PROPOSAL 207**

**5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

Remove the Eastern Subdistrict gear restrictions in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 21.358(c) would be amended to read:

(c) From July 20 through August 6, if the department's assessment of abundance indicates that restrictions are necessary to achieve the escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the **General Subdistrict of the** Northern District and immediately reopen a season during which the number of set gillnets that may be used is limited to the following options selected at the discretion of the commissioner, except that from July 31 through August 6, the commissioner may allow the use of two set gillnets in that portion of the General Subdistrict south of the Susitna River:

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Susitna River sockeye salmon were designated as a Stock of Yield (SOY) concern by the board in 2008. An action plan was developed to conservatively manage UCI commercial fisheries that harvest this stock while research continued to better understand limitations on stock productivity. For the set gillnet fishery in the Northern District, the board provided the department with authority to reduce gear from July 20 through August 6 in order to reduce sockeye salmon harvest and to achieve escapement goals at Judd, Chelatna, and Larson lakes.

From 2006 to 2014 ADF&G sampled the Eastern Subdistrict set gillnet commercial sockeye salmon harvest for Genetic Stock Identification (GSI). From these data, it was determined that from an average harvest of 13,121 sockeye salmon per year, only 13.3% or 1,777 fish per year were of Susitna River origin. The average annual run of sockeye salmon to the Susitna River from 2006-2014 was 413,747 fish per year, which means the Eastern Subdistrict harvest of this stock is only 0.5% of the annual run. Based on this very small harvest of Susitna River sockeye salmon, this proposal seeks to remove the Eastern Subdistrict set gillnet fishery from the gear restrictions found in the 5 AAC 21.358(c) *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*.

**PROPOSED BY:** Russell Clark (HQ-F19-073)  
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**Westside Cook Inlet Commercial (5 proposals)**

**Big River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (2 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 208**

**5 AAC 21.368. Big River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

Modify description of waters open to fishing, as follows:

**5 AAC 21.368 (b) Big River Sockeye Salmon Manageme...**

The regulation can be made more clear without excluding one long-established fishing location that is fished primarily by one fisherman in this way:

"Salmon may be taken in the waters of the Kustatan Subdistrict along the mainland shore from the terminus of the Kustutan River, southwest to the southern boundary of the subdistrict, and in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict from a point on the SW of Kalgin Island (Lat. Long. fix point), and outward from there perpendicularly, and northward along the west side of Kalgin Island, then continuing along Kalgin Island's NE coast line until (60 .29.00 N lat. and 151 50.50 W. long), and out ward from there perpendicularly, from the near beach."

I did not include the fix point for the SW because I understand that the errors and omissions

department is looking at that fix point, however, when the errors and omissions department looked at the fix point in question here, they did not conclude error.

The effect of this proposal is to leave open waters for this fishery the same as they have been practiced and enforced for 15 years, while removing the tension of unclear language.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I am given to understand that the Department intends to clarify the wording of this provision by changing the long-established (Lat. Long.) fix points for this district. The Department's proposed change would have the effect of excluding one fisherman who is currently fishing in open waters. This fisherman lives in an area of Kalgin Island that is not open for the early fishery, and he would have no other place to fish on Kalgin Island in the early season. It is possible to clarify the language of the regulation without changing district boundaries as they have been practiced and enforced for 15 years.

Laches: Is a concept of law of equity, wherein a party needs to bring their cause of action in a reasonable amount of time, before others come to rely on the status quo. In this case the fix point on the NE of Kalgin Island has been in regulation for 15 years, and fishermen have come to rely on the regulation as stated. Now ADFG might be asserting that the fix point was an error. Well, that is a matter that they should have brought up 14 years ago and the remedy that the Department is suggesting now hurts people who reasonably relied on fix points as stated in regulation.

ADFG's proposal on this matter is not a conservation necessity, instead it is put forward as a regulation clarification, however, the regulation can be clarified in a way that does not exclude one location that is fished primarily by one fisherman in the early season.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Chessik (EF-F19-106)  
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**PROPOSAL 209**

**5 AAC 21.368. Big River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the waypoint location for Light Point on Kalgin Island, as follows:

5 AAC 21.368 is amended to read:

...

(b) Salmon may be taken in waters of the Kustatan Subdistrict along the mainland shore from the terminus of the Kustatan River, southwest to the southern boundary of the subdistrict, and in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict along the western shore from Light Point at **60° 28.96' N; 151° 50.10' W long** [60° 29.00' N. LAT., 151° 50.50' W. LONG.] to the Kalgin Island Light on the southern end of Kalgin Island at 60° 20.80' N. lat., 152° 05.09' W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

This proposal seeks to amend the waypoint location of Light Point on Kalgin Island for boundary clarification and remove confusion associated with old regulatory waypoints. For example, the location for "Light Point" that is referenced in this regulation puts the waypoint up in the trees hundreds of feet from any beach. This appears to be an error when old waypoint datums were

converted to new standards. The department recommends changing Light Point to a location just east of the waypoint listed in the United States Coast Guard Light List.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-174)  
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Closed Waters and Gear (2 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 210**

**5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.**

Close waters to drift gillnetting on the west side of Cook Inlet within one mile of shore from the West Forelands to Sea Otter Point, as follows:

Commercial drift boats must stay 1 nautical mile offshore of the beach & the mean high tide line, on the west side of Cook Inlet from the west forelands, to sea otter point.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Commercial drift boats deploying their nets right on the beach, and in front of stream mouths, choking off the mouths of streams preventing salmon from entering the streams on the west side of cook inlet. the drift fleet is fishing so close to the beach that brown bears at silver salmon creek are taking fish directly out of the nets as the boats are fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F19-026)  
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**PROPOSAL 211**

**5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Eliminate the four set gillnet per person limit, as follows:

5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations

Amend gillnet specifications and operations as follows:

(d) A set gillnet may not be more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. South of the latitude of Anchor Point, 30 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shore between high and low water levels. A person may not operate [MORE THAN FOUR SET GILLNETS WITH] more than 105 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate per permit. [EXCEPT THAT]

(1) ON FIRE ISLAND A PERSON MAY OPERATE MORE THAN FOUR SET GILLNETS, BUT THE AGGREGATE LENGTH OF THE NETS MAY NOT EXCEED 105 FATHOMS;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Eliminate the four set gillnet per person restriction, or change the restriction to six set gillnets per person/permit holder. There is no reasonable grounds for limiting the number of nets a person can operate to four when there is a maximum length of a gillnet, as well as maximum gillnet in the aggregate. Many circumstances arise in which it is safer and reasonable to fish smaller sets of gear, including inclement weather, swift tides, rock hazards, and fishing from the beach using a running line pulley system.

The current regulation is contradictory, in that it states that a person may not operate more than four set gillnets, yet (i) states that “A CFEC permit holder who holds two Cook Inlet set gillnet CFEC permits may operate an aggregate length of set gillnets not to exceed 210 fathoms in length...” If a set gillnet may not be more than 35 fathoms, and a person may not fish more than four set gillnets, it is impossible for a CFEC permit holder with two permits to fish a length of set gillnets of 210 fathoms.

Other solutions considered: The main other solution considered to remedy this problem would be to amend 5 AAC 21.331 in a way that a person may not operate more than 6 set gillnets, instead of 4. We do not reject this solution, and would support it amended to this if it was seen by the board as a better solution.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tyonek Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-132)  
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Cook Inlet Smelt Fishery Management Plan (1 proposal)

**PROPOSAL 212**

**5 AAC 21.505. Cook Inlet Smelt Fishery Management Plan.**

Eliminate the requirement to obtain a commissioner's permit for the Cook Inlet Smelt fishery, as follows:

Eliminate the requirement to obtain a commissioner's permit for this fishery. I think that it would mean the fishery would be an interim use permit. Change the requirement to carry a permit to only those participants making a landing. All other participants would only need a crew license. All other rules and regulations for this fishery would remain the same.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The UCI smelt fishery has been in place for over 15 years with participation for nearly as long. There has been an extensive stock assessment study done. We have a pretty good handle on this fishery and should not be characterized as "experimental" any longer. We shouldn't be required to obtain a special commissioner's permit. Also, the requirement that every participant have a permit card is onerous. It should be enough that the people that actually have a landing and make a fish ticket need to have a permit card. Everyone else involved should only need a crew license as with other fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Teague Vanek (EF-F19-057)  
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Northern Cook Inlet Sport, Personal Use and Subsistence (31 proposals)

Northern Pike Fishery General Provisions (2 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 213**

**5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area; 5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.112.**

**Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area' 5 AAC 62.122. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area; and 5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Allow anglers to use 5 lines while fishing for northern pike through the ice, as follows:

5 AAC 60.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

**(x) In Anderson Lake, Figure Eight Lake, Flathorn Lake, Memory Lake, all Nancy Lake drainage lakes except Nancy Lake, Prator Lake, and Stephan Lake, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately.**

5 AAC 60.122 is amended to read:

[(4)(E) IN ANDERSON LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO TAKE NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(6) FLATHORN AND FIGURE EIGHT LAKES ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(10)(B) ALL NANCY LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA LAKES, EXCEPT NANCY LAKE, ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(14) IN MEMORY AND PRATOR LAKES, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO TAKE NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE

CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.110 is amended to read:

(8) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

**(x) in Alexander Creek, Fish Creek (lower Susitna River drainage), Fish Creek (Kroto Slough), Indian Creek, Witsoe Creek, and in Alexander Lake, Amber Lake, Crystal Lake, Donkey Lake, Hewitt Lake, Kroto Lakes, Lady Slipper Lake, Lockwood Lakes, Long Lake, Neil Lake, No Name (Cabin) Lake, Onestone Lakes, Parker Lake, Shell Lake, Shirley Lake, Sucker Lake, Trail Lake, Trapper Lake, Upper and Lower Vern lakes, Whitsol Lake, and Whiskey Lake, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;**

5 AAC 61.112 is amended to read:

[(G) SUCKER LAKE, AND ALEXANDER LAKE ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES WITH BAIT IF

(i) THE FISHING GEAR IS CLOSELY ATTENDED BY THE ANGLER AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; AND

(ii) ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT ARE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(E) TRAIL, NEIL, TRAPPER, AND KROTO LAKES ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES WITH BAIT IF

(i) THE FISHING GEAR IS CLOSELY ATTENDED BY THE ANGLER AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; AND

(ii) ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT ARE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(7) IN THE FLOWING WATERS OF ALEXANDER CREEK, FISH CREEK (LOWER SUSITNA DRAINAGE), FISH CREEK (KROTO SLOUGH), WITSOE CREEK, UPPER AND LOWER VERN LAKES, LOCKWOOD LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.114 is amended to read:

(12) [(F) IN CRYSTAL LAKE, LONG LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD

ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.118 is amended to read:

[(10) IN WHISKEY, HEWITT, DONKEY, NO NAME (CABIN), AND ONE STONE LAKES, AND THE FLOWING WATERS OF INDIAN CREEK, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 62.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

**(x) In Chuitbuna Lake and the Threemile Creek drainage, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;**

5 AAC 62.122 is amended to read:

(13)[(C) OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(15) IN CHUITBUNA LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern pike are a predatory fish invasive to Southcentral Alaska and can pose a significant threat to salmon and resident fish in the region. To encourage anglers to harvest northern pike, systems that primarily contain northern pike have regulations allowing anglers to use five lines through the ice. Expanding that list to include the proposed waters may encourage anglers to fish these areas and harvest northern pike.

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**PROPOSAL 214**

**5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; and 5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area.**

Prohibit live release of northern pike in the Anchorage Bowl and Knik River drainages, as follows:

5 AAC 59.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes; **a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike;**

5 AAC 60.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes; **a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern pike are a predatory fish invasive to Southcentral Alaska and pose a significant threat to salmon and resident fish in the region. During the 2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle, a proposal was passed prohibiting the live release of northern pike in the West Cook Inlet and all units of the Susitna River Drainage, areas where stocks of concern had been identified. However, the remaining waters in southcentral containing northern pike were not included in that proposal. Expanding mandatory retention throughout the southcentral Alaska promotes consistency in regulation between adjacent management areas and reduces predation through pike suppression.

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*Susitna River Drainage Area (10 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 215**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create a Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

**5 AAC 61.XXX Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Management Plan.**

**(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the rivers and streams of the Susitna and Yentna river drainages, to provide management guidelines and tools to the department and to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will consider the management**

options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.

(b) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Eastside Susitna management area (Unit 2 of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.

(1) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal for other systems within the Eastside Susitna management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or

(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(2) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within established escapement goal for other systems within the Eastside Susitna management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;

(C) Reduce the annual limit;

(D) Close one or more weekends of fishing;

(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;

(3) If, based on assessment based on available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;

(4) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is assessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;

(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.

(5) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is assessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;

(B) Add a 3-day weekend of fishing;

(c) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Talkeetna River management area (Unit S of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.

(6) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Talkeetna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or

(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

**(7) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal, or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within established escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Talkeetna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;**

**(C) Reduce the annual limit;**

**(D) Restrict fishing to Saturdays - Mondays;**

**(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(8) If, based on assessment of available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;**

**(9) If the in-season escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is accessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.**

**(C) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;**

**(D) Allow use of bait;**

**(10) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is accessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;**

**(B) Allow use of bait;**

**(d) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Yentna River management area (unit 4 of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.**

**(11) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Yentna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or**

**(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(12) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within or above established escapement goal ranges for systems within the Yentna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;**

**(C) Reduce the annual limit;**

**(D) Restrict days harvest is allowed to Fridays - Mondays;**

**(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(13) If, based on assessment of available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Yentna River management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;**

**(14) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Yentna River management area is accessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.**

**(15) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Yentna River management area is accessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;**

**(B) Allow use of bait;**

**(e) At any such time that the retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is**

**established the use of multiple-hooks is prohibited.**

**(a) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adopt a *Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Fishery Management Plan*. With the downturn in Susitna/Yentna River king salmon production, from 2013-2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing this sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2019 for the first time in over 40 years the Susitna and Yentna River drainage king salmon fishery was entirely closed by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to document actions currently used in management by the Department, showing when specific actions may occur, and also an attempt to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Susitna/Yentna River drainage king salmon management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-049)  
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## **PROPOSAL 216**

### **5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create a Deshka River large king salmon optimum escapement goal, as follows:

Deshka River large fish king salmon spawning OEG escapement goal **X-XX** [13,000-28,000].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Please adopt a large fish Deshka River king salmon spawning escapement goal.

Since 2013 Deshka River, Susitna River drainage, and Northern District king salmon fisheries have been managed based partially on the preseason Deshka River king salmon return estimate. The Department's most accurate portion of this estimate is for older age-class fish (large fish). In addition, the female component of a king salmon run consists almost entirely of older age-class "large" fish.

Since it is important for quality king salmon spawning escapements to have adequate numbers of female fish, rather than only high numbers of younger male fish, since the Deshka River return is used for management purposes throughout the entire Susitna River drainage and for management of the Northern District commercial set net fishery, and since Deshka River has the best king salmon data set in Northern Cook Inlet, it therefore makes sense, consistent to large fish king salmon goals used elsewhere in Alaska, that a large fish king salmon goal be developed and adopted for Deshka River. Such a goal would increase projection accuracy, and allow for more precise fishery management coinciding with the goal.

The Committee knows the Department develops a BEG or SEG, but the Board may adopt an OEG. The Board previously designated several Northern Cook Inlet king salmon stocks as Stocks of Concern. We respectfully request the most recent and best available science be used to manage Northern Cook Inlet king salmon stocks. NOTE: With ADF&G suggesting a reduced Deshka River goal of 9,000 - 18,000 (kings of any size) - a better precautionary measure would be to ensure an escapement target containing adequate numbers of large king salmon. The department's ability to gauge king salmon size inseason should be considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-044)  
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**PROPOSAL 217**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create a Deshka River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

**5 AAC 61.XXX. Deshka River King Salmon Management Plan.**

**(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Deshka River, to provide management guidelines and tools to the department, and to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will consider the management options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.**

**(b) The Department shall manage the Deshka River king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal and to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run.**

**(c) In the Deshka River,**

**(1) The seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 61.110 -5 AAC 61.112;**

**(2) From January 1-July 13, from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River,**

**(A) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(i) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or**

**(ii) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(B) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(i) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(ii) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;**

**(iii) prohibit the use of bait;**

**(iv) Reduce the annual limit;**

**(v) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;**

**(C) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be above the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(i) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;**

**(ii) allow the use of bait prior to June 1;**

**(iii) Increase hours to 24 hours per day.**

**(3) If the inseason escapement projection is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;**

**(4) If the inseason escapement projection is within the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.112;**

**(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.**

**(5) If the inseason escapement projection is greater than the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;**

**(B) Increase bag and possession limits;**

**(d) When retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is in effect the use of bait and multiple hooks are prohibited.**

**(e) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adopt a Deshka River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan. With the downturn in Deshka River king salmon production, from 2013-2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2018 the fishery was restricted to catch and release only fishing for the entire season / before a season ending closure. In 2019 the fishery was closed entirely by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to document and record practices currently used in management by the Department, and also to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific

management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Deshka River king salmon management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-045)  
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**PROPOSAL 218**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create an optimal escapement goal for McRoberts Creek coho salmon of 450-1,400 fish, as follows:

Adopt a **McRoberts Creek coho salmon OEG of 450 — 1,400 fish.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adopt a McRoberts Creek OEG for McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek coho salmon. This fishery has some years been the largest producer of sport caught silver or coho salmon in the entire Northern Cook Inlet Management area with past sport harvests numbering over 10,000 coho annually. The current McRoberts Creek escapement goal, in comparison, is minuscule — and the other 3 streams with coho salmon escapement goals in Upper Cook Inlet all have significantly larger goals than the McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek system.

Part of the reason for this disparity in escapement goal size is while index foot surveys are done in two important spawning areas of the McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek system the goal only encompasses the McRoberts Creek portion of the drainage. The Department is currently operating Jim Creek weir which enumerates the entire drainage escapement below the McRoberts Creek fork. The Department has used weir escapements to manage the sport fishery in the recent past — but has yet to develop a weir-based coho salmon escapement goal that encompasses the entire Jim Creek drainage. A solid precautionary management approach would be to maintain the McRoberts Creek goal, at the current level as a board adopt OEG, until such time as the Department makes public a weir-based coho salmon escapement goal for the entire Jim Creek drainage.

It should be pointed out that the McRoberts Creek goal is a post season number not available for inseason management, but important, nonetheless, in measuring Jim Creek coho salmon sustainability.

**PROPOSED BY:** Andrew Couch (HQ-F19-095)  
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**PROPOSAL 219**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create a Little Susitna River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

**5 AAC 60.XXX. Little Susitna River King Salmon Management Plan.**

**(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Little Susitna River to provide management guidelines and tools to the department**

**and to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will consider the management options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.**

**(b) The Department shall manage the Little Susitna River king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal and to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run. The department shall initiate management of the sport fishery for king salmon in the Little Susitna River based on run sizes of immediate past years and other available abundance indices while minimizing the effects of conservation actions for the Susitna River on the Little Susitna River.**

**(c) In the Little Susitna River.**

**(1) The seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 60.120 -5 AAC 60.122;**

**(2) From January 1 - July 13, from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway,**

**(A) If pre-season, the run is anticipated to be below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(i) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or**

**(ii) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(B) If the pre-season, the run is anticipated to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(i) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(ii) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;**

**(iii) Reduce the annual limit;**

**(iv) restrict days harvest is allowed;**

**(v) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;**

**(3) If the inseason escapement projection is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;**

**(4) If the inseason escapement projection is within the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.112;**

**(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention;**

**(5) If the inseason escapement projection is greater than the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow use of bait;**

**(d) When retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is in effect the use of multiple-hooks is prohibited.**

**(e) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adopt a *Little Susitna River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan*. With the downturn in Little Susitna River king salmon production, from 2013 - 2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing the Little Susitna River sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2019 for the first time in over 40 years the Little Susitna River king salmon fishery was entirely closed by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to**

document actions currently used in management by the Department, showing when specific actions may occur, and also an attempt to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Little Susitna River king salmon management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-047)  
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### **PROPOSAL 220**

#### **5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.**

Prohibit retention of rainbow trout and the use of bait in the Lake Creek drainage, as follows:

#### **Yentna unit 4 lake creek drainage**

Designate the entire Lake Creek drainage as catch and release for Rainbow trout, no retention allowed.

Restrict the use of bait to 1/2 mile above the confluence of Lake Creek and the Yentna River. All areas above the marker 1/2 mile above the confluence would incorporate the same regulations for trout that currently exist 1/4 mile above the outlet of Bulchitna Lake. Allowing the use of bait to the area below the marker during the time frame allowed for the use of bait, would minimize any negative impacts to the commercial lodges and guide services which rely heavily on the use of bait to catch Silver salmon.

On the other hand, the chance to land a trophy Rainbow Trout would be an incentive for many sport anglers. With most Taxidermists utilizing molds and photographs and measurements of trophy fish to reproduce an exact replica of the fish without having to kill the fish to do so. I believe instituting these changes would enhance the number and size of Rainbow trout and protect the resource for future generations. It would also be a positive step for the commercial lodges and guide services, and air taxi operators, if trophy trout were readily available, without incurring the huge expense of a trip to Bristol Bay or western Alaska.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To make Lake Creek a designated trophy fishery for Rainbow trout similar to what's been done on the Taluchulitna river. I've been a property owner on Bulchitna Lake since 1987, and the last several years have noticed a severe decline in the number and size of Rainbow trout. Although the waters 1/4 mile above Bulchitna lake are designated catch and release for rainbow trout, the lower Two miles of the river below Bulchitna lake allow for retention of trout. This area receives a lot of pressure due to ease of access, and with the restrictions imposed on the King Salmon fishery, and inconsistent runs of Sockeye and Silver salmon, there is more of a tendency to retain rainbow trout. With the expense involved of getting there via air, or hiring a guide, people want to take something home to justify

the expense. During the period July 13 thru August 15 bait is allowed and this contributes to high mortality rates for Rainbow trout even when released, as trout have a tendency to swallow the bait.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Wagner (EF-F19-003)  
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**PROPOSAL 221**

**5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.**

Extend the use of bait to September 11 in Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area sport fishery, as follows:

Amend Unit 2 artificial lure season as follows: (3) in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure may be used from September **11** [1] - May 31 and from June 1 - July 13 only unbaited, artificial lures may be used.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Please allow sport anglers to fish bait for 10 additional days into September in specific Susitna River drainage Unit 2 waters currently open to bait fishing. When restricted to single-hook artificial lures after August 31, sportfishing effort and harvests plummet, even though harvestable coho salmon remain available. Susitna River drainage sport anglers should be allowed to fish with bait for coho through September 10 in order to more fully utilize this fishery resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-042)  
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**PROPOSAL 222**

**5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.**

Allow fishing for resident species on days closed to king salmon fishing in Unit 2, as follows:

5 AAC 61.114 is amended to read:

(1) from January 1 through **July 13**, [THE THIRD MONDAY IN JUNE, AND ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND MONDAY FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS STARTING ON THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE THIRD MONDAY IN JUNE] Unit 2 is open to sport fishing for all finfish species **except for king salmon**; [INCLUDING KING SALMON] [EXCEPT] sport fishing for king salmon is open only from the third Monday in June, and on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday for two consecutive weeks starting on the Saturday following the third Monday in June;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently fishing for rainbow trout and other resident species is closed in the lower sections of streams within Unit 2 of the Susitna River drainage (Parks Highway streams) on days closed to king salmon fishing. This is a long-standing regulation put in place to prevent king salmon being targeted under the guise of trout fishing on days closed to king fishing. The department issued preseason emergency orders closing streams within this area to fishing for king salmon in 2018 and 2019 to address king shortages.

These emergency orders allowed fishing for finfish species other than king salmon on days normally closed in regulation to mitigate lost opportunity to fish for king salmon. The result was 20 additional days of fishing opportunity for trout anglers with few enforcement complaints. This change would result in regulatory consistency with other areas where popular fisheries for both resident fish and king salmon overlap.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-146)  
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**PROPOSAL 223**

**5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area.**

Allow more than one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Susitna River, as follows:

There are several locations in regulations where terminal tackle is restricted to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure. Because there are no negative biological impacts to the rainbow trout populations, I believe that the restriction to terminal tackle, in the regulations cited below should be changed to allow unbaited single-hook, artificial lures instead of limiting it to only one unbaited artificial lure. These regulations are listed below along with substitute language. However, this may not be an exhaustive list of regulations that I recommend to be changed. There may be other regulations that pertain to the Susitna River Drainage areas that should be changed from one unbaited single-hook artificial lure to unbaited, single-hook artificial lures. I suggest changing these regulations also.

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(3) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used from September 1-May 31 and from June 1 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(1) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(5)(A) in the flowing waters, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(7)(A) from August 16 - May 14, from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter

mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used; in that same area from May 15 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;  
(7)(B) upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;  
(9)(A) in flowing waters only [one] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area  
(3)(C) in the Fish Creek drainage only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;  
(5)(B) only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area  
(4)(B) from January 1 - July 13, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area  
(a) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the special management areas for rainbow trout described in (b) and (c) of this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, terminal tackle when sport fishing in various areas during certain times and within the rainbow trout catch-and-release special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage Area is limited to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure. Accordingly, the use of a dropper fly is prohibited in these select areas. However, there is no biological reason to prohibit dropper flies in these waters. I would like the Board to address the issue of allowing dropper flies or allowing more than 1 unbaited single hook lure as terminal tackle when fishing in these Susitna Areas and the special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage.

This change in regulation would allow a sport fisherman to use two different flies when fishing for rainbow trout in these waters. I believe that there are no negative biological implications to the rainbow trout population or the individual rainbow trout, except that it might provide more hook-ups for the fisherman. Allowing the use of an additional dropper fly when sport fishing in these waters would benefit the fisherman who would like to use a dropper fly and have no impacts to fishermen who prefer to use only one fly or lure. The current regulations are overbearing and confusing. For example, from currently, from June 1 through July 13, above the Parks Highway in Willow Creek, terminal tackle is restricted to unbaited, single hook lures, while below the Parks Highway, during the same time period, only one, unbaited single-hook lure can be used. The change in this regulation would provide the same regulation for Willow Creek above and below the Parks Highway. Additionally, the proposed changes in regulations would simplify and coordinate regulations for other streams and lakes within the Susitna River drainage during the period September 1 through July 13, as specified in 5 AAC 61.112; 5 AAC 61.120; and 5 AAC 61.122.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gene Sandone (HQ-F19-130)

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## **PROPOSAL 224**

**5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area.**

Allow more than one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the rainbow trout fishery throughout the Susitna River Drainage, as follows:

### **5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow.**

There are several locations in regulations where terminal tackle is restricted to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure. Because there are no negative biological impacts to the rainbow trout populations, I believe that the restriction to terminal tackle, in the regulations cited below should be changed to allow unbaited single-hook, artificial lures instead of limiting it to only one unbaited artificial lure. These regulations are listed below along with substitute language. However, this may not be an exhaustive list of regulations that I recommend to be changed. There may be other regulations that pertain to the Susitna River Drainage areas that should be changed from one unbaited single-hook artificial lure to unbaited, single-hook artificial lures. I suggest changing these regulations also.

### **5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area**

(3) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used from September 1 - May 31 and from June 1 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

### **5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area**

(1) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

### **5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area**

(5)(A) in the flowing waters, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(7)(A) from August 16 - May 14, from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used; in that same area from May 15 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(7)(B) upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(9)(A) in flowing waters only [one] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

**5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area**

(3)(C) in the Fish Creek drainage only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;  
(5)(B) only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

**5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area**

(4)(B) from January 1 - July 13, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

**5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area**

(a) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the special management areas for rainbow trout described in (b) and (c) of this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, terminal tackle when sport fishing in various areas during certain times and within the rainbow trout catch-and-release special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage Area is limited to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure. Accordingly, the use of a dropper fly is prohibited in these select areas. However, there is no biological reason to prohibit dropper flies in these waters. I would like the Board to address the issue of allowing dropper flies or allowing more than 1 unbaited single hook lure as terminal tackle when fishing in these Susitna Areas and the special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage.

This change in regulation would allow a sport fisherman to use two different flies when fishing for rainbow trout in these waters. I believe that there are no negative biological implications to the rainbow trout population or the individual rainbow trout, except that it might provide more hook-ups for the fisherman. Allowing the use of an additional dropper fly when sport fishing in these waters would benefit the fisherman who would like to use a dropper fly and have no impacts to fishermen who prefer to use only one fly or lure. The current regulations are overbearing and confusing. For example, from currently, from June 1 through July 13, above the Parks Highway in Willow Creek, terminal tackle is restricted to unbaited, single hook lures, while below the Parks Highway, during the same time period, only one, unbaited single-hook lure can be used. The change in this regulation would provide the same regulation for Willow Creek above and below the Parks Highway. Additionally, the proposed changes in regulations would simplify and coordinate regulations for other streams and lakes within the Susitna River drainage during the period September 1 through July 13, as specified in 5 AAC 61.112; 5 AAC 61.120; and 5 AAC 61.122.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gene Sandone (EF-F19-107)  
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*Knik Arm Drainage Area (4 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 225**

**5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Limit retention of king salmon in the Eklutna Tailrace to hatchery fish, as follows:

All waters within a 1/2 mile radius of its confluence with the Knik River, and to an ADF&G marker located 2 miles downstream of the confluence:

Add a new section as follows:

**From the above mentioned ADF&G marker to the Knik River confluence with Knik Arm: same methods, means, and bag limit, however, the only king salmon allowed to be retained in these waters are hatchery fish with a healed adipose fin-clip scar.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** With the Eklutna Tailrace/Knik River enhanced king salmon fishery being the primary freshwater location in Northern Cook Inlet Management Area where sport anglers were allowed to harvest king salmon during the 2018 season, and by emergency order at the start of the 2019 season, — the only freshwater location where sport anglers could harvest king salmon in the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area, this is an extremely small location for everyone who would like to catch a king salmon to fish. The entire Tailrace measures about 1/4 mile long and the shallow braided Knik River side-channel below the Tailrace only provides 3 decent anchoring locations with deep enough water to hold king salmon as they migrate upstream between where the Marker should be located and the Tailrace.

During the 2018 season the ADF&G marker, discussed in the regulation booklet, never seemed to be put in place. I fished this area at least 6 times for king salmon in 2018 and never saw the marker — even though I knew and looked, where it had been located years ago.

To accommodate the amount of use this area receives — especially when many other Northern Cook Inlet Management Area king salmon fisheries are closed to sport harvest by emergency order — I suggest increasing the size of the fishing area — but limiting harvest of king salmon in the additional area to hatchery fin-clipped king salmon. All hatchery king salmon releases in this area should be fin-clipped and wire tagged similar to this practice used elsewhere in Upper Cook Inlet. This would provide a much larger fishing area for anglers to spread out in, while also providing for a biologically sustainable fishery, similar but more restrictive, than the Kasilof River/Crooked Creek king salmon fishery.

If adopted this proposal would allow very limited harvest beyond the present area for the first few years, as few of the hatchery king salmon released in previous years, at this location, were fin-clipped. It would also remain to be seen how successful anglers could be at catching king salmon in the deeper and more glacially turbid mainstream Knik River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Andrew Couch (HQ-F19-094)  
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**PROPOSAL 226**

**5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Require retention of coho salmon caught in the Little Susitna River sport fishery, as follows:

**The Little Susitna River coho fishery, below the weir, is restricted to catch and keep, up to the daily bag limit. Coho salmon shall not be released no matter where they are hooked. When the bag limit is caught the angler cannot continue to fish in the Little Susitna River for the remainder of the day. No snagging is allowed.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Reduce the waste of salmon that is caused by the large number of salmon that are caught and released as documented from the high mortalities in the catch and release salmon fisheries. ADF&G reports show there is an average of over 650,000 salmon caught and released in the Cook Inlet sports fishery every year. Catch and release results in hundreds of thousands of salmon wasted each year from either becoming a valuable food source or a spawner for producing future returns. Coho are extremely susceptible. The 1993 ADF&G report on the "Mortality of coho salmon caught and released using sport tackle in the Little Susitna, Alaska-ADF&G (Doug Vincent-Lang, Marianna Alexandersdottir and Doug McBride) documented a 69% mortality on coho salmon in the lower (10 to 15 miles) of fresh water systems when using bait. This lower section is where the majority of catch and release occurs. This lower section of fresh water systems is the highest for mortality because of the stress caused by hook and release when salmon are the most susceptible because of chemical changes the body is undergoing to acclimate to fresh water. This stress and lactic acid build up is being compounded with the trend of warmer water temperatures. The Little Susitna coho fishery is overcrowded and not sustainable.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-096)  
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**PROPOSAL 227**

**5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Open additional days in the sport fishery in the Fish Creek drainage, as follows:

(5) in the Fish Creek drainage,

(A) the waters from ADF&G regulatory markers located at its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-quarter mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road are open to sport fishing **the first two Saturdays and Sundays in July, and from August 1 - December 31, although fishing on the first Saturday and Sunday in August will remain open only to youths under 16 years of age.** [BEGINNING THE SECOND SATURDAY IN AUGUST THROUGH DECEMBER 31 ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS] from 5:00 am-10 p.m., except that sport fishing for king salmon is closed;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Please allow more sportfishing for salmon in the small section of Fish Creek that is open to salmon fishing. A harvestable surplus occurs at this location, even though escapement numbers remain lower in nearby streams. Additional fishing days could be added to better utilize harvestable surplus coho and sockeye salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-043)  
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**PROPOSAL 228**

**5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Prohibit fishing while wading in Fish Creek, as follows:

(5)

**(a)(5)(new) In Fish Creek, fishing while wading is prohibited downstream from a department marker located approximately 0.1 mi below the Knik-Goose Bay Road from 2.5 hours before high tide through the time of high tide, according to the NOAA Anchorage Tide Tables for Anchorage.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fish Creek is open to sport fishing on weekends during the coho salmon run. Sport fishing is allowed starting on the second Saturday in August through the end of December. However, fishing usually terminates when the run stops in September. Coho salmon are sight feeders.

Nearly all of the sport fishers fishing for coho salmon in Fish Creek during this time use lures as terminal tackle. There is very little to no use of bait in this stream. I have been fishing this stream since 1984. Recently, the number of fishers fishing this weekend fishery has increased dramatically. A very few of these fishers wade in the stream to catch the incoming tide and the migrating coho salmon. Normally, there is only one or two fisher who wade in the stream during the incoming tide. Nearly all of the fishers are fishing from the bank. Fishing while wading within the intertidal area of Fish Creek dislodges so much glacial flour (mud) that it causes great turbidity downstream of the wading fisher. This turbidity is so great that it takes away the fishing opportunity from the fishers on the bank. Because of the extreme turbidity caused by the fisher wading in this stream within the intertidal zone, the coho salmon cannot see and therefore hit the lures. The opportunity to catch coho salmon is markedly reduced by this turbidity, nearly to zero.

I would like the Board to prohibit fishing while wading in Fish Creek for two and a half hours before high tide through the time of high tide. These two and a half hours would allow more catching opportunity for the vast majority of the fishers who fish from the bank. Wading above the intertidal zone does not cloud the water. Therefore, I suggest that the Board prohibit fishing while wading in Fish Creek downstream of a department marker set at approximately 0.1 mile below the Knik-Goose Bay Road, or below the road culvert for the period 2.5 hours before high tide through high tide, according to the NOAA Tide Tables for Anchorage.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gene Sandone

(HQ-F19-129)

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Anchorage Bowl Drainage Area (1 proposal)

**PROPOSAL 229**

**5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area.**

Extend the hours of the Ship Creek youth fishery, as follows:

(14) in the Ship Creek drainage,  
(J) a person 16 years of age or older may not sport fish in the Ship Creek youth fishery zone, established in Ship Creek between the upstream side of the C Street Bridge upstream to the downstream side of the restaurant bridge, during the designated youth fishery day, which occurs from 6:00 a.m. to **10:00**[6:00] p.m. on the third Saturday in June.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allocating of additional hours (4) would ensure youth anglers are capable of maximizing the youth fishery and will allow them to possibly be more successful due to the tidal changes.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dustin Douglas Slinker (EF-F19-102)  
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Westside Cook Inlet Area (4 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 230**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Allow retention of snagged sockeye salmon in the Big River Lakes and Wolverine Creek, as follows:

Sockeye salmon may be retained that are not hooked in the mouth in the big river lakes & wolverine creek fishery. The current single hook size regulation will be retained.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Big River lakes, & wolverine sockeye fishery takes place in a lake with no current, it is 100% impossible to hook these fish in the mouth. Hundreds of anglers fish this remote fishery every day, mostly with guides. The vast majority of the fish retained in this fishery are not hooked in the mouth, making all the anglers & guides in this fishery criminals. This is a snag fishery plain & simple & everybody knows it so making this fishery legal would be in the fisheries best interest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Adam Housh (EF-F19-051)  
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**PROPOSAL 231**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Establish limits in the Big River Drainage of two salmon 16" or greater in length, as follows:

**(17) in the big river drainage, including wolverine creek, the bag and possession limit is two salmon 16 inches or greater in length**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Concern for the increasing fishing pressure and exploitation of the Sockeye and Coho salmon runs in the Big River drainage. This change would help to alleviate depletion of the stocks while not having a substantial effect

on sportfish opportunities. It would also allow for a more orderly and expeditious fishery at the "line up" at Wolverine Creek.

**PROPOSED BY:** Danny Brewer (EF-F19-067)  
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**PROPOSAL 232**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Close a section of the south fork of Big River to sport fishing, as follows:

**the south fork of big river is closed to sportfishing upstream from a ADF&G regulatory marker located at the first island approximately 3/4 mile upstream from the confluence at Otter Lake**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To protect the spawning beds that are vulnerable to fishing exploitation on the South Fork of the Big River upstream from the island approximately 3/4 mile from the confluence with Otter Lake. Besides the spawning beds, there is very little sportfishing opportunity upstream from this point so the impact on fishing will be minimal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Danny Brewer (EF-F19-068)  
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**PROPOSAL 233**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Allow fishing for fish, other than salmon, in upper Threemile Creek and the Threemile Lake outlet, as follows:

5 AAC 62.122 is amended to read:

(12) Threemile Creek is closed to sport fishing **for salmon** upstream from the Beluga Tyonek Road culvert to Threemile/Tukhallah Lake;

(13) Threemile/Tukhallah Lake is  
(A) closed to sport fishing **for salmon** within a 300-foot radius of the lake outlet;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern pike are a predatory fish invasive to Southcentral Alaska and pose a significant threat to salmon and resident fish in the region. Pike have been spreading to systems on the west side of Cook Inlet and have had detrimental impacts on systems such as the Threemile Creek Drainage.

The highest density of northern pike occurs in the Threemile Lake outlet and the upper part of Threemile Creek where they predate on the few remaining coho salmon fry and smolts naturally funneled into that narrow area. The area in the vicinity of the lake outlet was closed to all sport

fishing to protect spawning sockeye salmon. If open to northern pike fishing, anglers could fish where northern pike densities are highest and potentially assist salmon recovery in this system.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-145)  
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Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use (8 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 234**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a personal use salmon fishery on the Susitna River, as follows:

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

**(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net only as follows:**

**(1) from July 10th through August 15th, Wednesday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm, Saturday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm, and Sunday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm**

**(2) from a boat or from shore between ADF&G regulatory marker located 1 mile downstream from Susitna Station to Bell Island/Alexander Creek cutoff ADF&G regulatory marker.**

**(3) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that no king salmon may be retained and any king salmon caught must be returned to the water unharmed. Northern pike caught must be retained.**

**(4) a permit holder for this fishery shall report to the department as specified in permit conditions, the department may alter, time, area, species retained and limits based on salmon abundance.**

**(5) When the department projects that both sockeye and coho abundance will be above the midpoint of all 4 escapement goals: Larson, Judd, Chelatna Lake and Deshka River the commissioner may extend, by emergency order, the personal use fishery through August 31<sup>st</sup>**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Provide Alaskan residents an opportunity to harvest chum, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon in the Susitna River. Residents of the Mat-Su Valley would like the option of a PU fishery on the Susitna River and not having to travel hundreds of miles away to the Kenai or Copper Rivers. The most recent ADFG abundance estimates indicate there are inriver fish to harvest. Recent abundance and harvest of these stocks indicate to us there is a harvestable surplus of salmon inriver and a limited PU fishery is warranted. If there is not a harvestable surplus of salmon in river then the BOF needs to shift the allocations slightly and direct the commercial fishery to share in the harvest (or lack of harvest) with other users and uses.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-040)  
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**PROPOSAL 235**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a lower Susitna River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:

**5 AAC 77.540(h) (new section).**

**(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net only as follows:**

- (1) from July 10 through August 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm;**
- (2) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that no king salmon larger than 28 inches may be retained;**
- (3) from a boat or shore, in those waters from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the confluence of the Susitna and Yentna Rivers downstream to at the power line crossing the Susitna River.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Open a personal use fishery in the lower Susitna River.

ADF&G has in-river data showing multiple salmon species returning to the Susitna River, implying that additional access is necessary. The opening dates can avoid the returning king salmon in June. Any king netted in July-August will most likely be a small jack.

The valley population has expanded to 150% over the census taken in 2000. The fishing populations harvesting from the few local personal use fisheries available in the Valley puts burdens on these small fisheries, as well as the Kenai River and other Cook Inlet fisheries.

The lower Susitna River has relatively easy access for a personal use fishery downstream of the confluence of the Yentna and Susitna Rivers. There is a gravel bar suitable for landing an airplane and for fishing from shore near the Susitna-Yentna confluence.

A side effect of this fishery in the Valley will be fewer vehicles driving the Seward Highway, which was designated as a Safety Corridor in May, 2006. Safety Corridors have been identified as having higher than average incidences of crashes causing serious injuries and fatalities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kristine Ogonowski (EF-F19-059)  
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**PROPOSAL 236**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a Susitna River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:

**(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net as follows:**

- (1) from July 10 through August 10, only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 8 am to 8 pm daily.**
- (2) the annual limit is specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that king salmon 28 inches and greater in length may not be retained, and any king salmon caught 28 inches or greater in length must be returned to the water immediately. — All northern pike caught may be retained without limit, but northern pike may not be returned to the water alive.**
- (3) from a boat or from shore downstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker on the northwest bank of the Yentna River/Susitna River confluence to an ADF&G regulatory marker located upstream of Alexander Creek Cut Off Channels/Bell**

**Island on the West Bank and an ADF&G regulatory marker located downstream of the Susitna Station side-channel on the East Bank.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adopt a Susitna River personal use dip net fishery.

Many Alaska residents of Northern Cook Inlet would have easier access to this fishery than driving hundreds of miles to participate in Kenai and Kasilof River personal use fisheries, or driving to the out-of-region Copper River personal use fishery. Currently Alaska residents fishing the Susitna River drainage are allowed to harvest a much lower percentage of surplus salmon compared to Kenai, Kasilof, and Copper River inriver salmon harvesters.

The large Susitna River floodplain would allow this fishery to occur with minimal environmental impact. The Susitna River personal use dip net fishery would spread personal use fishermen over more area and lessen impacts/crowding on Kenai, Kasilof, and Copper River personal use areas. Northern Cook Inlet should enjoy economic benefit — similar to local economic benefits provided by Kenai, Kasilof, and Copper River personal use fisheries.

More Alaskan residents reside in Northern Cook Inlet (Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley) than in any similar-sized area of Alaska, so it is appropriate to provide this personal use fishery here. A July 10 start, ensures most migrating king salmon have already passed, with remaining king salmon predominately males under 28 inches in length. Allowing harvest of all salmon (except king salmon 28 inches or greater in length), spreads harvest impact over 5 species, while easing identification (by size) of king salmon to be released. Closing the fishery after August 10 would focus harvest during a period of pink, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon abundance. 8 am — 8 pm provides 12 hours of fishing and 12 hours of unmolested salmon passage per day, without encouraging Susitna River boat traffic during hours of lower visibility. This Alaska resident opportunity, to put food on the table, would be 4 days/48 hours per week.

**PROPOSED BY:** Frede Stier (HQ-F19-088)

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**PROPOSAL 237**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a Susitna River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:

**(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net as follows:**

**(1) from July 14 until EO closure date of the Northern District set net fishery, 7 days per week from 10 am to 5 pm daily.**

**(2) the annual limit is specified in 5 AAC 77.525.**

**(3) from boat or shore downstream of the northwest bank of the Susitna River/Yentna River confluence to Susitna River terminus at Cook Inlet.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Consider adopting a conservative 7-day per week Susitna River personal use dip net fishery.

The fishery would provide an opportunity for Alaska residents, living in the Susitna Valley, to harvest a reasonable amount of salmon for personal consumption throughout the year. A 7-day per week fishery would allow effort and harvest to be spread out over every day of the week. Such a fishery could be restricted by hours when fishing was allowed to remain conservative. A conservative participant level would also be maintained by access to the proposed fishing area — primary access is by boat or airplane, as there is no road access. Note: Even though this fishery is entirely within Game Management Unit 16B (a subsistence hunting area) this fishery is proposed as a personal use fishery, rather than a subsistence fishery, in recognition of the Susitna River salmon resource providing reasonable harvest opportunity for other Upper Cook Inlet user groups. Salmon abundances and conservation measures would be shared in common with other users.

Restricting legal fishing time to 7 hours per day/49 hours per week would allow significantly more daily hours when salmon could migrate through the fishing area unmolested. Since harvest would be allowed 7 days per week — some harvest opportunity would be available on most, if not all, days when large pulses of salmon were migrating through the harvest area. Legal fishing hours can be structured to encourage safer boating and easier enforcement during daylight hours, while also providing additional daylight hours after fishery closure that would be available to transport the inevitable broken down boats and their passengers back to homesites/campsites along the river system or to Deshka Landing. A 7 -hour-per-day fishing option would likely encourage more conservative daily fishery participation over multi-day or campout-along-the-river participation. A late season-ending date allows harvest/consumption by residents hunting moose within this popular subsistence hunting area.

A conservative Susitna River personal use fishery could be configured in any number of ways, this proposal provides additional points for Board and public consideration.

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard Sanderlin (HQ-F19-089)  
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**PROPOSAL 238**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a personal use dip net fishery in Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage, as follows:

The dipnetting area would be approximately 1/2-mile upstream of the Yenta to a department marker, from the confluence of the Yentna/Susitna river, downstream to a department marker approximately at the Northern most portion of Bell Island. The time frame would be 4 consecutives, 3 day weekends, starting from the 2nd weekend in July. The hours would be from 6:00AM-11:00PM. No retention of King salmon would be allowed. All Pike taken must not be returned to the water. Bag limit would be consistent with other south-Central dipnetting fisheries and use the same permit; 25 per head of household, 10 for each additional household member. The total household catch would be combined with other South Central dipnet fisheries to not exceed those household limits.

\*\*\*\*\*Since this is a new fishery it is suggested that reporting be weekly or bi-weekly, as per the subsistence fishery in the area. It would be somewhat safe to assume that attendance would be somewhat low the first year and to the fact that it is accessible by boat or plane only. This proposal

is intended to increase opportunity, take some pressure off the Kenai/Kasilof dipnet fisheries and we welcome changes, if need be, to accomplish that.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We are proposing to create a personal use dipnet fishery for the Yentna/Susitna river drainage, situated in the Northern district. Per ADF&G abundance estimates, on average, 360,000 sockeye, 200,000 coho and 800,000 chum salmon migrate through this section annually.

Since the Definition of a sustainable escapement goal, is per ADF&G, “a level of escapement that is known to provide for sustained yield over a 5-10-year period”. As such, “an SEG will be determined by the department and will be stated as a range that takes into account data uncertainty; the department will seek to maintain escapements within the bounds of the SEG”. From 5 AAC 39.222 (f)

That said, the SEG, set by the department, for Sockeye are as follows: Chelatna Lake is 20,000-45,000, Judd Lake is 15,000-40,000 and Larson Lake is 15,000-35,000. The 10 year average, per ADF&G is: Chelatna Lake-46,400, Judd Lake-40,600, Larson Lake-30,100 (rounded off to the nearest 100) FMR 18-10 Shields and Frothingham/Appendix A-12

**PROPOSED BY:** South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association (EF-F19-120)  
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**PROPOSAL 239**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Establish a personal use gillnet pike fishery in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, as follows:

Subsistence pike/personal use pike: Subsistence nets to be used 15-20 feet in length in all pike lakes or suspected lakes. No limits, ALL fish must be kept.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to see a change that would increase the usage of northern pike to be included as both personal use and or subsistence. This can be accomplished with subsistence nets in lakes in the Mat-Su valley.

The change in the regulation will help keep the number of large fish to a minimum and allow opportunities for pan sized trout. If nothing is changed, pike number will continue to increase and expand and deplete other species of fish to include king salmon. Other solutions in pike lakes: expanded use of rotenone in Mat-Su pike lakes.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brent Lannen (EF-F19-005)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 240**

**5 AAC 77.5xx. New section.**

Create a personal use northern pike gillnet fishery in the Susitna River drainage, as follows:

**New Section 5 AAC 77.54x Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Northern Pike Fishery Management Plan. (a) In the Susitna River drainage Units 1-6 during times when salmon are not present and northern pike are prevalent, northern pike may be taken with set gillnet. (1) no annual limit (2) The department will develop permit conditions, reporting requirements, areas, time, and net size on an as needed basis to provide an opportunity to harvest pike for consumption and invasive species control.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Pike are an invasive species and the department should facilitate the public in helping reduce pike numbers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-041)  
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**PROPOSAL 241**

**5 AAC 77.xxx. New section.**

Establish provisions for the personal use of aquatic plants in the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, as follows:

5 AAC 77.528 is created and reads:

5 AAC 77.528. Personal Use Aquatic Plant Fishery. Aquatic plants may be harvested by hand for personal use at any time and there are no bag or possession limits except that:

(a) within the Anchorage Nonsubsistence Area defined in 5 AAC 99.015(3), there are no harvest limits, except that along the shoreline adjacent to the Kenai Peninsula road system, the daily harvest and possession limit is 10 pounds wet weight of aquatic plants, with no limits to the harvest of aquatic plants that have been naturally dislodged from the substrate;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations for the personal use harvest of aquatic plants, (5 AAC 77.001(c)) require that aquatic plants may only be harvested according to the provisions laid out in Chapter 77. There are no provisions in Chapter 77 for the harvest of aquatic plants in Cook Inlet. Current regulations in Chapter 37 allow harvest for non-commercial use outside of non-subsistence areas in Cook Inlet with a daily harvest and possession limit of 10 pounds per day, but prohibit (due to lack of provisions allowing it) personal use harvesting of aquatic plants within the Anchorage non-subsistence area described in 5 AAC 99.015(a)(3). The towns of Kenai, Soldotna, Seward and Homer are located in this area. Currently, many local residents do not realize that there is no provision for the personal use harvest of aquatic plants. There is currently a significant harvest of personal use kelp on various species for garden compost and other household uses.

This proposal seeks to provide the regulatory provisions necessary to harvest aquatic plants for personal use, and to provide limited opportunities for the harvest of aquatic plants within the non-subsistence area in the Cook Inlet area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eliza Eller (HQ-F19-007)  
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*Subsistence (2 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 242**

**5 AAC 01.593. Upper Yentna River subsistence salmon fishery.**

Allow two additional fishing days per week in the Upper Yentna River subsistence salmon fishery, as follows:

(2) in the mainstream of the Yentna River from its confluence with Martin Creek upstream to its confluence with the Skwentna River from June 1 through June 30 and July 15 through August 7 from

- (A) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday;
- (B) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday;**
- (C) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday
- (D) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday**
- (E) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Due to high water and flooding conditions on many years this fishery has missed many days of opportunity. Requesting two additional days per week to allow for more opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mt. Yenlo Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F19-036)  
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**PROPOSAL 243**

**5 AAC 01.595. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits.**

Allow the harvest of other salmon in place of king salmon in the Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery, as follows:

Amend Tyonek Subdistrict annual possession limits as follows:

- (a) The total annual possession limit for each subsistence salmon fishing permit is as follows:
  - (1) there is no annual possession limit for holders of Port Graham, Koyuktolik, Port Chatham, and Windy Bay Subdistrict and Seldovia Bay subsistence salmon fishing permits, except that in Seldovia Bay a person holding a subsistence salmon fishing permit may not take more than 20 king salmon per household;
  - (2) 25 salmon for the head of a household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder;
  - (3) **The holder of a Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishing permit may take 95 salmon and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, with a maximum of 70 king salmon.**

[IN ADDITION TO THE LIMITS IN (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE HOLDER OF A TYONEK SUBDISTRICT SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING PERMIT MAY TAKE 70 KING SALMON; NO MORE THAN 4,200 KING SALMON MAY BE TAKEN IN THE TYONEK SUBDISTRICT FROM MAY 15 THROUGH JUNE 30.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow the harvest of ‘other salmon’ (non king salmon) in place of allowed king salmon harvest for the Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery.

Restrictive measures and low king returns have made it difficult for Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence permit holders to harvest their allowed quota of salmon. Multiple King salmon stocks in Upper Cook Inlet, including seven stocks of concern, have failed to meet escapement goals in recent years. For 2019, EO 2S-01-19 further restricts subsistence permit holders' ability to harvest by changing the number of fishing days per week from 3 to 2.

This regulation change would allow subsistence users to fill their household quota with other species of salmon, instead of kings. Current regulations are clear that 70 kings are allowed and 25 'other salmon.' With the current situation of Upper Cook Inlet salmon, protecting a chinook by allocating a sockeye, coho etc. is a good move. This would preserve the subsistence lifestyle, and remove some pressure on the sensitive king salmon stocks of concern.

This change would adhere to the Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan, with the statutory priority for subsistence. It would not provide for an increase the number of king salmon harvested, but would allow subsistence users to maintain their subsistence lifestyle. The board has found that all species of salmon are customarily and traditionally taken in Tyonek, and that 700 – 2,700 king salmon, and 150 – 500 other salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Tyonek subdistrict (5 AAC 01.566).

It is arguable that if this proposal were placed into regulation, that the Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery's harvest could exceed the 150 – 500 (other salmon) previously found reasonably necessary by the board. However, there are strong indications that this number needs reexamined. The 'other salmon reasonably necessary number' is based upon a presumption that subsistence users are able to harvest sufficient numbers of Chinook salmon. This has not been the case in recent years, and in 2019 will be further impacted by the actions of EO 2S-01-19.

The fishery has consistently fallen within the reasonable necessary harvest numbers for Chinook. Historically, the fishery also consistently fell well within the reasonable harvest numbers for other salmon, until recently when king salmon numbers began to decline, users began to harvest more 'other salmon.' There is a preference towards kings, yet in difficult times, subsistence users simply want to fill their smokehouses and freezers with the fish that they can. On page 69 of Technical Paper 439, "Subsistence Harvests and Uses of Salmon in Tyonek, 2015 and 2016," it was found that, "Coho salmon have recently become an important species of salmon for the residents of Tyonek. Community members who were unable to obtain enough Chinook salmon during the early fishing season rely upon coho salmon to sustain their subsistence salmon needs."

Subsistence fisheries regulations state that (Sec. 16.05.258): "(b) The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses and... (A) Shall adopt regulations that provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of those stocks or populations;" In this case, the fish stock being discussed is UCI salmon, other than king salmon. If the amount found reasonably necessary for subsistence use in the Tyonek subdistrict is 150 – 500 fish, with commercial harvest exceeding 1 million fish and an unknown sport fish harvest, failure to address this issue would be a violation of the BOF's statutory priority for subsistence.

Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Harvest – (2018)

Season to Date

District Name	Deliveries	Chin.	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
244 UCI Ctr Total (Drift)	5252	2,658	693,892	110,843	108,478	121,428	1,037,299
245 UCI Ctr Total (Set)	265	117	38,073	20,588	432	2,558	61,768
246 UCI Ctr Total (Kalgin Is.)	283	328	34,270	25,374	6,834	611	67,417
247 UCI Northern Total	587	130	48,310	64,056	10,861	5,085	128,442
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6387</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>814,545</b>	<b>220,861</b>	<b>126,605</b>	<b>129,682</b>	<b>1,294,926</b>

If nothing is changed, the livelihood of the subsistence fishery is negatively affected, and no means to alleviate pressure on the king salmon stocks of concern would be provided.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tyonek Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-131)  
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